

Cornell University
Animal Health Diagnostic Center

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Menu Pet Food Recall Information

Please note the following websites which contain comprehensive, regularly updated information regarding the Menu Pet Foods Recall:

- American Veterinary Medical Association - Pet Food Recall Information
<http://www.avma.org/aa/MenuFoodsRecall/default.asp>

INFORMATION FOR PET OWNERS

Dear Pet Owner,

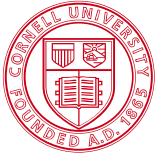
Thank you for contacting the Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC) at Cornell University about the Menu Foods pet food recall. A causative agent associated with illness in animals that have eaten Menu Pet Foods has not been determined at this time, therefore the AHDC is unable to offer any definitive tests on pet foods or animals that are affected. However, we are working hard to determine the cause of this problem. Many of the pets that have consumed these products have not had evidence of clinical illness. Only a few pets, as far as we know, have been adversely affected by the recalled pet food. We at the AHDC would like to offer our sympathy to the families of those adversely affected cats and dogs.

The current recall of products manufactured by Menu Foods includes 40 brands of canned and foil pouch cat foods and 48 brands of canned and foil pouched dog foods. Information about the recall can be found at <http://www.menufoods.com/recall/>. Menu Foods can be reached by telephone at 1-866-895-2708. More information about the recall is available through the US FDA at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01590.html>. Additionally, if you suspect that you have containers from recalled pet food in your home, you can consult the packaging for relevant contact information. As always, your pet's veterinarian is an excellent source of information on the health of your companion animal. If you suspect that you have fed the recalled pet food to your cat or dog, save the remaining pet food and container. Open containers may be double-bagged in sealable plastic and kept in the freezer. It is important to make sure any retained items will not be accidentally fed.

Once again, many of the pets that have consumed these products have not had evidence of clinical illness. If you believe your pet has consumed these products, you need to monitor them closely for signs of illness. You may want to discuss the option of some baseline health monitoring with your veterinarian. Some of the dogs that have been affected have vomited or refused their food early. Cats and dogs with kidney failure often drink more water than usual and produce more urine. As the problem progresses, animals may appear depressed, vomit, have ulcers in their mouths, and develop a urine-like odor to their breath. If your pet shows any of these signs, you should contact your veterinarian as soon as possible, then contact Menu Foods at the above telephone number.

If your animal has eaten a recalled product and has died, the death of your pet should be reported as soon as possible to the Menu Foods hotline, 1-866-895-2708, even if they already know about your pet's illness. In addition, you can also contact the Food and Drug Administration by going to the following website: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/complain.html> and by finding the phone number listed for your state's FDA complaint coordinators.

We recommend that any time an animal dies due to an unknown cause, the animal's body should be submitted for a complete post-mortem exam by a veterinary pathology service. You should expect to pay for this service unless otherwise notified. There are many other causes of illness and, specifically, kidney failure in cats and dogs. Older animals often experience chronic kidney failure. Bacterial infections, like *Leptospira spp.*, may affect animals, producing kidney failure. Common toxic causes in cats and dogs include antifreeze ingestion, certain rodenticides, and some medications. Easter lilies and other lilies cause renal failure if consumed by cats. Grapes have been reported to cause renal failure in dogs and may affect cats. Physical damage from trauma and cancerous conditions can also cause kidney damage. It is very important for all sick pets to be thoroughly evaluated by a veterinarian.



Menu Pet Food Recall Information

Please note the following web site which contains comprehensive, regularly updated information regarding the Menu Pet Foods Recall:

- American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine - Advice for Veterinarians
http://www.acvim.org/uploadedFiles/ACVIM_Pet_Recall_Guidelines_March_26.pdf

INFORMATION FOR VETERINARIANS

No toxic principle or dangerous change has been identified in any of the Menu Foods recalled products at this time. The products are being subjected to an extensive battery of nutritional and toxicological assays to try to identify any potential harmful characteristics or agents. If additional information becomes available, we will post related updates.

The complaints related to animal illness associated with recalled Menu Pet Foods point to kidney damage or kidney failure. The clinical signs reported for dogs included vomiting and feed refusal or anorexia. Affected cats or dogs presenting with advanced renal disease may exhibit any of the following signs: anorexia, polyuria, polydipsia, anuria, lethargy, vomiting, oral ulceration, or a uremic odor. Appropriate ancillary testing would include blood chemistry, especially for urea nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine, and complete urinalysis. Diagnostic imaging procedures may be indicated to evaluate the possibility of other causes of kidney disease. Histopathology of biopsy or post mortem samples of affected kidneys would be expected to rule out other causes of kidney disease, and reveal an acute nephrosis. Chronic changes in kidneys of exposed animals have not yet been described.

Information regarding the tests you may want to submit to the Animal Health Diagnostic Center is listed below.

Test Name	Test Fee	Test Days, Lag	Sample	Container	Shipping
Small Animal Chemistry Panel (canine or feline)	\$28.00	M-Sa, lag time 1-2 days	2 mL serum or heparinized plasma	plain glass or plastic tube	Refrigerate
Urea nitrogen, blood	\$6.00	M-Sa, lag time 1-2 days	1 mL separated serum or heparinized plasma	plain glass or plastic tube	Refrigerate
Creatinine, blood	\$6.00	M-Sa, lag time 1-2 days	1 mL separated serum or heparinized plasma	plain glass or plastic tube	Refrigerate
Urinalysis, Routine	\$15.00	M-Sa, lag time 1-2 days	10 mL fresh urine	leakproof container	refrigerate

If animals die, we recommend a complete necropsy. Whole body (refrigerated, not frozen) or a complete set of fixed tissues including both kidneys (in 10% neutral-buffered formalin) should be submitted to the AHDC for a diagnosis. Frozen samples of fresh tissues can also be retained for possible toxicological analysis at a later date.

Test Name	Test Fee	Test Days, Lag	Sample	Container	Shipping
Necropsy	\$350.00	M-F, lag time 2-12 days	whole carcass	leakproof container	refrigerate
Histopathology, Group 2: 3 or more tissues (non-STAT)	\$85.00	M-F, lag time 4-10 days	2 cm thick section of tissue fixed in 10% formalin, 10 times volume of sample	wide mouth leakproof jar containing formalin	HazMat shipping regulations apply

The Toxicology Laboratory of the AHDC routinely offers toxicology testing on samples. Whenever a food item is suspected to be related to a suspect toxicosis, generous samples of the food should be retained for possible further testing. At this time, we are not encouraging the submission of additional samples for testing by veterinarians, as a large selection of samples are already available for a wide battery of tests. We will provide updates if additional information becomes available.

For additional details regarding sample submissions to the AHDC, please refer to our sample submission web page at www.diagcenter.vet.cornell.edu/subreq/ or call 607-253-3900.