

Royal Canin Recalls Dry Dog & Cat Food

Melamine was found in rice protein concentrate.

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On April 19, St. Charles, Missouri-based Royal Canin USA recalled some of its dry dog and cat foods after the contaminant melamine was found in its rice protein concentrate.

Royal Canin said it was unaware of any pets becoming sick from its products but was recalling the following products as a precaution after it found melamine in its pet foods. Melamine, an ingredient used in some fertilizers and plastics to make countertops, is the contaminant found in recalled pet foods that is suspected for causing potentially hundreds of pet deaths and illnesses across the United States.

The recalled items include:

Royal Canin Veterinary Diet

Canine Early Cardiac EC 22

Canine Skin Support SS21

Feline Hypoallergenic HP23

Royal Canin Sensible Choice, including the Chicken Meal & Rice Formula Senior; Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Puppy; Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Adult; Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Senior; and Rice & Catfish Meal Formula Adult, all of which are dog and puppy foods

The Royal Canin Veterinary Diet is available only in veterinary clinics, but the Sensible Choice diet is sold in pet stores nationwide.

No other Royal Canin diets are affected by this pet food recall, and all products with an expiration date of April 19, 2008, were not made with the tainted rice protein concentrate, the company says.

Royal Canin also said that it will no longer use any Chinese suppliers for its vegetable proteins.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced this month that rice protein concentrate contaminated with the chemical melamine was imported from China and distributed to five pet food companies by San Francisco-based Wilbur-Ellis.

The FDA declined to name the five companies, but Natural Balance of Pacoima, Calif., Blue Buffalo of Wilton, Conn., and Royal Canin have recalled pet food products containing contaminated rice protein concentrate.

The Natural Balance products were made by a California Diamond Pet Food plant that received a shipment of the rice protein from Wilbur-Ellis, according to Natural Balance. No other Diamond products contain rice protein concentrate, Jim Fallon, a Diamond Pet Food spokesperson said.

On April 18, Wilbur-Ellis recalled all of the 155 metric tons of Chinese rice protein concentrate it had shipped to pet food manufacturers from its Oregon feed division. The company said those pet food manufacturers were located in Utah, New York, Kansas and two in Missouri.

Both Diamond Pet Food and Royal Canin are based in Missouri.

The FDA is still awaiting approval from China to inspect the two Chinese plants suspected of supplying melamine-contaminated wheat gluten and rice protein concentrate to the United States, said Stephen Sundlof, DVM, the FDA's top vet.

Michael Rogers, director of the FDA's division of field investigations, said he fully expects the Chinese government to



comply.

On April 19, Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, who recently called a Senate hearing to investigate the pet food recall, sent a letter to the Chinese ambassador to the United States urging his country to allow the U.S. inspectors to have access to the plants.

Melamine-contaminated pet food is suspected of causing renal failure and related illnesses in pets during the last few months. If your pet exhibits any of these signs — diarrhea, excess urination or water intake, lethargy or vomiting — seek veterinary advice immediately.

Veterinarians and pet owners who believe their dog's or cat's illness is related to the pet food recall, should save any uneaten portions of the food provided to the pet, and report the situation to the FDA's state coordinator [here](#).

For more CatChannel articles on the pet food recall, [click here](#).