Pet Food Recall - DCPAH Response

Menu Foods recently announced a recall of “cuts and gravy” style pet food in cans and pouches, which was manufactured at two sites in the United States between December 3, 2006, and March 6, 2007. Use of these products has been linked to kidney damage and, in some cases, animal deaths. These pet foods were manufactured and sold under several brand name labels. Concerned animal owners can obtain information regarding the list of recalled brands on the following websites:

Menu Foods  http://www.menufoods.com/recall

American Veterinary Medical Association  http://www.avma.org/aa/menufoodsrecall/070318.asp

News reports on March 23, 2007, indicate that contamination of wheat with the rodenticide, aminopterin, is the likely cause of the problem. Aminopterin is not registered for use in the United States, and the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health currently does not have an assay to test for this compound, but we are in the process of developing and validating one for use on tissues, urine, serum, and feed samples. We will inform our clients via this website as soon as we have a validated assay in place. Based on current information, the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health recommends the following:

1. Owners of sick animals that have consumed the recalled food should contact their veterinarian immediately for treatment and examinations that may include a complete blood count (CBC), chemistry profile, and urinalysis.

2. For owners of apparently healthy animals that have consumed recalled food, we recommend that they contact their veterinarian. This recommendation is based on emerging anecdotal information that some apparently healthy animals may have subclinical kidney damage. In these cases, based on results of the initial CBC, chemistry profile, and urinalysis, the veterinarian will decide if treatment or other testing is warranted.

3. Owners of animals that have died with a history of having consumed recalled food may wish to have a postmortem examination performed, either by their veterinarian or by the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University. A postmortem examination can help determine and document the cause of the animal’s death. When these cases are submitted to our pathology laboratory, our initial testing includes postmortem examination and microscopic examination. Samples that will be held frozen include liver, kidney, stomach contents and, when available, urine. Testing of these samples and pet food samples will commence as soon as a validated assay is in place.

At this time, we also recommend that animal owners who have purchased recalled food (1) cease feeding these products immediately, (2) retain food samples for analysis, (3) freeze opened cans or pouches in airtight freezer bags. (4) retain sales receipts, and (5) document purchase dates, the dates that recalled products were fed, and your animal's health history.
Links to other sources of information include:

Food and Drug Administration  http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html
American Veterinary Medical Association  http://www.avma.org
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association  http://www.michvma.org