

AMERICAN ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY NEWS RELEASE

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FDA Gives Green Light To Cloning Animals for Food Despite New Survey Indicating Overwhelming Public Concern *December Survey Indicates 66% Disapprove of Cloning Animals for Food; 87% Believe Ethical and Moral Issues Need to Be Addressed*

Jenkintown, PA— Despite overwhelming public concern surrounding cloning animals for food, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave a green light moving milk and meat from cloned animals one step closer to grocery store shelves today. In a December 2006 national survey conducted for the American Anti-Vivisection Society (www.endanimalcloning.org), two-thirds (66%) of those surveyed are opposed to animal cloning for food. Upon learning that the process involves animal suffering, the disapproval rate increased to 88 percent.

With 96 to 99 percent of cloning attempts causing death or severe health problems to the animals involved, there is widespread recognition in the scientific and medical communities that cloning presents serious risks to animals.

“Cloning is a highly inefficient, experimental, and unpredictable technology that presents serious threats to animal welfare. The cloning process uses hundreds of animals to produce one clone,” said Tracie Letterman, Executive Director of AAVS. “Just because we *can* clone animals for food, doesn’t mean we *should*.” AAVS also released a report, **What About the Animals: The Truth About Cloning Animals for Food**, in conjunction with FDA’s announcement today.

According to the AAVS survey, 87 percent said they believe the government needs to ensure that the ethical issues related to animal cloning are publicly discussed **before** allowing cloned animals to be sold as food. The telephone survey was conducted by Opinion Research Corporation (www.opinionresearch.com) the week of December 11, 2006 with 1,031 respondents.

The next step is a 90-day public comment period. If FDA’s position is upheld, cloned food products will be permitted on the market and it is unlikely that these products will be labeled as food from cloned animals.

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According to AAVS, the impact of cloning animals for food on animal welfare has yet to be adequately addressed by FDA, much less resolved.

“FDA should not be permitted to proceed in a regulatory vacuum,” said Letterman. “Because of the imperfect cloning process, cloning animals for food involves more than just food safety – animal suffering and other ethical issues must be considered. We urge concerned consumers and animal advocates to express their concerns by contacting their congressional representatives and Health and Human Services.”

Founded in 1883, AAVS (www.aavs.org) is the oldest organization in the United States working on behalf of animals in laboratories. AAVS pursues its objectives through legal and effective advocacy, education, and the support of the development of non-animal alternative methods.

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