



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20201

September 23, 2019

Appeal Case No. 19-0107-AA

Ms. Susan Thixton

Via Email: susan@truthaboutpetfood.com

Dear Ms. Thixton:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal received by this office on the date above. Your appeal has been assigned the above-stated case number based on when it was received in this office. Please reference this number on your correspondence.

Your letter is summarized below:

"...appealing FOIA Request Number: 2017-10123; Subject FOIA request asked for the legal definitions of pet food ingredients. FDA response denied the request for reasons: 'we are denying a copyrighted document' - FDA MOU 225-07-7001...". The case number of the original request was **2017-10123**.

Pursuant to 45 CFR 5.35 (c) your appeal falls under "unusual circumstances" in that our office will need to consult with another office or agency that has substantial interest in the determination of the appeal. The actual processing time will depend on the complexity of the issues presented in the appeal and consultation with other U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) components involved. For more information about how your appeal will be processed please see 45 CFR 5.34 <http://www.hhs.gov/foia/45cfr5.html>

The FOIA and the HHS FOIA regulations are available at the following web addresses:
<http://www.justice.gov/oip/doj-foia-regulations> and <http://www.hhs.gov/foia/45cfr5.html>.

Any questions regarding the status of your appeal should be directed to this office by calling (202) 260-6933, or write to us at the address above.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Trent
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Division