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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

DANIEL ZEIGER and DANZ DOGGIE  
DAYTRIPS, Individually and on Behalf of All  
Others Similarly Situated,

#### **Plaintiffs.**

V.

WELLPET LLC, a Delaware corporation.

**Defendant**

1. Plaintiffs Daniel Zeiger and Danz Doggie Daytrips ("Plaintiffs"), individually and  
on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through their undersigned attorneys, as and for  
this Second Amended Class Action Complaint against defendant WellPet LLC ("Defendant"), for  
its negligent, reckless, and/or intentional practice misrepresenting and failing to fully disclose the  
presence of dangerous substances and chemicals in its pet food sold throughout the United States.  
Plaintiffs seek both injunctive and monetary relief on behalf of the proposed Class (as defined  
herein), including requiring full disclosure of all such substances in its marketing, advertising, and  
labeling and restoring monies to the members of the proposed Class. Plaintiffs allege the following  
based upon personal knowledge as well as investigation by their counsel, including independent  
testing of the products, and as to all other matters, upon information and belief (Plaintiffs believe  
that substantial evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable  
opportunity for discovery).

## **THE DANGEROUS MAKE-UP OF DEFENDANT'S DOG FOOD**

14        2.      Defendant manufactures, markets, advertises, labels, distributes, and sells  
15      Wellness® CORE® Adult Dry Ocean Whitefish, Herring Meal and Salmon Meal ("CORE  
16      Ocean"); Wellness® Complete Health Adult Dry Whitefish and Sweet Potato ("Complete Health  
17      Whitefish and Sweet Potato"); and Wellness® Complete Health Adult Grain Free Whitefish and  
18      Menhaden Fish Meal ("Complete Health Whitefish and Menhaden"), (collectively the  
19      "Contaminated Dog Foods").<sup>1</sup> The Contaminated Dog Foods contain material and significant  
20      levels of arsenic and lead—both known dangerous toxins for both humans and animals, including  
21      dogs. Some foods, like rice and sweet potato, have been determined to absorb arsenic in water  
22      during cooking and therefore increase exposure.

23       3. Inorganic arsenic is a ***known human carcinogen***. It can contribute to cancers, heart  
24 disease, diabetes, declines in intellectual function, and can decrease a body's ability to respond to

<sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>1</sup> Discovery may reveal additional products that also contain unsafe levels of heavy metals and/or BPA and Plaintiffs reserve their right to include any such products in this action.

1 viruses. The organic form of arsenic—the form found in arsenic-containing compounds—has been  
 2 shown in recent studies to easily convert to inorganic arsenic.

3       4. Based on the risks associated with exposure to high levels of arsenic, both the U.S.  
 4 Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") have  
 5 set limits concerning the allowable limit of arsenic at 10 parts per billion ("ppb"). For the FDA,  
 6 the 10 ppb level regulates apple juice and for the EPA it governs drinking water.<sup>2</sup>

7       5. Moreover, the FDA is considering limiting the action level for arsenic in rice to 100  
 8 ppb:

9       The action level for inorganic arsenic in infant rice cereals that FDA considers  
 10 achievable with the use of such practices is 100 µ g/kg or 100 ppb (see Ref. 14)....  
 11 The proposed action level for inorganic arsenic in infant rice cereals is intended to  
 12 reduce the possible risk for infants fed rice cereal by reducing exposure to inorganic  
 13 arsenic that may be found in rice cereal for infants. FDA considers this reduction  
 14 in exposure to infants fed rice cereal will lead to a quantifiable reduction in the  
 lifetime risk of certain cancers associated with exposure to inorganic arsenic, as  
 well as an unquantifiable reduction in the risk of certain non-cancer adverse health  
 outcomes reviewed in the risk assessment, including neurodevelopmental effects in  
 infants.<sup>3</sup>

15  
 16       6. The Contaminated Dog Foods also contain material and significant levels of lead,  
 17 which is another carcinogen and developmental toxin known to cause health problems to  
 18 consumers. Exposure to lead in food builds up over time. Buildup can and has been scientifically  
 19 demonstrated to lead to the development of chronic poisoning, cancer, developmental, and  
 20 reproductive disorders, as well as serious injuries to the nervous system, and other organs and body  
 21 systems.

22  
 23  
 24 <sup>2</sup> The FDA has taken action based on consumer products exceeding this limit, including testing  
 and sending warning letters to the manufacturers. See, e.g., Warning Letter from FDA to Valley  
 Processing, Inc. (June 2, 2016), <https://www.fda.gov/iceci/enforcementactions/warningletters/2016/ucm506526.htm>.

25  
 26 <sup>3</sup> FDA, Draft Guidance for Industry: Inorganic Arsenic in Rice Cereals for Infants: Action Level  
 27 (Apr. 2016), <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocuments/RegulatoryInformation/UCM493152.pdf>.

1       7.     Despite the known risks of arsenic and lead exposure, Defendant has negligently,  
2 recklessly, and/or knowingly sold the Contaminated Dog Foods despite containing alarming levels  
3 of arsenic and lead. Plaintiffs' testing of the Contaminated Dog Foods showed that CORE Ocean  
4 consistently contained over 1,000 ppb of arsenic and close to 200 ppb of lead; Complete Health  
5 Whitefish and Sweet Potato consistently contained over 1,000 ppb of arsenic and over 200 ppb of  
6 lead; and Complete Health Whitefish and Menhaden also contained more than 1,400 ppb of arsenic  
7 and approximately 200 ppb of lead.

8       8.     Additionally, Defendant knew or should have been aware that a consumer would  
9 be feeding the Contaminated Dog Foods multiple times each day to his or her dog being the main,  
10 if not only, source of food for the dog. This leads to repeated exposure of the toxins to the dog.

11      9.     Defendant has wrongfully advertised and sold the Contaminated Dog Foods  
12 without any label or warning indicating to consumers that these products contain arsenic or lead,  
13 or that these toxins can over time accumulate in the dog's body to the point where poisoning, injury,  
14 and/or disease can occur.

15      10.    Defendant's omissions are not only material but also false, misleading, and  
16 reasonably likely to deceive the public. This is true especially in light of the long-standing  
17 campaign by Defendant to market the Contaminated Dog Foods as healthy and safe to induce  
18 consumers, such as Plaintiffs, to purchase the products. For instance, not only did Defendant  
19 choose a brand name for its dog food, "Wellness," that in itself suggests a healthy product, it  
20 markets the Contaminated Dog Foods by promising "Uncompromising Nutrition" and "Unrivaled  
21 Quality Standards":

