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N E W S R E L E A S E

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First-Ever Cloned Dog Means Bad News for Dogs American Anti-Vivisection Society Says Cloning Harms Animals

Jenkintown, PA— The first-ever cloning of a dog by Korean scientists will be announced in the peer-reviewed journal, *Nature*, on August 4, 2005. This announcement, which sets off alarms for the American Anti-Vivisection Society, comes on the heels of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's refusal to regulate the U.S. pet cloning industry.

“This announcement is bad news for dogs and further demonstrates the significant animal welfare problems associated with cloning,” said Crystal Miller-Spiegel, AAVS' Senior Policy Analyst. “Using 123 dogs to obtain one cloned puppy is absurd. The sole surviving puppy faces an uncertain future—we know that other cloned animals have been plagued by health complications resulting in their premature deaths.”

According to Lee, et al. in *Nature*, in this particular cloning experiment, embryos were transferred into 123 dogs resulting in three pregnancies and two live births (the other fetus was miscarried). Of the two surviving Afghan hound puppies, one suffered respiratory distress shortly after birth and died within three weeks of aspiration pneumonia. The article states, “...the efficiency of cloning is still very low (2 dogs from 123 recipients, or 1.6%).”

“In broader terms, this extremely inefficient pet cloning methodology may lead to misuse of animals by for-profit companies, seriously compromising the welfare of countless dogs,” said Miller-Spiegel.

“We are particularly concerned about the current situation in the U.S. where pet cat and dog cloning is unregulated, and the industry has already been aggressively marketing pet cloning to veterinarians and potential consumers.”

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Further, the cloning of cats and dogs is not publicly supported as evidenced in a 2004 survey commissioned by AAVS to assess the public's perspective on pet cloning. The survey results showed that 80 percent of people in the U.S. are opposed to cloning companion animals such as cats and dogs.

In addition to the survey, AAVS launched a web site in November 2004 to provide the media and consumers with updated anti-pet cloning information (www.NoPetCloning.org), produced a report in February about the dangers of pet cloning, petitioned USDA to regulate the industry and is continuing to meet with federal agencies and officials to encourage them to regulate the pet cloning industry.

AAVS is a non-profit animal advocacy and educational organization that has been monitoring the use of animals in laboratories since 1883. AAVS pursues its objectives through legal and effective advocacy, public education, and the support of non-animal alternative methods. For more information, please visit: www.NoPetCloning.org or www.AAVS.org.

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