



801 Old York Road, Suite 204  
Jenkintown, PA 19046-1685  
Tel: 215.887.0816  
Fax: 215.887.2088

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact: Sue Leary, President, sleary@aavs.org  
Crystal Schaeffer, Dir. of Outreach, cschaeffer@aavs.org  
(215)887-0816

# **American Anti-Vivisection Society Challenges USDA's Refusal to Regulate Pet Cloning**

*Argues animals are harmed in cloning*

Jenkintown, PA— The American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) has called on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to reverse its position refusing to regulate the pet cloning industry. AAVS presented its arguments to USDA on November 9, 2005, expanding on documents presented in its petition submitted last February. In this latest round, AAVS cites additional legal and scientific evidence that, by all measures, pet cloning meets the definition of research that is subject to regulation by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). In addition, AAVS demonstrates the serious harm to the animals involved, particularly the surrogate mothers and the clones themselves.

In the letter to USDA, attorney Tracie Letterman, of Kimbrell & Mendelson, asserted, "The USDA's determination that pet cloning companies are not covered by the AWA is arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion. The agency's decision is not supported by the AWA's text and purpose of regulating the use of animals in research and experimentation." Considering the extremely high failure rates of pet cloning and the invasive multiple surgeries that are involved, AAVS has made a case that there are few procedures that are more experimental in nature than pet cloning.

AAVS also refuted the Agency's characterization of pet cloning as being outside the animal welfare regulations. AAVS President Sue Leary commented: "USDA is trying to shirk its responsibilities under the law with the absurd claim that the novel creation of pet clones involves 'standard veterinary medical procedures.' But even standard procedures, like blood draws and certain surgeries, commonly done in research and experimentation, are unquestionably subject to regulation. USDA should know better."

USDA is expected to respond to the new evidence after January 1, 2006.

In 2004, AAVS launched its No Pet Cloning campaign and since then has become a trusted resource in the issue of genetically engineered and cloned animals sold as pets. AAVS hosts the website [www.NoPetCloning.org](http://www.NoPetCloning.org) and has published an investigative report, entitled "Pet Cloning: Separating Facts from Fluff." Additionally, a 2004 survey sponsored by AAVS found that 80% of people in the U.S. are opposed to cloning companion animals such as cats and dogs.

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](http://www.NoPetCloning.org) or [www.AAVS.org](http://www.AAVS.org).

###