

Cat Food Recall Expands

All manufacture dates of Menu Foods products are now being recalled.

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More cat food products have been added to the recalled pet food list that began March 16. (Stock photo) Menu Foods has expanded its recall of "cuts and gravy" style wet cat food to include all products listed in its March 17 announcement regardless of the date they were manufactured, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced.

The expanded pet food recall was announced March 23 upon hearing that some of the tainted products remained on shelves, FDA officials said. Previously, Menu Foods had recalled only pet foods manufactured between Dec. 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007.

Earlier in the day, New York state officials and Cornell University researchers said that they had found aminopterin, a toxin used as a cancer treatment in this country and as a rodenticide in some foreign countries, in samples of the pet food Menu Foods used in its tasting tests that killed nine cats. The samples were provided by Menu Foods after the deaths occurred, officials said.

FDA Head Veterinarian Stephen Sundlof, D.V.M., called the substance "very toxic," even in small doses.

At press time, the FDA says it does not know how the toxin made its way into the pet food. The FDA said it is still examining the possibility that a shipment of wheat gluten used by the Kansas and New Jersey plants of Ontario-based Menu Foods was to blame.

The FDA said it could not identify the wheat gluten supplier yet, but it said the shipment could have come from both foreign and domestic sources.

The affected pet foods have been linked to 14 confirmed animal deaths, Sundlof said, but the FDA expects that number to rise. More than 4,000 people have flooded the FDA's recall hotline during the last few days, but it will take time to sort through all of it, he said.

Owners of pets sickened by the recalled pet foods who wish to file a report can visit the FDA's website to find the FDA complaint coordinator in their state.

Sundlof said he was concerned that some consumers might make unhealthy food choices for their pets, such as raw foods, in the wake of the recall.

"Pet owners should continue to buy pet foods that are not part of the recall," he said. No dry food has been implicated in the deaths or other sickness complaints, Sundlof said.

[Click here for a complete list of the recalled cat food brands.](#)

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