

# ADULT & PEDIATRIC UROLOGY OF MARSHALL

RAEL NIDESS, M.D.

Certified by the American Board of Urology

Associate Clinical Professor of Urology  
Department of Urology  
Louisiana State University Medical Center  
Shreveport, LA

2307 00 JAN -6 110:41

Suite 200, Medical Center Plaza  
618 South Grove  
Marshall, TX 75670  
TELEPHONE: (903) 927-6601  
FAX: (903) 927-6603

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Ms. Jane Henny, M.D.  
Commissioner,  
Food & Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20957

Dear Dr. Fisher:

I am writing as a concerned citizen, a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), and a practicing physician regarding the use of antibiotic growth promoters in livestock management. As I am sure you are aware, antibiotics similar to, or the same, as those used in human medicine are being used to promote the growth and health of livestock food sources for human consumption.

I am writing to support a ban on such use since I believe, as to the governments of the European Union, that the continued covert introduction of such antibiotics into the human milieu will (as we have already seen from the over-prescription of antibiotics for marginal indications in human medicine) inevitably lead to the development of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria. As a clinical practitioner I have had personal experience with patients walking into my office with community acquired urinary tract infections with organisms which are, at first presentation, resistant to multiple antibiotics due to the ubiquity of antibiotics in our environment. We are, already, only just ahead of the mutation rate of most pathogenic microorganisms for humans. Continued selection pressure on these bacteria will only serve to confront humanity with infections for which we have no effective treatments.

I urge you to use the power of your office and the FDA to rapidly restrict the routine use of antibiotics in livestock feed for growth promotion and "prophylaxis". I will certainly be observing this issue through the publications of the UCS. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,



Rael Nidess, M.D.

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