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## TONSILS OF ALL CATTLE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL

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With the publication of Docket No. 03-0251F (*Prohibition of the Use of Specified Risk Materials for Human Food and Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle*) the tonsils of all cattle were identified as specified risk materials. To clarify issues relating to the tonsils, this question and answer document has been composed.

### Why were the tonsil designated as a Specified Risk Material?

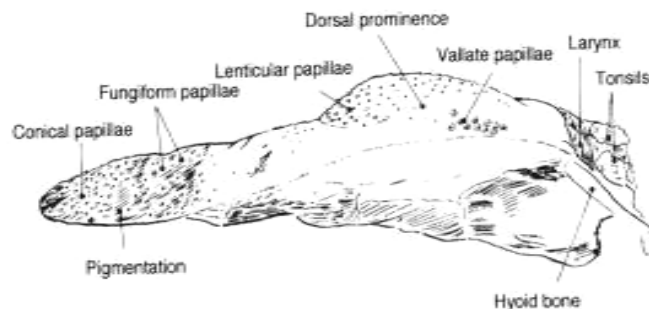
The lymphoid tissue has been scientifically proven to be an infective tissue that harbors the prions that cause BSE.

### What function do the tonsils serve?

The tonsils and the adenoids are mostly composed of lymphoid tissue, which is on the base of the tongue. Lymphoid tissue is composed of lymphocytes, which are mostly involved in antibody production.

### Where are the tonsils located?

The tonsils lie at the base of the tongue or more specifically in the tonsillar sinuses in the anterior pillars of the soft palate lateral to the root of the tongue.



### What do the tonsils look like?

The tonsils are bean-shaped and about 3-4 cm in length.

### Are the tonsils the same as sweet breads?

No, the sweet breads (thymus gland) and the tonsils are separate tissues and they are not the same. The sweet breads are pinkish white and are distinctly lobulated. While the tonsils lie at the base of the tongue, the sweet breads consist of two portions and are located in two different regions of the animal. The thoracic portion lies in the thoracic cavity and extends as far as the third rib. The neck bread portion consists of two lobes that extend up the neck on either side of the trachea as far up as the larynx.