



1145 Park Street, Oregon, WI 53575 • (608)835-7323 • (608)251-3487 • fax (608)835-5055  
[www.oregonvetclinic.com](http://www.oregonvetclinic.com)

**In response to the numerous visits, emails and telephone calls we have received regarding the pet food recall, we have put together the following information for you:**

**The Recall:** As you may have noticed, the scope of the recall is changing daily. Foods have been directly recalled and foods have been voluntarily and proactively recalled. Please note that some treats have been recalled as well. For purposes of this mailing, “foods” includes treats. Some foods are specific to the plant they were manufactured at. I would recommend you check one of the websites listed below on a daily basis for your pet’s food. You may also want to consider checking the website for your product brand or calling the customer service number on your bag or can of food for information specific to your product, i.e. the date, plant and type of food.

The following information is taken directly from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine website located at [www.fda.gov/cvm](http://www.fda.gov/cvm). According to the website these questions were last updated April 2, 2007. You can also check the website for the American Veterinary Medical Association at [www.AVMA.org](http://www.AVMA.org) for more information.

**Q: What is being recalled?**

The following companies have initiated voluntary recalls of their pet food products:

- On March 16, Menu Foods, Inc. recalled dog and cat foods produced at its facilities in Emporia, Kansas and Pennsauken, N.J. between December 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007. The products are sold by many different distributors under a number of different brand names. A full listing of all the recalled products can be found at <http://www.menufoods.com/recall/>. The affected products are moist (packaged in pouches) and canned diets. The products have been described as “cuts and gravy” style pet foods.
- On March 16, 2007 -- Nestlé Purina PetCare Company announced that as a precautionary measure, it was voluntarily withdrawing its 5.3 ounce Mighty Dog® brand pouch products that were produced by Menu Foods, Inc. from December 3, 2006 through March 14, 2007. On March 30, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company voluntarily recalled all sizes and varieties of its ALPO® Prime Cuts in Gravy wet dog food with specific date codes [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/purina203\\_07.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/purina203_07.html) . Consumers can call 1-800-218-5898, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CDT or visit <http://www.purina.com/> to receive more information.
- On March 30, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc., voluntarily recalled Prescription Diet m/d Feline dry food <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01599.html> . The cat food is sold exclusively through veterinarians. Consumers can contact Hills at 1-800-445-5777 or visit <http://www.hillspet.com/> for more information.

- On March 31, Del Monte Pet Products voluntarily recalled select product codes of its pet treat products sold under the Jerky Treats®, Gravy Train® Beef Sticks and Pounce Meaty Morsels® brands as well as select dog snack and wet dog food products sold under private label brands [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/delmonte03\\_07.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/delmonte03_07.html). A complete list of affected brands and products can be found at <http://www.delmonte.com/petfoodrecall.html>. Consumers can contact Del Monte at 1-800- 949-3799 for further information about the recall.

Please see <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/petfood.html> for additional information.

**Q: What is wrong with the pet foods?**

FDA laboratories have found a substance called melamine in samples of pet food and in the wheat gluten used as an ingredient in the pet food. Additionally, Cornell University scientists have found melamine in the urine and kidneys of deceased cats that were part of a taste testing study conducted for Menu Foods.

**Q: What is melamine?**

Melamine is a small, nitrogen-containing molecule that has a number of industrial uses, including as an industrial binding agent, flame retardant and as part of a polymer in the manufacture of cooking utensils and plates. Melamine has additionally been used as a fertilizer in some parts of the world. It is not registered for use as a fertilizer in the United States.

**Q: What is wheat gluten and how is it used in pet foods?**

Wheat gluten is a mixture of two proteins obtained when flour of wheat is washed to remove the starch. One use of wheat gluten is as a filler and binder in wet-style, cuts-and-gravy-type pet food. It provides a gelatinous consistency and is used to thicken pet food "gravy." It also has uses in human food products as a stabilizer or thickener. It is not generally associated with food contamination.

**Q: Has melamine been identified as the causative agent in the reported illnesses?**

The association between melamine in the kidneys and urine of cats that died and melamine in the food they consumed is undeniable. Additionally, melamine is an ingredient that should not be in pet food at any level. However, we are not yet fully certain that melamine is the causative agent. As in any investigation, we follow leads, use advanced forensics and try to narrow down the cause.

**Q: How did melamine get into the wheat gluten?**

At this time, we do not know how the melamine got into the wheat gluten.

**Q. Where did the contaminated wheat gluten come from?**

We have traced the source to a single supplier, Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology, of China.

**Q. What is FDA doing to prevent further importation of contaminated wheat gluten?**

FDA is requiring 100% sampling and review of import testing of all shipments of wheat gluten from China. Please see our import alert at [http://www.fda.gov/ora/fiars/ora\\_import\\_ia9926.html](http://www.fda.gov/ora/fiars/ora_import_ia9926.html)

**Q: Are only dog and cat foods involved in the recall?**

Yes. The recall is only confined to pet food intended for dogs and cats.

