

## BSE IN PETFOOD

1. The Secretary asked on 19 April whether I was content with the advice in para 3 of the record of the meeting on 17 March with the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Thompson). The simple answer is "not entirely".
2. On occasions, material obtained from slaughterhouses will be derived from sheep affected with scrapie or cattle that may be incubating BSE for use in petfood manufacture. Some of this material must be classified as high risk since it contains brain, spinal cord, spleen or lymphatic glands.
3. The above material will be exposed to a low processing temperature in the preparation of dry petfood (as against canned petfood) which will be insufficient to destroy the agent of scrapie/BSE. Thus, on occasions, domestic pets will be exposed to the agent. This was recognised by Southwood who said "domestic pets could well be susceptible to BSE were the agent to reach them in an adequate dose by an appropriate route". He went on to say that it seemed "unlikely but possible that pre-clinical infection exists but is not revealed because of an incubation period longer than the natural life span". Southwood went on to comment that "hounds that are often fed uncooked carcasses would be particularly appropriate for study".
4. Views on this issue may take more shape after the meeting with \_\_\_\_\_ on 19 May.

*K C Meldrum*  
 K C MELDRUM  
 3 May 1989

Miss P Phillips PS/Perm Sec (+1)

cc: Mr Capstick  
 Mrs Attridge  
 Mr Cruickshank  
 Mr Griffiths  
 Mr Garnett  
 Mr Suich  
 Mr Lawrence

Dr Watson ✓  
 Mr Crawford  
 Mr Kyle  
 Mr K C Taylor

*R.B. 11/2*  
*8/5 21 2.*  
*8/5*  
*✓*  
*8/5*  
*Mr. 6/5*

*65*  
*1/5*