

1558 Minnesota Ave.

San Jose, CA 95125

0558 '01 MAR 19 P3:02

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20587

Dear Dr. Henney,

I am writing to urge the FDA to ban the growth-promoting use of antibiotics in animal feed.

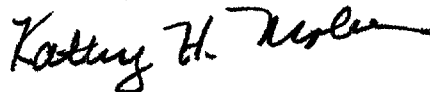
Such use greatly increases the likelihood of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which pose a risk to our health. One strain of salmonella is now resistant to five antibiotics.

I know that over-prescription of antibiotics may be contributing to the rise of resistant bacteria, and that people are being encouraged to stop using anti-biotics for viral infections. However, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists newsletter *earthwise*, "the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture the principal cause of antibiotic resistance in food-borne bacteria like salmonella and campylobacter."

I know the FDA is studying the problem, but is it trying to discover whether feeding animals antibiotics is *dangerous*, or whether it is *safe*? It seems to me that looking for danger allows one to continue a practice until it is prove risky. Looking for safety, on the other hand, means discontinuing a possibly risky practice until it is proven safe.

Surely the conservative position is the latter. There is much evidence that this agricultural practice is unsafe. Please ban it now.

Sincerely,

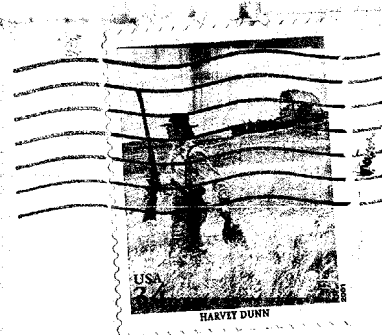
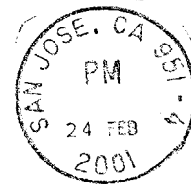


Kathy H. Moles

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