July 16, 2008

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

The American Veterinary Medical Association respectfully requests a sixty (60) day extension of the comment period for Docket Number FDA-2008-N-0326, New Animal Drugs; Cephalosporin Drugs; Extralabel Animal Drug Use; Order of Prohibition, as well as a postponement of the effective date of the rule.

We believe that the final rule prohibiting the extralabel use of cephalosporin antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals contains information which warrants careful review and consideration. We urge the FDA to postpone the effective date of the rule a minimum of sixty (60) days to allow FDA to carefully review and consider comments which it receives in the interim.

In addition, due to the lack of an opportunity to comment prior to the final ruling, an extension of the review period would enable the AVMA to examine the available evidence, consider the impact of the ruling, and provide constructive comment.

Sincerely,

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

CNH/eap