

MENUFOODS Pet Food Contamination Alert

The Doctors and staff at Lyne Animal Hospitals are committed to providing the latest information about your pet's health and well-being. Many of you have seen reports recently regarding the current pet food recall of Menufoods.

To date the only foods involved are the *cuts and gravy style* of canned and foil pouched dog and cat foods. **This recall does not include dry food.** If you are feeding only dry food, no change in diet is necessary at this time.

Apparently, during the manufacturing process there was a contamination of one or more of the ingredients used to make many different pet foods. It is not known (as of March 19) where or when the contamination happened, however, all the affected foods appear to contain a common ingredient supplied by the following distributor, Menufoods (www.menufoods.com).

The contaminant causes kidney and liver damage, and in some cases even death. Symptoms of kidney or liver failure are increased thirst and urination, decreased appetite, lethargy and vomiting. It's also been reported to cause gastrointestinal upset. If your pet has any of the symptoms, please make an appointment to bring your pet in immediately. Pets have recovered in cases where toxicity is caught early and treated aggressively.

A list of affected brands and links to specific lot, serial and UPC numbers can be found at www.fda.gov or www.menufoods.com.

If you can confirm that you have fed a product that's serial, lot or UPC number is on the list:

- Save all unopened cans/pouches;
- Find any opened/empty cans/pouches that may be in your garbage and save them in plastic bags; and
- Make an appointment immediately to have your pet's kidney and liver function evaluated via laboratory testing. We have in-house, state-of-the-art diagnostic testing and will be able to tell you within an hour whether your pet has been affected or not.

If your pet has been eating one of the types of foods on the recall list, but you don't know if they have ever eaten one of the affected batches, we advise that you make an appointment to have a laboratory evaluation of kidney and liver function. If there are any signs of kidney or liver problems (symptoms listed above) schedule an appointment immediately, even if you can't confirm the serial, lot or UPC numbers as being part of the current recall.

If your pets have been eating one of the foods on the list, but the foods have a different serial, lot, or UPC number, we advise **NOT** continuing to feed these foods, since the recall list may be incomplete at this time. Please save foods in case they are added to the recall list in the future. At that time they may be submitted for analysis if indicated.

At this time we do not know what, if any, costs of diagnostic testing or treatment will be reimbursed by the manufacturer. We require payment at the time of services and recommend that all receipts and product packaging be saved and associated costs documented. We will cooperate fully in collecting any and all evidence that may be necessary in detecting any link between a pet's illness and this terrible incident.

Please call Chester Animal Clinic at 804.748.2244 or Courthouse Rd Animal Hospital at 804.745.2323, if you have any questions regarding this pet food recall or to set-up an evaluation appointment.