

Stephen Guerdon Smith, EMT, LMT  
924 Saint Roch Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70117

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Commissioner Jane Henney, M.D.  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20857

Tuesday, December 28, 1999

Dear Doctor Henney,

Overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock has been linked to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases.

Many of the drugs used to enhance growth in chickens, pigs, and cattle are the same as, or closely related to, those used to treat people. Fearing a rise in untreatable infectious diseases, the European Union has banned all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics used in human medicine.

In the United States, however, the Food and Drug Administration has taken no action against drugs currently in use. Instead, it has merely begun a series of meetings to discuss possible restrictions on new approvals of antibiotics.

Therefore I respectfully urge you in the strongest possible terms to follow the EU's lead and move immediately to ban animal uses of growth-promoting antibiotics used in human medicine.

Very best regards,

*Stephen Guerdon Smith* 1/7/00

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