

Calcium sulphate is authorised for use as a food additive (EC number E 516). Based on the opinion of the scientific committee for food, it has not been assigned a specified acceptable daily intake (ADI). This means that it is not necessary to set a maximum level to ensure safety of the use of this substance in food. Therefore in this area of use, no further measure is needed.

It is also used as an implant, such as in bone substitutes, and is in that case covered by Council Directive 93/42/CEE of 14 June 1993, on medical devices⁽²⁾. Impurities may cause problems in the use of calcium sulphate, but there are well known procedures for cleaning the materials and well-accepted USP (US Pharmacopoeia) and NF (National Formulary) guidelines in place (Pharmacology standards). Long term adverse effects of use in bone substitutes are not known.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 131, 5.5.1998.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 169, 12.7.1993.

(2001/C 53 E/189)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1465/00

by Peter Skinner (PSE) to the Commission

(10 May 2000)

Subject: International trade in dog and cat fur

Given the increasing body of evidence indicating that an international trade in domestic cat and dog fur now exists in the EU and that this trade supposedly emanates from outside the EU — reportedly Asia — can the Commission inform Parliament which steps it can take to prohibit and eliminate this trade inside the EU? Furthermore, what pressure can be brought to bear to end the slaughter of domestic animals in the countries of origin where they are turned into coats or 'life-like statuettes'?

(2001/C 53 E/190)

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1558/00

by Robert Evans (PSE) to the Commission

(11 May 2000)

Subject: Global trade in cat and dog fur

Would the Commission inform me what steps it is prepared to take to introduce a ban on imports into the European Union of items which are made from cat and dog fur?

Investigations by the Humane Society International have revealed that millions of dogs and cats are slaughtered annually for their pelts, often being killed in the most inhumane ways. This fur is frequently imported into the EU in the form of trimming on boots and coats.

European Union consumers may not be aware of the fact that the items they are purchasing are made from these animals or of the appalling way in which the animals are killed, as the labelling is, at best, misleading and, at worst, dishonest.

Surely EU consumers deserve to be told the real origin of the materials used in their purchases? As a first step, is the Commission prepared to ensure that tighter controls are imposed on the labelling of such products?