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Dockets Management Branch  
(HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern,

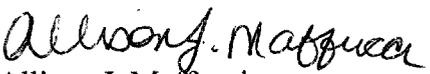
I am writing to express my concern regarding the ban that has been placed on the sale and transportation of prairie dogs. Prairie dogs are not exotic animals; they are native to the United States. The United States needs to focus on non-native animals that are being brought into this country and the regulations that allow them in.

I own three wonderful prairie dogs: Peanut, Mae and Clover. I am not an animal fanatic, but I do love and appreciate all animals. I know that there are people in this world who do not understand this sentiment. I know that they would not spend an hour at the prairie dog exhibit at the Bronx Zoo, like I have done on many occasions. I do know, however, that prairie dogs are intelligent and loving animals. I cannot put into the words the feeling I get when three loving faces greet me as I come home from work.

Permanently banning prairie dogs will cause the pet industry to suffer greatly. Many businesses rely on the revenue brought in by prairie dogs. I am a consumer of food, housing, toys and bedding.

Mahatma Gandhi said, " The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated ". Please vote no to a permanent ban.

Speaking for those who cannot,

  
Allison J. Maffucci

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