

Advice for Pet Owners Regarding the Cat Food Recall

The American Veterinary Medical Association offers guidance.

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Menu Foods, Inc., a Canadian private-label pet food manufacturer based in Ontario, has issued a recall on all its “cuts and gravy” style dog and cat food products produced at its Kansas facility between Dec. 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007.

In response to the recall, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) offers this information and advice to concerned pet owners:

If you suspect that your cat has been affected by a recalled cat food, the AVMA says to take the following three steps to help your veterinarian diagnose your pet:

Retain food samples for analysis. If possible, retain four cans or 1 kg of dry food. Then, if possible, freeze the product or store it at room temperature in airtight bags.

Document the product’s name, type and manufacturing information and retain all packaging, if possible. Also, identify date codes or production lot numbers and keep track of product purchase receipts.

Document the pet’s consumption of the product, specifically the times and dates the products were fed to the pet. Also document the times when signs of illness occurred, all products that were fed to the cat and feeding methods.

Although the exact cause is currently unknown, cats that have become ill after consuming these products have shown signs of acute kidney failure.

Saundra Willis, DVM, an AVMA spokeswoman, said that signs of kidney failure include loss of appetite, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, changes in water consumption and also changes in urination. Anyone with a cat that exhibits these signs should take the cat to the veterinarian.

“Owners shouldn’t panic, because there can be a wide variety of reasons a pet might exhibit these symptoms. But it’s always prudent that, when a pet is exhibiting any signs of illness, the pet owner should contact their veterinarian immediately,” Willis said.

A veterinarian might call for a urinalysis and blood work. The veterinarian might also perform additional tests, such as an X-ray or ultrasound, to rule out other possible problems, such as bladder and kidney stones.

If it is determined that the cat has been affected by consumption of the recalled cat food, a veterinarian could decide to treat the illness with medications and/or intravenous fluids, Willis said.

The pet food recall includes about 90 brands across the entire manufacturing spectrum. A complete list of affected cat foods is available [here](#). Anyone with products identified on these lists should immediately stop feeding them to pets.

Owners of pets affected by the recalled pet foods who wish to report the incident should contact the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through its website, to find the FDA complaint coordinator in their state.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Menu Foods recall.

To see all of CatChannel’s pet food recall updates, [click here](#).