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23

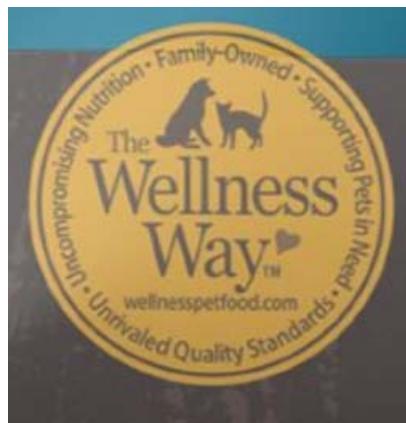
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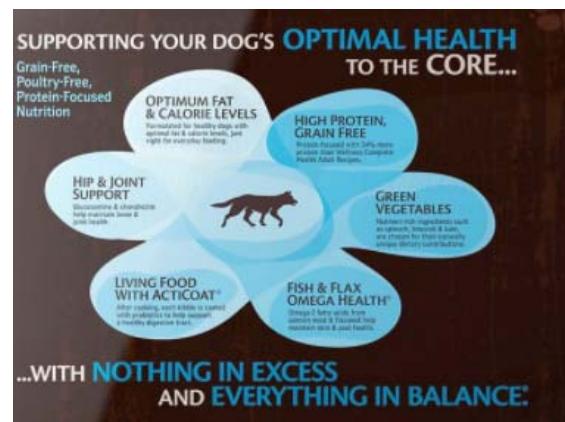
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11. Moreover, the Contaminated Dog Foods declare themselves as offering complete  
12. health and nothing in excess:



1       12. Using such descriptions and promises makes Defendant's advertising campaign  
2 deceptive based on the unsafe and alarming levels of arsenic and lead in the Contaminated Dog  
3 Foods. Defendant's statements, partial disclosures, and omissions are false, misleading, and  
4 crafted to deceive the public as they create an image that the Contaminated Dog Foods are healthy  
5 and safe. Moreover, Defendant knew or should have reasonably expected that the presence of  
6 arsenic and lead in its Contaminated Dog Foods is something an average consumer would consider  
7 in purchasing dog food. Thus, Defendant's omissions are false, misleading, and reasonably likely  
8 to deceive the public.

9       13. Moreover, reasonable consumers, such as Plaintiffs and other members of the Class  
10 (as defined herein), would have no reason to not expect and anticipate that the Contaminated Dog  
11 Foods are made up of "Uncompromising Nutrition" and "Unrivaled Quality Standards" that have  
12 nothing in excess as promised by Defendant. Non-disclosure and concealment of the toxins in the  
13 Contaminated Dog Foods coupled with the partial disclosures and/or misrepresentations that the  
14 food provides complete health and is safe by Defendant is intended to and does, in fact, cause  
15 consumers to purchase a product Plaintiffs and Class members would not have bought if the true  
16 quality and ingredients were disclosed. As a result of these false statements, omissions, and  
17 concealment, Defendant has generated substantial sales of the Contaminated Dog Foods.

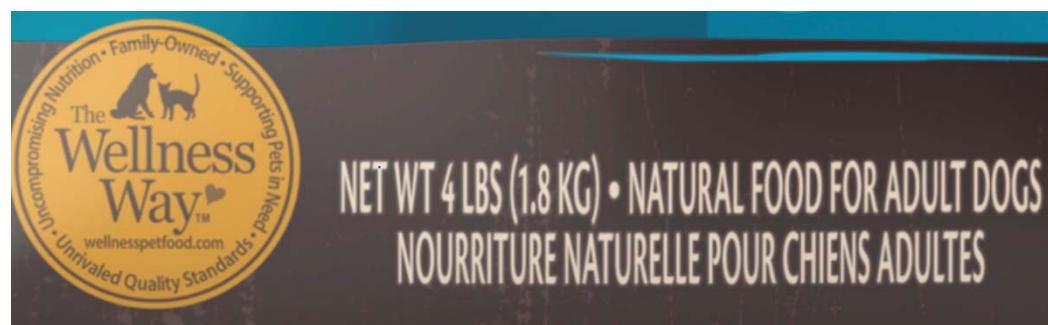
18       14. Plaintiffs bring this action individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated  
19 consumers within the California who purchased the Contaminated Dog Foods, in order to cause  
20 the disclosure of the presence of material and significant levels of arsenic and lead in the  
21 Contaminated Dog Foods, to correct the false and misleading perception Defendant has created in  
22 the minds of consumers that the Contaminated Dog Foods are high quality, safe, and healthy and  
23 to obtain redress for those who have purchased the Contaminated Dog Foods.

24       **THE PRESENCE OF BISPHENOL A ("BPA") IN THE CONTAMINATED DOG**  
25       **FOODS**

26       15. Moreover, both CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato  
27 contain material and significant levels of BPA—an industrial chemical that “is an endocrine  
28 disruptor. It's an industrial chemical that according to Medical News Today ‘... interferes with the

1 production, secretion, transport, action, function and elimination of natural hormones.”<sup>4</sup> BPA has  
 2 been linked to various health issues, including reproductive disorders, heart disease, diabetes,  
 3 cancer, and neurological problems.<sup>5</sup>

4       16. Despite the presence of this harmful chemical, Defendant prominently warranted,  
 5 claimed, featured, represented, advertised, or otherwise marketed that CORE Ocean and Complete  
 6 Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato “natural.” Indeed, each bag states on the front in two different  
 7 places that they are “natural food”:



25       <sup>4</sup>Dr. Karen Beeker, *A Major Heads Up: Don't Feed This to Your Dog*, Healthy Pets (Feb. 13,  
 26 2017), <https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2017/02/13/dogs-canned-food-dangers.aspx>.

27       <sup>5</sup> Christian Nordquist, *Bisphenol A: How Does It Affect Our Health?* Medical News Today (May  
 28 24, 2017), <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/221205.php>.



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8 17. Defendant's website also warrants, claims, features, represents, advertises, or  
9 otherwise markets that its products, including CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and  
10 Sweet Potato, are natural. In fact, WellPet's motto according to the website is "WellPet – The  
11 Healthiest Natural Products For Pets:"

12           **WellPet - The Healthiest Natural Products for Pets**

13           [www.wellpet.com/](http://www.wellpet.com/) ▼

14           Check out WellPet in magazines, newspapers and more! We're a diverse group, but it's a shared love of  
15 pets & natural food that brings us all together! more.

16           **OUR PHILOSOPHY**

17           WellPet is home to the family of premium pet food brands including Wellness<sup>®</sup>, Old Mother Hubbard<sup>®</sup>, Eagle Pack<sup>®</sup>,  
18           Holistic Select<sup>®</sup> and Sojo's<sup>®</sup>. We have a long history of delivering on the promise of making the healthiest natural  
19 products for pets.

20           **Our Standards. Our Promise.**

21           At Wellness, your pet's health is at the core of all we do. That's why we have  
22 developed an extensive quality assurance program, guaranteeing that all of  
23 our products are safe, pure and balanced.

24  
25 18. In promoting its promise, warranty, claim, representation, advertisement, or  
26 otherwise marketing that CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato are safe  
27 and pure, Defendant further assures that:

Our mission is to provide you with *wholesome, natural pet food that is the best it can be*. Nothing is overlooked in our quest for excellence. We require all suppliers to meet stringent requirements and adhere to the highest standards, *exceeding even the strictest requirements from the FDA*. We are determined to go further, to do better and to take as many precautions with our pet food, as is taken with food for humans. *Because at Wellness, we are passionate about providing your pet with safe, uncompromising nutrition.*<sup>6</sup>

8        19. To this end, Defendant's website further warrants, claims, features, represents,  
9 advertises, or otherwise markets that its products, including CORE Ocean and Complete Health  
10 Whitefish and Sweet Potato, are manufactured in such a way that would prevent BPA forming by  
11 closely monitoring temperatures and quality:<sup>7</sup>

## Unsurpassed Food Safety Programs

During production, rigorous standards and practices are put in place to protect the nutritional integrity of our food. Our processing plant is meticulously sanitized in order to control bacterial growth or pest infestation. In our zeal to provide you with only the highest-quality pet food, we take extra precautions to make sure ingredients are stored properly, temperatures are monitored and products are routinely tested. We believe these measures are absolutely essential to producing the finest pet food that can nourish and energize your pet to the core. Our food is carefully handled, carefully prepared and undoubtedly safe.

