



## **San Diego Veterinary Medicine Leader Offers Advice to Pet Owners after Nationwide Food Recall**

Veterinary Specialty Hospital (VSH), in response to a national pet food recall, offers the following information and advice to concerned pet owners:

Menu Foods, Inc., a Canadian private-label pet food manufacturer based in Statesville, Ontario, has issued a recall on all its "cuts and gravy" style dog and cat food products produced at its facility in Emporium, Kansas, between December 3, 2006, and March 6, 2007. This recall includes 90 brands across the entire manufacturing spectrum. A complete list of affected foods including date and product information codes is available through the Menu Foods, Inc. Web site at <http://www.menufoods.com/recall> or by calling 1-866-895-2708. If you have any of the products identified on these lists, immediately stop feeding them to your pet. Menu Foods, Inc. brands in question that were distributed through VSH have been investigated. No affected date and product information codes have been found in the current or past stock of foods distributed through VSH.

If you suspect that your pet has been affected by a recalled food, please call or see your family veterinarian as soon as possible. Please do the following three steps to help your veterinarian with your pet's diagnosis:

- Retain food samples for analysis.
  - Retain 4 cans or 2 pounds of dry food, when possible.
  - Freeze when possible or store at room temperature in airtight bags.
- Document product name, type of product and manufacturing information.
  - Retain all packaging.
  - Identify date codes or production lot numbers.
  - Retain purchase receipts.
- Document product consumption.
  - Dates products or products were fed.
  - Consumption and palatability history.
  - Time of onset of clinical signs.
  - Detailed dietary history (i.e., all products fed and feeding methods).

Although the exact cause is not currently known, animals that have become ill after consuming these products have shown signs of acute kidney failure.

Signs of kidney failure include loss of appetite, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, changes in water consumption and also changes in urination. "Although there can be a wide variety of reasons a pet might exhibit symptoms similar to those seen with kidney failure, pet owners should air on the side

of caution and contact their family veterinarian immediately if their pet is exhibiting any signs of illness." Dr. Keith Richter, DVM, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM).

A veterinarian may conduct a urinalysis and blood work. "If additional diagnostics such as ultrasound are required, or the kidney disease is severe, such as the animal is not urinating at all, the family veterinarian can refer or consult with an Internal Medicine specialist at our hospital." Dr. Richter explained. There are five board-certified Internal Medicine Specialists on staff at Veterinary Specialty Hospital as well as on-site ultrasound and commercial grade diagnostic laboratory to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of illness associated with the recalled food products.

Owners of pets affected by the recalled pet foods who wish to report the incident should contact the FDA, by going to the FDA Web site at <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/complain.html> to find the FDA complaint coordinator in their area.

*Veterinary Specialty Hospital has been a leader in specialty veterinary care since 1990, fulfilling the need for specialty healthcare and emergency services for animals in San Diego County and the western United States. The hospital continues its tradition of excellence today with its 26,500 square foot, state-of-the-art facility; the first and most comprehensive of its kind in San Diego County, and among the most technologically advanced in the country. VSH's medical staff is spearheaded by hospital co-directors Keith Richter (DVM, DACVIM) and Joshua Jackson (DVM, DACVS) and comprised of 27 Doctors of Veterinary Medicine, including sixteen board certified specialists in the areas of surgery, internal medicine, medical oncology, radiation oncology, neurology/ neurosurgery, ophthalmology, dentistry, emergency/ critical care and dermatology. In addition to its world class facility and staff, VSH features an on-site, full service commercial laboratory and pharmacy. Thanks to a unique partnership, VSH clients can also access hemodialysis, nutrition and behavior services practiced by the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, which shares a portion of the VSH facility.*

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