**Q: What should I do if I have cat or dog food at home?**

Please check FDA's website at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/petfood.html> to see if your pet food is involved in the recall. If your pet food is not listed, the pet food is not affected by the recall and you can continue to feed it to your pets; however, if your pet exhibits a sudden on-set of symptoms including loss of appetite, lethargy, vomiting, stop feeding the pet food and contact your veterinarian. If the pet food is one of those being recalled, do NOT feed it to your animals. Feed your pets another pet food that is not included in the recall.

**Q: What should I do if I have cat and/or dog food included in the recall?**

Do NOT feed the pet food to your animals. Return the pet food to the store where you purchased it and ask for a refund. Stores generally have a return and refund policy when a company has announced a recall of its products. If you cannot return the pet food immediately, store the food in a secure place where pets and children cannot get to it.

**Q: What if my pet ate one of the dog and cat foods being recalled?**

If your pet shows signs of illness (such as loss of appetite, lethargy and vomiting), you should consult with your veterinarian immediately. *"The American College of Internal Medicine (ACVIM) has recommended that pets (dogs and cats) that ingested pet food that was on the recall list, whether showing signs of illness (lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, etc.) or not (asymptomatic) should be seen by their veterinarian for baseline blood chemistries and urinalysis in order to ascertain the status of their renal (kidney) function. (The ACVIM is the Official Organization of the Veterinary Specialties of Small Animal Internal Medicine, Large Animal Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Neurology, and Oncology. <http://www.acvim.org/>)."*

If your pet is diagnosed with renal failure, we suggest you hold onto the food if the brand and lot numbers match the recall.

**Q: If my dog or cat ate some of the recalled food, how soon after would I see any symptoms?**

It's difficult to say for sure, but usually within a couple of days. The important thing is to monitor your pet closely for signs of lethargy, loss of appetite and vomiting. If your pet shows any of these signs, please consult your veterinarian.

**Alternative Diets:**

Organic and holistic foods have had a huge increase in popularity, but like people food are not necessarily regulated well. By Nature, Wellness and Merrick are three well-known brands we have some familiarity with and have all stated that they are not affected by the recall. Royal Canin is a commercial brand we have been very happy with, who has also issued a statement that they are not affected by the recall. Each of these brands has a website with further information if you are interested.

We have also had questions regarding homemade diets, vegetarian diets and raw meat diets. Raw meat diets are discouraged as animals are susceptible to salmonella and E Coli, just as humans are. Vegetarian diets raise nutritional concerns. Healthy well balanced homemade diets are good, but are a lot of work. Below are a dog food and cat food recipe copied from Small Animal Clinical Nutrition, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Hand, Thatcher, Remillard and Roudebush, ©2000, by Mark Morris Institute, pg. 168 - 169 (my high school English teacher will likely disapprove of how I cited that). Note that these are healthy adult diets. There are different recipes for low sodium, low fat, etc.... homemade diets.

### **Homemade Dog Food:**

Formula for healthy adult dogs that meets AAFCO allowances. Formulation is for an 18 kg dog (approx. 40 lbs.).

#### **Ingredients:**

Cooked Carbohydrate	240 grams,	58%
Cooked Meat	120 grams,	29%
Fat	10 grams,	2%
Fiber	30 grams,	7%
Bone meal	4 grams	
Potassium chloride	1 gram	

Carbohydrates: Rice, Cornmeal, Oatmeal, Potato, pasta and various infant cereals

Meats: all typical meats, poultry, fish and liver

Fats: Chicken fat, Beef fat, vegetable oil or fish oil

Fibers: prepared high-fiber cereals (all bran, Fiber One) or vegetable raw or cooked

Dicalcium phosphate can be used in place of bone meal

Potassium Chloride is readily available as a salt substitute in grocery stores.

#### **Directions:**

Bake or microwave meat. Cook starch separately. Grind or finely chop meat if necessary. Pulverized the bone meal or dicalcium phosphate. Mix well with all other components and serve immediately or cover and refrigerate. Give a canine vitamin-mineral supplement (human adult vitamin-mineral tablet 9g/tablet can be used) with the meal or pulverize and thoroughly mix with food before feeding.

### **Homemade Cat Food:**

Formula for healthy adult cats that meets AAFCO allowances. Formulation is for an 4.5 kg cat (approx. 10 lbs.).

#### **Ingredients:**

Cooked Carbohydrate	60 grams,	50%
Cooked Meat	40 grams,	34%
Fat	10 grams,	8%
Bone meal	1.2 grams	
Salts (NaCl/KCl)	1 gram	
Taurine	.5 grams	

Carbohydrates: Rice, Cornmeal, Oatmeal, Potato, pasta and various infant cereals

Meats: all typical meats, poultry, fish and liver

Fats: Chicken fat, Beef fat, vegetable oil or fish oil

Dicalcium phosphate can be used in place of bone meal

KCl is readily available as lite salt substitute in grocery stores.

#### **Directions:**

Bake or microwave meat. Cook starch separately. Grind or finely chop meat if necessary. Pulverized the bone meal or dicalcium phosphate. Mix well with all other components and serve immediately or cover and refrigerate. Give a feline vitamin-mineral supplement (one-half of a human adult vitamin-mineral tablet 9g/tablet can be used) with the meal or pulverize and thoroughly mix with food before feeding.