18       20. Thus, Defendant engaged in deceptive advertising and labeling practice by  
19 expressly warranting, claiming, stating, featuring, representing, advertising, or otherwise  
20 marketing on the Contaminated Dog Foods' labels and related websites that the Contaminated  
21 Dog Foods are "natural, safe and pure" when both CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish  
22 and Sweet Potato contain significant levels of BPA. Indeed, recent testing has confirmed each  
23 contained over 130 ppb of BPA.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.wellnesspetfood.com/our-philosophy/our-standards-our-promise> (emphasis added), visited Oct. 25, 2017.

7 Id

1       21. Besides prominently warranting, claiming, stating featuring, representing,  
2 advertising, or otherwise marketing that CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet  
3 Potato are "natural, safe and pure," Defendant charges a premium, knowing that the claimed  
4 natural make-up of CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato is something  
5 an average consumer would consider as a reason in picking a more expensive dog food. By  
6 negligently and/or deceptively representing, marketing, and advertising CORE Ocean and  
7 Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato as "natural, safe and pure" Defendant wrongfully  
8 capitalized on, and reaped enormous profits from, consumers' strong preference for natural food  
9 product.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11        22. This Court has original jurisdiction over all causes of action asserted herein under  
12 the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2), because the matter in controversy exceeds  
13 the sum or value of \$5,000,000 exclusive of interest and costs and more than two-thirds of the  
14 Class reside in states other than the states in which Defendant is a citizen and in which this case is  
15 filed, and therefore any exemptions to jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1332(d) do not apply.

16       23.     Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391, because Plaintiffs reside  
17 and suffered injury as a result of Defendant's acts in this district, many of the acts and transactions  
18 giving rise to this action occurred in this district, Defendant conducts substantial business in this  
19 district, Defendant has intentionally availed themselves of the laws and markets of this district,  
20 and Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district.

## **INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

22        24. A substantial portion of the transactions and wrongdoings which gave rise to the  
23 claims in this action occurred in the County of Marin, and as such, this action is properly assigned  
24 to the San Francisco division of this Court.

## **THE PARTIES**

26       25. Plaintiff Daniel Zeiger ("Zeiger") is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a  
27 citizen of the state of California. Plaintiff Zeiger purchased the Contaminated Dog Foods and fed  
28 it to his three-year-old American Bulldog named Mack. Plaintiff Zeiger started purchasing the

1 Contaminated Dog Foods in or around October 2014 and continued to purchase approximately one  
 2 small bag monthly (priced at around \$15.00 per bag) until approximately July 2017 when he  
 3 discovered that the food was contaminated. Plaintiff purchased the Contaminated Dog Foods from  
 4 the following places: (1) Pet Club in Corte Madera, CA; (2) Woodlands Pet Food & Treats in  
 5 Greenbrae, CA; (3) Woodlands Pet Food & Treats in Mill Valley, CA. Prior to purchasing the  
 6 Contaminated Dog Foods, Plaintiff saw the products at the Bay Area Pet Fair and the  
 7 Golden Gate Kennel Club Dog Show at Cow Palace in San Francisco. During the fair and dog  
 8 show he received samples of the products and saw the nutritional claims, which he relied on in  
 9 deciding to purchase the Contaminated Dog Foods. During that time, based on the false and  
 10 misleading claims, warranties, representations, advertisements and other marketing by Defendant,  
 11 Plaintiff was unaware that the Contaminated Dog Foods contained any level of lead, arsenic, or  
 12 BPA and would not have purchased the food if that was fully disclosed.

13       26. Plaintiff Danz Doggie Daytrips ("Danz Doggie"), is, and at all times relevant hereto  
 14 has been, a citizen of the state of California. Plaintiff Danz Doggie is a dog sitting business that  
 15 used the Contaminated Dog Foods as one of the primary foods fed to its clients' dogs. Plaintiff  
 16 Danz Doggie started purchasing the Contaminated Dog Foods in or around October 2014 and  
 17 continued to purchase approximately one small bag monthly (priced at around \$15.00 per bag) and  
 18 ceased purchasing in approximately July 2017 upon discovery that the food was contaminated.  
 19 Plaintiff purchased the Contaminated Dog Foods from the following places: (1) Pet Club in Corte  
 20 Madera, CA; (2) Woodlands Pet Food & Treats in Greenbrae, CA; (3) Woodlands Pet Food &  
 21 Treats in Mill Valley, CA. Prior to purchasing the Contaminated Dog Foods, Plaintiff saw the  
 22 products at the Bay Area Pet Fair and the Golden Gate Kennel Club Dog Show at Cow Palace in  
 23 San Francisco. During that time, based on the false and misleading claims, warranties,  
 24 representations, advertisements, and otherwise marketing by Defendant, Plaintiff was unaware  
 25 that the Contaminated Dog Foods contained any level of lead, arsenic, or BPA and would not have  
 26 purchased the food if that was fully disclosed.

27       27. As the result of Defendant's negligent, reckless, and/or knowingly deceptive  
 28 conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiffs were injured when they paid the purchase price or a price

1 premium for the Contaminated Dog Foods that did not deliver what it promised. They paid the  
2 above sum on the assumption that the labeling of the Contaminated Dog Foods was accurate and  
3 that it was healthy, clean, and safe for dogs to ingest, as well as natural and pure. Plaintiffs would  
4 not have paid this money had they known that the Contaminated Dog Foods contained an excessive  
5 degree of arsenic, lead, and/or BPA. Damages can be calculated through expert testimony at trial.  
6 Further, should Plaintiffs encounter the Contaminated Dog Foods in the future, they could not rely  
7 on the truthfulness of the packaging, absent corrective changes to the packaging and advertising  
8 of the Contaminated Dog Foods.

9       28. Defendant WellPet LLC is incorporated in Delaware with its headquarters located  
10 at 200 Ames Pond Drive, Tewksbury, Massachusetts. Defendant WellPet LLC is a subsidiary of  
11 Berwind Corporation. Defendant formulates, develops, manufactures, labels, distributes, markets,  
12 advertises, and sells the Contaminated Dog Foods under the Wellness dog food brand name  
13 throughout the United States. The advertising, labeling, and packaging for the Contaminated Dog  
14 Foods, relied upon by Plaintiffs, was prepared, reviewed, and/or approved by Defendant and its  
15 agents, and was disseminated by Defendant and its agents through marketing, advertising,  
16 packaging, and labeling that contained the misrepresentations alleged herein. The marketing,  
17 advertising, packaging and labeling for the Contaminated Dog Foods was designed to encourage  
18 consumers to purchase the Contaminated Dog Foods and reasonably misled the reasonable  
19 consumer, i.e., Plaintiffs and the Class, into purchasing the Contaminated Dog Foods. Defendant  
20 owns, manufactures, and distributes the Contaminated Dog Foods, and created, allowed,  
21 negligently oversaw, and/or authorized the unlawful, fraudulent, unfair, misleading, and/or  
22 deceptive labeling and advertising for the Contaminated Dog Foods.

