

Royal Canin Dry Food Added to Dog Food Recall

Varieties of Royal Canin dry dog foods have been added to the dog food recall after melamine was found in its rice protein concentrate.

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

Royal said it was unaware of any cats or dogs becoming sick from its products, but was recalling the following products as a precaution after finding melamine, the toxic ingredient suspecting in the killing of potentially hundreds of pets across the United States, in its food.

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 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 it will no longer use any Chinese suppliers for its vegetable proteins.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 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 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 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 – visit a veterinarian immediately.



Veterinarians and pet owners who believe a cat or dog's illness is related to the recall, should save any uneaten portions of the food provided to the animal and report the situation to the FDA's state coordinator at <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/complain.html>.

For more dog food recall updates, visit www.dogchannel.com/dog-news/dog-food-recall-updates.aspx.