



467 '00 SEP 11 P1:33

Roger A. Kindler, General Counsel
Paul J. Tanis, Assistant General Counsel
The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Kindler and Mr. Tunis:

This refers to your citizen petition, dated March 10, 2000 and filed March 13, 2000, requesting that we amend the regulation in 21 CFR 1240.62 regarding the sale and distribution of turtles and viable turtle eggs.

The requested action would: (1) amend the definition in subsection (a) referencing "reptiles" instead of turtles; (2) amend subsection (b) to read "viable reptile eggs and live reptiles" instead of viable turtle eggs and live turtles; and (3) would reference "reptiles" throughout the remainder of the regulation, replacing all references to turtles and all references to turtle eggs would be replaced by "reptile eggs".

In accordance with 21 CFR 10.30(e)(2), this letter is to advise you that we have not been able to reach a decision on your petition within the first 180 days of its receipt because of other Agency priorities and the limited availability of resources.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Baca
Director
Office of Field Programs
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition

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