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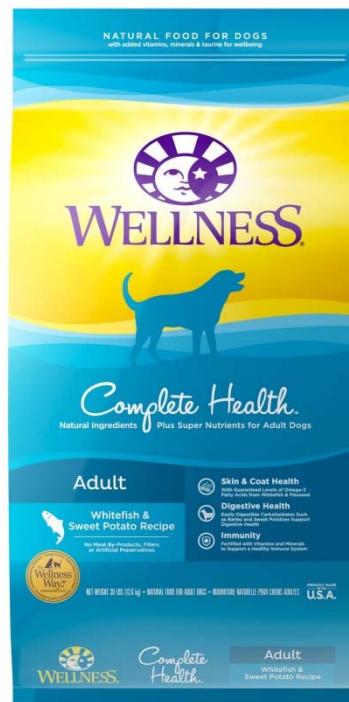
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- 1           29. The Contaminated Dog Foods, at a minimum, include:
- 2           (a) Wellness CORE Adult Dry Ocean Whitefish, Herring Meal and Salmon
- 3           Meal:



- 14
- 15           (b) Wellness Complete Health Adult Dry Whitefish and Sweet Potato:
- 16



1 (c) Wellness Complete Health Adult Grain Free Whitefish and Menhaden Fish  
2

3 Meal:



## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

### **Both Arsenic and Lead Are Exceptionally Dangerous When Ingested**

18        30. Toxins like arsenic and lead can cause serious illness to humans and animals. A  
19 company should be vigilant to take all reasonable steps to avoid causing family pets to ingest these  
20 toxins.

21        31. Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table. It is odorless and tasteless.  
22 Arsenic occurs naturally in the environment as an element of the earth's crust; it is found in rocks,  
23 soil, water, air, plants, and animals. Elemental arsenic is combined with other elements such as  
24 oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur to form inorganic arsenic compounds. Historically, arsenic  
25 compounds were used in many industries, including: (i) as a preservative in pressure-treated  
26 lumber; (ii) as a preservative in animal hides; (iii) as an additive to lead and copper for hardening;  
27 (iv) in glass manufacturing; (v) in pesticides; (vi) in animal agriculture; and (vii) as arsine gas to  
28

1 enhance junctions in semiconductors. The United States has canceled the approvals of some of  
 2 these uses, such as arsenic-based pesticides, for health and safety reasons. Some of these  
 3 cancellations were based on voluntary withdrawals by producers. For example, manufacturers of  
 4 arsenic-based wood preservatives voluntarily withdrew their products in 2003 due to safety  
 5 concerns, and the EPA signed the cancellation order. In the Notice of Cancellation Order, the EPA  
 6 stated that it "believes that reducing the potential residential exposure to a known human  
 7 carcinogen is desirable." Arsenic is an element—it does not degrade or disappear.

8       32. Inorganic arsenic is a known cause of human cancer. The association between  
 9 inorganic arsenic and cancer is well documented. As early as 1879, high rates of lung cancer in  
 10 miners from the Kingdom of Saxony were attributed, in part, to inhaled arsenic. There is evidence  
 11 from countries where groundwater is contaminated with arsenic that shows ingested inorganic  
 12 arsenic, such as that found in contaminated drinking water and food was likely to increase the  
 13 incidence of several internal cancers.<sup>8</sup> The scientific link to skin and lung cancers is particularly  
 14 strong and longstanding, and evidence supports conclusions that arsenic may cause liver, bladder,  
 15 kidney, and colon cancers as well.

16       33. Lead is a metallic substance formerly used as a pesticide in fruit orchards, but the  
 17 use of such pesticides is now prohibited in the United States. Lead, unlike many other poisons,  
 18 builds up in the body over time as the person is exposed to and ingests it, resulting in a cumulative  
 19 exposure which can, over time, become toxic and seriously injurious to health. Lead poisoning  
 20 can occur from ingestion of food or water containing lead. Acute or chronic exposure to material  
 21 amounts of lead can lead to severe brain and kidney damage, among other issues, and ultimately  
 22 cause death.

23

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26       <sup>8</sup> For example, because the groundwater in Taiwan is contaminated with arsenic, extensive long-  
 27 term studies have been conducted on the effects of chronic exposure to arsenic. Other countries  
 28 where cancer and other adverse health effects have been linked to chronic arsenic exposure include  
 Bangladesh, India, Chile, and China.

1       34.     The State of California has included arsenic and lead as a known carcinogen and  
 2 developmental toxin on the Proposition 65 list, pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic  
 3 Enforcement Act of 1986.

4       35.     The FDA has set standards that regulate the maximum parts per billion of lead  
 5 permissible in water: bottled water cannot contain more than 5 ppb of total lead or 10 ppb of total  
 6 arsenic. *See* 21 C.F.R. §165.110(b)(4)(iii)(A).

7 **Defendant Falsely Advertise the Contaminated Dog Foods as Healthy While Omitting Any  
 8 Mention of Arsenic or Lead, as Well as Claim CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish  
 9 and Sweet Potato are Natural, Pure and Safe Despite the Inclusion of the Industrial Chemical  
 BPA**

10      36.     Defendant formulates, develops, manufactures, labels, packages, distributes,  
 11 markets, advertises, and sells its extensive Wellness lines of dry and wet pet food products in  
 12 California and across the United States.

13      37.     Based on Defendant's decision to warrant, claim, state, represent, advertise, label,  
 14 and market its Contaminated Dog Foods as made up of "Uncompromising Nutrition" and  
 15 "Unrivaled Quality Standards" that have nothing in excess and offer complete health, it had a duty  
 16 to ensure these statements were true. As such, Defendant knew or should have known that the  
 17 Contaminated Dog Foods included concerning and higher levels of arsenic and lead.

18      38.     Likewise, by warranting, claiming, stating featuring, representing, advertising or  
 19 otherwise marketing that the Contaminated Dog Foods are natural, safe, and pure, Defendant had  
 20 a known duty to ensure that there were no chemicals included in the Contaminated Dog Foods. In  
 21 fact, Defendant offered further assurances by representing that the quality control over the  
 22 manufacturing of its Wellness dog food products was a rigid process that monitored temperature.  
 23 As such, Defendant knew or should have known that higher temperatures coupled with the type of  
 24 containers used in manufacturing create a real risk of significant levels of BPA in its products.

25      39.     The Contaminated Dog Foods are available at numerous retail and online outlets.

