

**THE RABBANIM OF THE EREV
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THE MISGUIDANCE OF THE KOSHER MARKETPLACE
ARTICLE APPEARED ON THE JEWISH PRESS**

Glatt Kosher?

Dear Editor,

Mr. Eli Sacks' letter concerning "Glatt-Kosher" published in your Aug. 6th edition caught my eye. Having practiced "Sh'chita Ubdika" several years, I feel I have some knowledge — as well as questions — in this matter and would like to express my opinion.

An animal slaughtered kosher requires "B'dikas Hore'oh" — inspection of the lungs. If this inspection turns up a "sircha" — an adhesion — the entire animal is teref. The Ramoh, whose decisions we usually accept in matters of Halacha, is lenient in this case. He permits the practice of "Mi'uch U'mishmush" — rubbing gently the 'sircha' between the fingers of the "bodek" and if this process removes the "sircha" the animal is kosher (Ramoh, Yore Deah, 39:13). Those who refuse to accept this lenient view of the Ramoh or question whether the 'bodek' was gentle enough in the handling of the "sircha" insist that their meat be from an animal with "glatt" — (smooth, in Yiddish) lungs with no "sircha" at all and are willing to pay the price. So much for the basic halacha:

May I now ask several questions. based upon practical experience:

1) Beef cattle without a "sircha" is very rare. At times, as little as 0-5% are really "glatt. 'Where does all the beef sold in New York as "Glatt-Kosher" come from?

2) The Ramoh (ibid) specifically excludes calves and lambs from his lenient decision concerning "Mi'uch U'mishmush," Consequently, a calf or a lamb which has a "sircha" is treif even according to the Ramoh. What, then, is "Glatt-Kosher" veal or lamb?

3) Poultry requires no inspection of the lungs. In fact! the lungs of all poultry is adherent to the ribs. What, then! is "Glatt Kosher" chicken or duck?

I have been asking these and similar questions for the last 45 years and, to date, heard no satisfactory answer. Isn't it time that the authorities in charge of Kashruth listen to them seriously and begin mending fences?

Most respectfully,
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