Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive
Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

0298 '99 APR 26 A10:38

Dear Lyle D. Jaffe, 4/3/99

I fully support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens. I find the practice of forced molting to be inexcusably cruel.

Aren't hens' lives miserable enough? They must endure unnatural, unbearable crowded conditions. They are not allowed to move freely; their beaks are cut off to stop them from mutilating each other out of desperation. Their lives of just 1 to 2 years are hardly worth living. (A happy, healthy chicken lives 15 to 20 years.)

Forced molting is used to trick hens into laying more eggs. The hens are starved to the brink of death. They are deprived of food, water, and light for weeks. The trauma leaves the hens' bodies susceptible to disease, bone breakage, and salmonella infections. The result is sick birds and contaminated eggs. After a lifetime of abuse, the hens' battered bodies must be disguised from consumers by being cut up for chicken soup or dog food. 98P-0203 C1181

Mr. Jaffe, forced molting is so cruel that

it has already been banned in Great Britain (1987). Most European countries have laws protecting hens from food deprivation for more than 24 hours. Why doesn't the United States have laws protecting these birds?

Our nation is recognized for democracy and fairness. Let us set a good example by showing some compassion for the poor birds. Let the world know that Americans hold a respect for life; that we will not allow cruelty in exchange for a greedy profit.

Mr. Jaffe, I urge you to help put a stop to the forced molting of layer hens.

Sincerely

Kristina Blaylock
2207 Ludington Avenue
Wauwatosa WI 53226

Ms. Kristina Blaylock
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The HSUS-Helping End Cruelty to Animals

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19 APR
2009

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