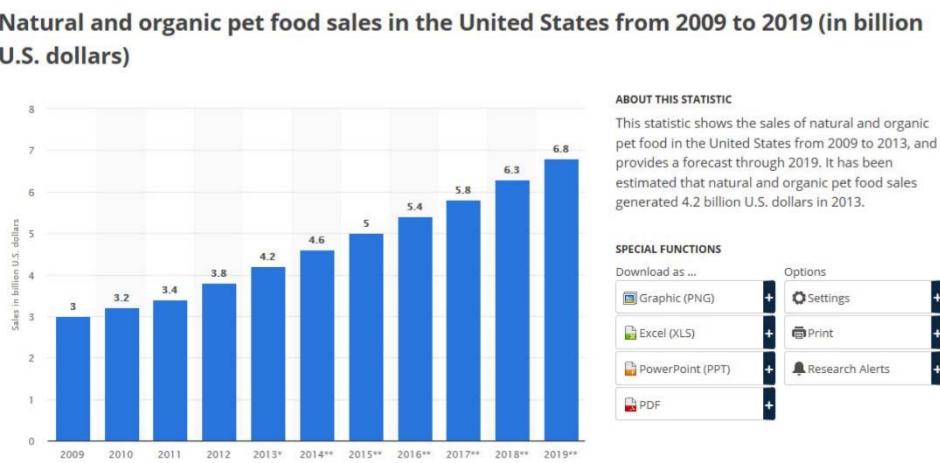
26      40.     The Contaminated Dog Foods are widely advertised and WellPet LLC includes a  
 27 Vice President of Marketing as part of its advertised leadership team.

1       41. The official Wellness Pet Food website displays the Contaminated Dog Foods'  
2 descriptions and full lists of ingredients for the Contaminated Dog Foods and includes the  
3 following promise:

# Our Standards. Our Promise.

At Wellness, your pet's health is at the core of all we do. That's why we have developed an extensive quality assurance program, guaranteeing that all of our products are safe, pure and balanced.

8       42. The Defendant's webpages again and again repeat the false and misleading claims,  
9 warranties, representations, advertisements, and other marketing about the Contaminated Dog  
10 Foods benefits, quality, purity, and natural make-up, without any mention of the arsenic, lead, or  
11 BPA they contain. This is not surprising given that natural pet food sales represent over \$5.5  
12 billion in the United States and have consistently risen over the years.<sup>9</sup>



21       43. Moreover, WellPet LLC has itself acknowledged the importance to quality dog  
22 food to the reasonable consumer: "People are increasingly concerned with what they eat and where  
23 their food comes from, and this concern has influenced the pet food space as well," agrees Carly  
24 White, digital marketing specialist at WellPet LLC, makers of Wellness pet foods. "More and

<sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>9</sup> Statista, *Natural and Organic Pet Food Sales in the U.S. from 2009 to 2019*, The Statistics Portal (accessed Oct. 25, 2017). <https://www.statista.com/statistics/548957/us-sales-of-natural-and-organic-pet-food/>

1 more, pet parents are taking an active role in their pet's nutrition, with a focus on quality ingredients  
 2 that are [conscientiously] sourced."<sup>10</sup>

3       44. As a result of Defendant's omissions, a reasonable consumer would have no reason  
 4 to suspect the presence of arsenic and lead or BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods without  
 5 conducting his or her own scientific tests, or reviewing third-party scientific testing of these  
 6 products.

7       45. That is exactly what Plaintiffs did here. Plaintiffs' testing of the Contaminated Dog  
 8 Foods showed that CORE Ocean consistently contained over 1,000 ppb of arsenic and close to 200  
 9 ppb of lead and that Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato consistently contained over  
 10 1,000 ppb of arsenic and over 200 ppb of lead. Additionally, the testing revealed that the CORE  
 11 Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato each contained over 130 ppb of BPA.  
 12 Moreover, recently a public news report showed that Complete Health Whitefish and Menhaden  
 13 consistently contained more than 1,400 ppb of arsenic and 200 ppb of lead.<sup>11</sup>

14       **DEFENDANT'S STATEMENTS AND OMISSIONS VIOLATE CALIFORNIA LAWS**

15       46. California law is designed to ensure that a company's claims about its products are  
 16 truthful and accurate. Defendant violated California law by negligently, recklessly, and/or  
 17 intentionally incorrectly claiming that the Contaminated Dog Foods are pure, healthy, and safe for  
 18 consumption and by not accurately detailing that the products contain the toxins arsenic and lead.  
 19 Instead, Defendant represented that the Contaminated Dog Foods are made up of  
 20 "Uncompromising Nutrition" and "Unrivaled Quality Standards" that have nothing in excess and  
 21 offer complete health. Defendant further violated California law by negligently, recklessly, and/or  
 22 intentionally incorrectly claiming that CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet  
 23 Potato are natural, pure, and safe when they contain BPA.

24  
 25  
 26       <sup>10</sup> Melissa Breau, *Pet Food Evolution*, Pet Business (Oct. 16, 2015), (alteration in original)  
           http://www.petbusiness.com/Pet-Food-Evolution/

27  
 28       <sup>11</sup> <http://wjla.com/features/7-on-your-side/pet-food-heavy-metals>.

1       47. Defendant's marketing and advertising campaign has been sufficiently lengthy in  
2 duration, and widespread in dissemination, that it would be unrealistic to require Plaintiffs to plead  
3 relying upon each advertised misrepresentation.

4       48.     Defendant has engaged in this long-term advertising campaign to convince  
5 potential customers that the Contaminated Dog Foods were pure, healthy, safe for consumption,  
6 and did not contain harmful ingredients, such as arsenic and lead. Likewise, Defendant has  
7 engaged in this long-term advertising campaign to convince potential customers that CORE Ocean  
8 and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato are natural, pure, and safe despite the presence  
9 of BPA in the food.

#### **10 PLAINTIFFS' RELIANCE WAS REASONABLE AND FORESEEN BY DEFENDANT**

11       49. Plaintiffs reasonably relied on Defendant's own claims, warranties, representations,  
12 advertisements, and other marketing concerning the particular qualities and benefits of the  
13 Contaminated Dog Foods.

14       50. Plaintiffs read and relied upon the labels and packaging of the Contaminated Dog  
15 Foods in making their purchasing decisions.

16       51. A reasonable consumer would consider the labeling of a product when deciding  
17 whether to purchase. Here, Plaintiffs relied on the specific statements and misrepresentations by  
18 Defendant that the Contaminated Dog Foods were healthy and made up of "Uncompromising  
19 Nutrition" and "Unrivaled Quality Standards" that have nothing in excess and offer complete  
20 health with no disclosure of the inclusion of arsenic or lead.

**DEFENDANT'S KNOWLEDGE AND NOTICE OF ITS BREACHES  
OF ITS EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

23        52.     Defendant had sufficient notice of its breaches of express and implied warranties.  
24     Defendant has, and had, exclusive knowledge of the physical and chemical make-up of the  
25     Contaminated Dog Foods. Moreover, Defendant was put on notice by the Clean Label Project on  
26     the inclusion of heavy metals in its dog food products.

1                   **PRIVITY EXISTS WITH PLAINTIFFS AND THE PROPOSED CLASS**

2       53.    Defendant knew that consumers such as Plaintiffs and the proposed Class would be  
3 the end purchasers of the Contaminated Dog Foods and the target of its advertising and statements.

