December 18, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers La., Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

9950 '99 DEC 23 P1:22

To Whom It May Concern:

In PETA's web page [www.peta-online.org, 12/9/99], I read that the FDA is seeking input on reducing salmonella in eggs, and that the cruel practice of forced molting of hens is a major contributor to salmonella. The PETA article refers to docket nos. 98N-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197.

I ask that the FDA act to eliminate the practice of forced molting of hens. I also suggest that the FDA examine ways to educate the public (and the private sector food producers) about alternatives to eggs. The public's rampant demand for eggs is a prime factor in the unsanitary and inhumane conditions of chickens in this country. Obviously, if America eats fewer eggs, salmonella will be less of a problem.

Human beings are here to share the earth with animals, not to exploit them mercilessly in ways that unnecessarily increase the amount of suffering in the world. Our society is only civilized inasmuch as it respects the feelings of any sensate creature.

Thank you for your consideration.

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/C 808

See File Number: 97P-0197/C 809

96P-0418/C 808