Amended Class Action FAQ

November 9, 2018

**-What is the issue regarding pentobarbital?**

A class-action suit against Champion Petfoods has recently been amended to allege that some of our dog food contained a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved animal sedative called pentobarbital. Champion was notified by one of our suppliers that a relatively small amount of beef fat that they had sent to us contained a low level of pentobarbital. We immediately removed the ingredient from production. Additionally, independent third-party lab tests confirmed there was no pentobarbital detected in our foods. We are vigorously defending all claims made in the lawsuit and are confident that our ACANA and ORIJEN dog and cat foods are among the safest and healthiest you can feed your beloved pets.

**-Why is the allegation being made? What is the truth?**

First and foremost, the truth is that our products are safe for pets. On May 7th, 2018, Champion was notified by one of our suppliers that a relatively small amount of beef fat that they had sent to us contained a low level of pentobarbital. We immediately removed the ingredient from production. Additionally, independent third-party lab tests confirmed there was no pentobarbital detected in our foods. Shortly thereafter, the FDA commended our process and concluded their inspection with no corrective action required. Champion strongly believes that any legal complaints are without merit, should be dismissed, and plans to vigorously defend itself.

**-What is pentobarbital?**

Pentobarbital is an animal sedative approved for use by the FDA. In low doses, it is a safe and effective short-acting surgical anesthetic for use in animals. In higher concentrations, and in combination with other drugs, it may be used as a humane and rapid euthanasia agent in animals. We would like to reassure Pet Lovers that our standards for ingredients, including beef fat, are that they must be sourced from healthy animals.

**-What is beef fat**?

Beef fat is a common ingredient that is topically applied to the food as a finish to enhance palatability. Beef fat was only applied by Champion to a limited number of diets and in minimal quantities in our Dogstar Kitchen.

**-How did pentobarbital get into Champion products?**

The pentobarbital was found in a beef fat ingredient sent to us by a supplier. We hold our suppliers to strict standards. They are all stringently evaluated and approved by us and regulated by federal agencies. We were surprised when our supplier notified us that, as a result of a failure to follow their own standards, testing had shown a very small level of pentobarbital in their ingredient. We immediately pulled their ingredient from production. In accordance with our value of accountability, and because the supplier was dishonest, we decisively ended our relationship.

**-Why didn’t Champion inform Pet Lovers of the issue at the time?**

Upon learning of this unusual incident, we immediately engaged an independent third party lab to perform testing on our foods which confirmed that no pentobarbital was detected in our foods. We confirmed that there was no danger to pets. We worked closely with the FDA throughout this isolated incident. The FDA had commended our decisive handling of the issue and concluded their inspection with no corrective action required. The FDA confirmed the safety of our foods and did not require us to withdraw or recall any of our foods from the market.

**-Is there any danger to pets?**

No. There is no danger to pets. Independent third party testing confirmed that no pentobarbital was detected in our foods. We worked closely with the FDA throughout the incident. They commended our decisive handling of the issue and concluded their inspection with no corrective action required.

**-Were any Champion Petfood’s products recalled as a result?**

No. The FDA confirmed the safety of our foods and did not require us to withdraw or recall any of our foods from the market.

**-What is Champion Petfood doing to avoid this issue from reoccurring?**

Consistent with our commitment to being trusted by Pet Lovers Everywhere, we work to ensure that every possible precaution is taken to keep your pets safe. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of pet food safety and we undertake rigorous testing and research. When we learned of this unusual incident, we immediately worked with our scientists, nutritionists and food safety experts, along with regulators. We undertook these procedures to understand the facts, identify the causes, and take firm and decisive action. We also ended our relationship with the supplier who provided the ingredient. We will continue to hold all of our suppliers to these same standards audit all ingredient suppliers. Pet Lovers should be comforted to know that Champion will always take exhaustive steps to ensure pet and food safety.

**-How do we know Champion foods are safe?**

We have always sourced our ingredients from trusted partners who undergo a rigorous assessment prior to working with us and who are subject to regular audits by our Certification and Compliance team. Our FDA regulated and SQF (Safe Quality Food) certified Kentucky DogStar kitchens operate under HACCP-based food safety standards, and the facility was the first-ever recipient of the prestigious Global Markets Award; an international designation for food safety from the Global Food Safety Initiative.