4       54.    Defendant intended that the warranties, advertising, labeling, statements, and  
5 representations would be considered by the end purchasers of the Contaminated Dog Foods,  
6 including Plaintiffs and the proposed Class.

7       55.    Defendant directly marketed to Plaintiffs and the proposed Class through  
8 statements on its website, labeling, advertising, and packaging.

9       56.    Plaintiffs and the proposed Class are the intended beneficiaries of the expressed  
10 and implied warranties.

11                   **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

12       57.    Plaintiffs bring this action individually and on behalf of the following Class  
13 pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) and (3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

14       All persons in California who, from July 1, 2013, to the present, purchased the  
15 Contaminated Dog Foods for household or business use, and not for resale (the  
16 "Class").

17       58.    Plaintiffs also bring this action individually and on behalf of the following Class  
18 pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) and (3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

19       All persons in California who are citizens of the United States who, from July 1,  
20 2013 to the present, purchased CORE Ocean CORE Ocean and Complete Health  
21 Whitefish and Sweet Potato for household or business use, and not for resale (the  
22 "Natural Claims Class").<sup>12</sup>

23       59.    Excluded from the Classes are the Defendant, any parent companies, subsidiaries,  
24 and/or affiliates, officers, directors, legal representatives, employees, co-conspirators, all  
25 governmental entities, and any judge, justice, or judicial officer presiding over this matter.

26       60.    This action is brought and may be properly maintained as a class action. There is  
27 a well-defined community of interests in this litigation and the members of the Classes are easily  
28 ascertainable.

---

<sup>12</sup> All classes collectively are referred to as the "Classes."

1       61.     The members in the proposed Classes are so numerous that individual joinder of all  
2 members is impracticable, and the disposition of the claims of the members of all Classes members  
3 in a single action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and Court.

4       62.     Questions of law and fact common to Plaintiffs and the Classes include, but are not  
5 limited to, the following:

6                 (a)    whether Defendant owed a duty of care;

7                 (b)    whether Defendant knew or should have known that the Contaminated Dog  
8 Foods contained higher levels of arsenic and/or lead;

9                 (c)    whether Defendant knew or should have known that CORE Ocean and  
10 Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato CORE Ocean contained BPA;

11                 (d)    whether Defendant represented and continue to represent that the  
12 Contaminated Dog Foods are made up of "Uncompromising Nutrition" and "Unrivaled Quality  
13 Standards" that have nothing in excess and offer complete health;

14                 (e)    whether Defendant represented and continue to represent that the  
15 Contaminated Dog Foods are pure, healthy, and safe for consumption;

16                 (f)    whether Defendant represented and continue to represent that the CORE  
17 Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato are natural dog foods;

18                 (g)    whether Defendants represented and continue to represent that the  
19 Contaminated Dog Foods are pure ;

20                 (h)    whether Defendant represented and continue to represent that the  
21 manufacturing of its Wellness dog food products is subjected to rigorous standards, including those  
22 standards related to temperature;

23                 (i)    whether Defendant failed to disclose that the Contaminated Dog Foods  
24 contained arsenic, lead, and/or BPA;

25                 (j)    whether Defendant's representations in advertising, warranties, packaging,  
26 and/or labeling are false, deceptive, and misleading;

27                 (k)    whether those representations are likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;

1                             (l)     whether Defendant had knowledge that those representations were false,  
2 deceptive, and misleading;

3                             (m)    whether Defendant continues to disseminate those representations despite  
4 knowledge that the representations are false, deceptive, and misleading;

5                             (n)    whether a representation that a product is healthy and safe for consumption  
6 and does not contain arsenic and/or lead is material to a reasonable consumer;

7                             (o)    whether Defendant's representations and descriptions on the labeling of the  
8 Contaminated Dog Foods are likely to mislead, deceive, confuse, or confound consumers acting  
9 reasonably;

10                          (p)    whether Defendant violated California Business & Professions Code  
11 sections 17200, *et seq.*;

12                          (q)    whether Defendant violated California Business & Professions Code  
13 sections 17500, *et seq.*;

14                          (r)    whether Defendant violated California Civil Code sections 1750, *et seq.*;

15                          (s)    whether Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes are entitled to actual,  
16 statutory, and punitive damages;

17                          (t)    whether Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes are entitled to declaratory  
18 and injunctive relief.

19         63.    Defendant engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal rights  
20 sought to be enforced by Plaintiffs individually and on behalf of the other members of the Class.  
21 Identical statutory violations and business practices and harms are involved. Individual questions,  
22 if any, are not prevalent in comparison to the numerous common questions that dominate this  
23 action.

24         64.    Plaintiffs' claims are typical of those of the members of the Classes in that they are  
25 based on the same underlying facts, events, and circumstances relating to Defendant's conduct.

26         65.    Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the  
27 Classes, have no interests incompatible with the interests of the Classes, and have retained counsel  
28 competent and experienced in class action, consumer protection, and false advertising litigation.

1       66. Class treatment is superior to other options for resolution of the controversy  
2 because the relief sought for each member of the Classes is small such that, absent representative  
3 litigation, it would be infeasible for members of the Classes to redress the wrongs done to them.

4        67. Questions of law and fact common to the Classes predominate over any questions  
5 affecting only individual members of the Classes.

6 68. As a result of the foregoing, class treatment is appropriate.

## COUNT I

**(Negligent Misrepresentation Against Defendant on Behalf of the Classes)**

9       69. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege each and every allegation contained  
10 above, as though fully set forth herein.

11       70. Plaintiffs reasonably placed their trust and reliance in Defendant's representations  
12 that the Contaminated Dog Foods are made up of "Uncompromising Nutrition" and "Unrivaled  
13 Quality Standards" that have nothing in excess and offer complete health.

14       71. Plaintiffs reasonably placed their trust and reliance in Defendant that the  
15 Contaminated Dog Foods warranted, represented, marketed, packaged, labeled and advertised to  
16 them and the Classes were healthy and safe for consumption and did not contain arsenic and lead.

17       72. Plaintiffs reasonably placed their trust and reliance in Defendant that CORE Ocean  
18 and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato products warranted, represented, marketed,  
19 packaged, labeled, and advertised to them and the Classes were natural, pure, and safe and did not  
20 contain BPA.

21       73. Because of the relationship between the parties, the Defendant owed a duty to use  
22 reasonable care to impart correct and reliable disclosures concerning the presence of arsenic, lead,  
23 and BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods or, based upon its superior knowledge, having spoken,  
24 to say enough to not be misleading.

25       74. Defendant breached its duty to Plaintiffs and the Class by providing false,  
26 misleading and/or deceptive information regarding the nature of the Contaminated Dog Foods

27       75. Plaintiffs and the Classes reasonably and justifiably relied upon the information  
28 supplied to them by the Defendant. A reasonable consumer would have relied on Defendant's own

warranties, statements, representations, advertising, packaging, labeling, and other marketing as to the quality, make-up, and included ingredients of the Contaminated Dog Foods. Defendant themselves admitted that consumers now "focus on quality ingredients..." when purchasing dog food.<sup>13</sup>

5        76. As a result of these misrepresentations, Plaintiffs and the Classes purchased the  
6 Contaminated Dog Foods at a premium.

