

January 10, 2001

Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
US Food & Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

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Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to urge you to begin to collect and report data on the quantity of antibiotics used in the US for healthy animals used in the food industry. The rate of increase in resistance to antibiotics in microorganisms is alarming and should be considered a great risk to public health and safety. Of course, medical misuse of antibiotics (human) is a larger contributor than agricultural use, but both need to be addressed to reduce the scope of the problem. I have even heard that antibiotics were discovered in drinking water in a science-fair project designed by a high school student. Over-use of antibiotics needs to be curtailed. Please take action to collect and report data on this enormous problem. Estimates range from 17.8 million pounds used to 24.6 million pounds - a staggering amount used nontherapeutically in the animal food industry.


Please help clean up our environment and food so that our children are protected. Please respond to this letter.

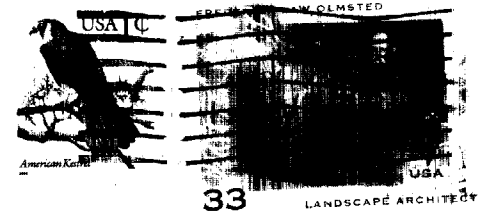
Sincerely,

Olivia Zivney
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SSP-0485

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