

CITIZEN PETITION

Concerning "Subtherapeutic" Use of Antibiotics in Farm Animals

2601 00 JUN-5 11:22
Dear Commissioner Jane E. Henney, M.D.,

Sixty years ago, millions of people died each year, worldwide, from diseases and infections that — today — are easily controllable.

But, those diseases could make a comeback. Every known bacterial disease is now known to exist in at least one antibiotic-resistant form. Some can now only be controlled by one or two antibiotics; if strains resistant to those drugs appear, the nation could face a health catastrophe.

A contributor to the development of resistant bacterial strains is the so-called "subtherapeutic" use of antibiotics as growth promoters in feed for livestock. Such dosing is an unnecessary and unwise use of these medicines, which is why most European nations have banned the practice.

I urge the Food & Drug Administration to stop the practice here, too, by imposing a ban on the use as growth promoters of antibiotics that are important in human medicine.

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