7       77.     Defendant failed to use reasonable care in its communications and representations  
8 to Plaintiffs and the Classes, especially in light of its knowledge of the risks and importance of  
9 considering ingredients to consumers when purchasing the Contaminated Dog Foods.

10       78. By virtue of Defendant's negligent misrepresentations, Plaintiffs and the Classes  
11 have been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial or alternatively, seek rescission and  
12 disgorgement under this Count.

## COUNT II

14 **(Violations of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §§1750, Et  
15 Seq., Against Defendant on Behalf of the Classes)**

16        79. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege each and every allegation contained  
17 above, as though fully set forth herein.

18       80. Plaintiffs and each proposed Classes member is a “consumer,” as that term is  
19 defined in California Civil Code section 1761(d).

20        81. The Contaminated Dog Foods are “goods,” as that term is defined in California  
21 Civil Code section 1761(a).

22        82.      Defendant is a “person” as that term is defined in California Civil Code section  
23      1761(c).

24       83. Plaintiffs and each proposed Classes member's purchase of Defendant's products  
25 constituted a "transaction" as that term is defined in California Civil Code section 1761(e)

<sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>13</sup> Melissa Breau, *Pet Food Evolution*, Pet Business (Oct. 16, 2015), (alteration in original) <http://www.petbusiness.com/Pet-Food-Evolution/>

1       84.     Defendant's conduct alleged herein violates the following provisions of California's  
2 Consumer Legal Remedies Act (the "CLRA"):

3                 (a)     California Civil Code section 1770(a)(5), by negligently, recklessly, and/or  
4 intentionally representing that the Contaminated Dog Foods are healthy and safe for consumption  
5 and by failing to make any mention of arsenic and lead in the Contaminated Dog Foods;

6                 (b)     California Civil Code section 1770(a)(5), by negligently, recklessly, and/or  
7 intentionally representing that the Contaminated Dog Foods are natural, pure and safe and by  
8 failing to make any mention of BPA in CORE Ocean or Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet  
9 Potato;

10                 (c)     California Civil Code section 1770(a)(7), by negligently, recklessly, and/or  
11 intentionally representing that the Contaminated Dog Foods were of a particular standard, quality,  
12 or grade, when they were of another;

13                 (d)     California Civil Code section 1770(a)(9), by negligently, recklessly, and/or  
14 intentionally advertising the Contaminated Dog Foods with intent not to sell them as advertised;  
15 and

16                 (e)     California Civil Code section 1770(a)(16), by representing that the  
17 Contaminated Dog Foods have been supplied in accordance with previous representations when  
18 they have not.

19        85.     As a direct and proximate result of these violations, Plaintiffs and the Classes have  
20 been harmed, and that harm will continue unless Defendant is enjoined from using the misleading  
21 marketing described herein in any manner in connection with the advertising and sale of the  
22 Contaminated Dog Foods.

23        86.     On July 19, 2017, counsel for Plaintiffs and the Classes sent Defendant written  
24 notice (via U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested) that its conduct is in violation of the CLRA  
25 concerning the arsenic and lead omissions.

26        87.     On November 13, 2017, counsel for Plaintiffs and the Classes sent Defendant  
27 written notice (via U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested) that its conduct is in violation of  
28 the CLRA concerning the inclusion of BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods.

1       88.     Defendant failed to provide appropriate relief for its violations of CLRA sections  
 2 1770(a)(5), (7), (9), and (16) within thirty days of receipt of Plaintiffs' July 19, 2017, or November  
 3 13, 2017, notifications. In accordance with CLRA section 1782(b), Plaintiffs and the Classes are  
 4 entitled, under CLRA section 1780, to recover and obtain the following relief for Defendant's  
 5 violations of CLRA sections 1770(a)(5),(7), (9) and (16):

- 6               (a)     actual damages under CLRA section 1780(a)(1);  
 7               (b)     restitution of property under CLRA section 1780(a)(3);  
 8               (c)     punitive damages under CLRA section 1780(a)(4) and because Defendant  
 9               has engaged in fraud, malice, or oppression; and  
 10              (d)     any other relief the Court deems proper under CLRA section 1780(a)(5).

11       89.     Plaintiffs seek an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to, *inter alia*, California Civil  
 12 Code section 1780(e) and California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

### COUNT III

#### **(Violations of California False Advertising Law, California Business & Professions Code §§17500, *Et Seq.*, Against Defendant on Behalf of the Classes)**

16       90.     Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege each and every allegation contained  
 above, as though fully set forth herein.

18       91.     California's False Advertising Law prohibits any statement in connection with the  
 sale of goods "which is untrue or misleading." Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §17500.

20       92.     As set forth herein, Defendant's claims that the Contaminated Dog Foods are  
 healthy and safe for consumption are literally false and likely to deceive the public. Likewise,  
 21 Defendant's statements that CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato are  
 22 natural, pure, and safe are false and likely to deceive the public.  
 23

24       93.     Defendant's claims that the Contaminated Dog Foods are healthy and safe for  
 consumption are untrue or misleading, as is failing to make any mention of arsenic and lead in the  
 25 Contaminated Dog Foods. Likewise, Defendant's statements that CORE Ocean and Complete  
 26 Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato are natural, pure, and safe are untrue or misleading, as failing  
 27 to disclose the presence of BPA in the dog food.  
 28

1       94.     Defendant knew, or reasonably should have known, that all these claims were  
2 untrue or misleading.

3       95.     Defendant's conduct is ongoing and continuing, such that prospective injunctive  
4 relief is necessary, especially given Plaintiffs' desire to purchase these products in the future if they  
5 can be assured that, so long as the Contaminated Dog Foods are, as advertised, healthy and safe  
6 for consumption and do not contain arsenic, lead, or BPA.

7       96. Plaintiffs and members of the Classes are entitled to injunctive and equitable relief,  
8 and restitution in the amount they spent on the Contaminated Dog Foods.

**COUNT IV**

**(Violations of the Unfair Competition Law, California Business & Professions Code §§17200, *Et Seq.*, Against Defendant on Behalf of the Classes)**

12 97. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege each and every allegation contained  
12 above, as though fully set forth herein.

14       98.      The Unfair Competition Law prohibits any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business  
15 act or practice." Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §17200.

### Fraudulent

17       99.     Defendant's statements that the Contaminated Dog Foods are pure, natural, and  
18 healthy, and safe for consumption are literally false and likely to deceive the public, as is  
19 Defendant's failing to make any mention of arsenic, lead, and BPA in the Contaminated Dog  
20 Foods.

### **Unlawful**

22       100. As alleged herein, Defendant has advertised the Contaminated Dog Foods with  
23 false or misleading claims, such that Defendant's actions as alleged herein violate at least the  
24 following laws:

- The CLRA, California Business & Professions Code sections 1750, *et seq.*; and
  - The False Advertising Law, California Business & Professions Code sections 17500, *et seq.*

Unfair

1       101. Defendant's conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,  
2 marketing, and sale of the Contaminated Dog Foods is unfair because Defendant's conduct was  
3 immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to consumers and the utility of its  
4 conduct, if any, does not outweigh the gravity of the harm to its victims.

