

October 2008

Update for paragraph 9.3.2

ETHICAL ASPECTS OF ANIMAL CLONING FOR FOOD SUPPLY

In 2008, following the announcement by the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) on the possible authorisation of the sale of meat from cloned cattle, sheep and goats, the European Group on Ethics (EGE) announced its opinion on the ethical aspects of the use of animal cloning to supply food.

They concluded that, 'considering the current level of suffering and health problems of surrogate dams and animal clones' it was doubtful whether the cloning of animals for food supply was ethically justified. Whether this applied also to their progeny 'was considered open to further scientific research.'

The EGE made a number of recommendations with respect to: food safety, animal welfare and health, traceability, global trade, biodiversity and sustainability, public perception and participation in debates, labelling and further research

Website reference:

http://ec.europa.eu/european_group_ethics/activities/docs/opinion23_en.pdf