

# History of Pet Food Recalls

*Written By: John E. Howe*

The most recent Pet Food recalls has produced much warranted publicity and criticism toward the Commercial Pet Food Industry and its Manufacturers. As much of the publicity surrounding this particular recall developed by this being the largest recall in Pet Food history with the largest list of brands. The Pet Food Industry however is riddled with blemishes over the last several years that were not necessarily advertised, and were kept low key. I have listed many of the recalls that have occurred over the past several years. The research data of the recalls were obtained from many sources however, the main source was primarily obtained from the FDA database.

## **September, 1999 - Recall**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has warned consumers not to purchase or use certain dog treats because they may pose a threat to human health. In a September 24, 1999, release, CFIA warned consumers not to purchase Farm Meats Canada, Ltd. pig ear dog treats because they have been linked to recent cases of human illness caused by Salmonella bacteria. The dog treats are made by Farm Meats Canada, Ltd., Alberta, and were distributed across Canada.

In another release dated September 25, 1999, CFIA warned consumers that Euro-Can pig ears, pig skins, pork lungs, and beef and pork bone dog treats might contain Salmonella bacteria. These dog treats are made by Euro-Can Pet Products, Ontario, and were distributed across Canada.

## **May, 2003 - Recall**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has learned from the government of Canada that rendered material from a Canadian cow that last week tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, also known as "mad cow disease") may have been used to manufacture pet food, specifically dry dog food, for Pet Pantry International, of Carson City, Nevada. The FDA learned that the pet food that the firm received may have included rendered material from the BSE positive cow. The manufacturer of the pet food is Champion Pet Food, Morinville, Alberta. Some of which was reported to have been shipped to the United States. The Canadian government prevented the BSE positive cow from being processed for human food.

## **October, 2003 - Recall**

Canadian dog-and-cat food marketer Petcurean Pet Nutrition, Inc. today announced an immediate voluntary recall of all Go! Natural pet food manufactured in Texas.

Recalled product comes in four, eight, 12 and 30-pound bags, with the recall in effect for all lot codes. Removal of recalled product from store shelves has been completed today.

Petcurean voluntarily initiated the recall after investigating the possibility that product manufactured in Texas could be related to the illness of dogs and cats in approximately 13 reported cases, of which six animals passed away. Symptoms to look for, although not conclusively identified with recalled product, include rashes, vomiting and liver dysfunction. Following reports to date, it appears that only a fraction of a percent of animals ingesting recalled product is impacted.

### **June, 2005 - Recall**

T.W. Enterprises of Ferndale, Wash. today alerted consumers that it is recalling certain dog and cat treats it markets because they may be contaminated with *Salmonella Thompson*. People handling these treats can become infected with *Salmonella Thompson*, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with any the treats or any surfaces exposed to these products.

*Salmonella Thompson* is an organism which can cause serious infections in small children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy people may only suffer short-term symptoms, such as high fever, severe headache, vomiting, nausea, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Long term complications can include arthritis.

### **December, 2005 - Recall**

One of the nation's largest dog food producers has recalled some of its products in 22 states after receiving reports that they caused death and illness, a company executive said Thursday.

In a letter to thousands of its suppliers, Diamond Pet Food announced it found aflatoxin in products made at its Gaston, South Carolina, plant, said Chief Operating Officer Mark Brinkmann.

Products made at the Gaston facility are shipped to Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Vermont and Virginia. Five cat food products and 14 dog food products were recalled.

Aflatoxin is a poisonous substance produced by fungi that grow on grains, including corn.

Brinkmann said he wasn't sure how many animals fell ill from the toxin, but the 22 states' veterinarian's offices reported a total of 17 deaths and 24 illnesses believed linked to the tainted pet food.

### **February, 2007 - Recall**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers not to purchase, or use, Wild Kitty Cat Food due to the presence of *Salmonella*,

a pathogen. During routine monitoring activities, FDA collected and analyzed a sample of frozen raw Wild Kitty Cat Food and detected *Salmonella* in the product. Cats and other pets consuming this food may become infected with *Salmonella*. People can also become infected with *Salmonella* if they handle or ingest this cat food, touch pets that consumed the food, or touch any surfaces that came into contact with the food or pets.

### **March, 2007 - Recall**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been informed that Menu Foods, Inc., a private-label pet food manufacturer based in Streetsville, Ontario, Canada, is recalling all its "cuts and gravy" style dog and cat food produced at its facility in Emporia, Kansas between December 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007. The products are sold in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The recall was prompted by consumer complaints received by the manufacturer and by tasting trials conducted by the manufacturer. There has been a small number of reported instances of cats and dogs in the United States that developed kidney failure after eating the affected product.

ChemNutra Inc., a former supplier of wheat gluten to Menu Foods, announced a recall of all wheat gluten it imported from Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Co. in Wangdien, China. As a result, Menu Foods today announced an expansion of its recall to include all products manufactured with wheat gluten purchased from ChemNutra Inc. which Menu Foods' records show was first used on November 8, 2006 and last used on March 6, 2007.

### **April, 2007 - Recall**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today warned consumers not to use American Bullie A.B. Bull Pizzle Puppy Chews and Dog Chews manufactured and distributed by T.W. Enterprises, Ferndale, WA, because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*, which can cause serious infections in dogs and cats, and, if there is cross contamination, in people, especially children, the aged, and people with compromised immune systems. Consumers who have the pet treats manufactured or distributed by T.W. Enterprises listed below should not feed them to their pets, but instead dispose of them in a safe manner (e.g., in a securely covered trash receptacle).

*Salmonella* can potentially be transferred to people handling these pet treats, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the products or any surfaces exposed to these products. Healthy people infected with *Salmonella* should monitor themselves for some or all of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever. Rarely,

*Salmonella* can result in more serious ailments, including arterial infections, endocarditis, arthritis, muscle pain, eye irritation, and urinary tract symptoms. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

Pets with *Salmonella* infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have only decreased appetite, fever and abdominal pain. Well animals can be carriers and infect other animals or humans. If your pet has consumed the recalled product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.