5       102. Defendant's conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,  
6 marketing, and sale of the Contaminated Dog Foods is also unfair because it violates public policy  
7 as declared by specific constitutional, statutory, or regulatory provisions, including, but not limited  
8 to, the False Advertising Law and the CLRA.

9       103. Defendant's conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,  
10 marketing, and sale of the Contaminated Dog Foods is also unfair because the consumer injury is  
11 substantial, not outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition, and not one consumers,  
12 themselves, can reasonably avoid.

13           104. In accordance with California Business & Professions Code section 17203,  
14 Plaintiffs seek an order enjoining Defendant from continuing to conduct business through  
15 fraudulent or unlawful acts and practices and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.  
16 Defendant's conduct is ongoing and continuing, such that prospective injunctive relief is necessary.

17        105. On behalf of themselves and the Classes, Plaintiffs also seek an order for the  
18 restitution of all monies from the sale the Contaminated Dog Foods, which were unjustly acquired  
19 through acts of fraudulent, unfair, or unlawful competition.

## **COUNT V**

**(Breach of Express Warranty, California Commercial Code §2313,  
Against Defendant on Behalf of the Classes)**

23       106. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege each and every allegation contained  
24 above, as though fully set forth herein.

25        107. As set forth herein, Defendant made express representations to Plaintiffs and the  
26 Class that the Contaminated Dog Foods as made up of "Uncompromising Nutrition" and  
27 "Unrivaled Quality Standards" that have nothing in excess and offer complete health.

1        108. Defendant also made express representations to Plaintiffs and the Classes that the  
2 Contaminated Dog Foods were natural, pure, healthy, and safe for consumption.

3 109. Defendants likewise made express representations to Plaintiffs and the Natural  
4 Claims Class that CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato were natural,  
5 pure, and safe.

6        110. These promises became part of the basis of the bargain between the parties and thus  
7 constituted express warranties.

8 111. There was a sale of goods from Defendant to Plaintiffs and the Class members.

9           112. On the basis of these express warranties, Defendant sold to Plaintiffs and the Class  
10 the Contaminated Dog Foods.

11           113. Defendant knowingly breached the express warranties by including arsenic, lead,  
12 and BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods.

13        114. Defendant was on notice of this breach as it was aware of the included arsenic, lead,  
14 and BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods, and based on the public investigation by the Clean Label  
15 Product that showed its dog food products as unhealthy.

16        115. Privity exists because Defendant expressly warranted to Plaintiffs and the Classes  
17 that the Contaminated Dog Foods were healthy, safe for consumption, natural, and/or pure.

116. Plaintiffs and the Classes reasonably relied on the express warranties by Defendant.

19       117. As a result of Defendant's breaches of its express warranties, Plaintiffs and the  
20 Classes sustained damages as they paid money for the Contaminated Dog Foods that were not  
21 what Defendant represented.

22        118. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Classes, seek actual damages for  
23 Defendant's breach of warranty.

COUNT VI

**(Breach of Implied Warranty, California Commercial Code  
§2314, Against Defendant on Behalf of the Classes)**

27        119. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege each and every allegation contained  
28 above, as though fully set forth herein.

1       120. As set forth herein, Defendant made affirmations of fact on the Contaminated Dog  
2 Foods' labels to Plaintiffs and the Classes that the Contaminated Dog Foods are made up of  
3 "Uncompromising Nutrition" and "Unrivaled Quality Standards" that have nothing in excess and  
4 offer complete health.

5       121. Defendant also made affirmations of fact on the Contaminated Dog Foods' labels  
6 to Plaintiffs and the Class that the Contaminated Dog Foods were pure, healthy, and safe for  
7 consumption and did not contain arsenic or lead.

8       122. The Contaminated Dog Foods did not conform to these affirmations and promises  
9 as they contained arsenic and lead at alarming and unsafe levels.

10      123. Defendant also made affirmations of fact on the CORE Ocean's and Complete  
11 Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato's labels to Plaintiff and the Natural Claims Class that CORE  
12 Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato were natural dog food and did not contain  
13 the chemical BPA.

14      124. CORE Ocean and Complete Health Whitefish and Sweet Potato did not conform to  
15 these affirmations and promises as they contain the industrial chemical BPA.

16      125. These promises became part of the basis of the bargain between the parties and thus  
17 constituted implied warranties.

18      126. Defendant is a merchant engaging in the sale of goods to Plaintiffs and the members  
19 of the Classes

20      127. There was a sale of goods from Defendant to Plaintiffs and the members of the  
21 Classes.

22      128. Defendant breached the implied warranties by selling the Contaminated Dog Foods  
23 that failed to conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the container or label as each  
24 product contained arsenic, lead, and/or BPA.

25      129. Defendant was on notice of this breach as it was aware of the arsenic, lead, and  
26 BPA included in the Contaminated Dog Foods, and based on the public investigation by the Clean  
27 Label Product that showed its dog food products as unhealthy.

1       130. Privity exists because Defendant impliedly warranted to Plaintiffs and the Classes  
2 through the warranting, packaging, advertising, marketing, and labeling that the Contaminated  
3 Dog Foods were pure, healthy, natural, and safe and by failing to make any mention of arsenic,  
4 lead and BPA.

5        131. As a result of Defendant's breach of its implied warranties of merchantability,  
6 Plaintiffs and the Classes sustained damages as they paid money for the Contaminated Dog Foods  
7 that were not what Defendant represented.

8        132. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Classes, seek actual damages for  
9 Defendant's breach of warranty.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

11 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, pray  
12 for judgment against the Defendant as to each and every count, including:

13 A. An order declaring this action to be a proper class action, appointing Plaintiffs and  
14 their counsel to represent the Classes, and requiring Defendant to bear the costs of class notice;

15 B. An order enjoining Defendant from selling the Contaminated Dog Foods until the  
16 higher and/or unsafe levels of arsenic, lead, and BPA are removed;

17 C. An order enjoining Defendant from selling the Contaminated Dog Foods in any  
18 manner suggesting or implying that they are healthy and safe for consumption;

19 D. An order requiring Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign and  
20 engage in any further necessary affirmative injunctive relief, such as recalling existing products;

21 E. An order awarding declaratory relief, and any further retrospective or prospective  
22 injunctive relief permitted by law or equity, including enjoining Defendant from continuing the  
23 unlawful practices alleged herein, and injunctive relief to remedy Defendant's past conduct;

24 F. An order requiring Defendant to pay restitution to restore all funds acquired by  
25 means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be an unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business  
26 act or practice, untrue or misleading advertising, or a violation of the Unfair Competition Law,  
27 False Advertising Law, or CLRA, plus pre- and post-judgment interest thereon;

G. An order requiring Defendant to disgorge or return all monies, revenues, and profits obtained by means of any wrongful or unlawful act or practice;

3 H. An order requiring Defendant to pay all actual and statutory damages permitted  
4 under the counts alleged herein;

I. An order requiring Defendant to pay punitive damages on any count so allowable;

6 J. An order awarding attorneys' fees and costs to Plaintiffs, the Classes and

K. An order providing for all other such equitable relief as may be just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

9 Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

10 | Dated: July 2, 2018

LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.C.  
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