



Susan Thixton <susan@truthaboutpetfood.com>

attention Dr. Steven Solomon, Dr. Timothy Schell

Ask CVM <AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov>

Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 3:47 PM

To: Susan Thixton <susan@truthaboutpetfood.com>

Dear Ms. Thixton,

Thank you for your email to AskCVM regarding the publication from researchers at Purdue University. ["Risk of Foodborne Illness from Pet Food: Assessing Pet Owners' Knowledge, Behavior, and Risk Perception," [Journal of Food Protection, Manuscript No JFP-20-108R2](#)].

As you know, the researchers evaluated consumers' pet food handling practices and knowledge about risks related to pet food through a survey. Some questions consumers were asked as part of the study focused on interactions with pets and practices of pet owners and children. The consumer responses are reported in TABLE 2. On page 11 of the article, the authors state, "Consuming pet food or treats was not a common practice among pet owners (8%) nor among pet owners with young children (5%)." We note that there is no information presented about whether the persons responding to the question regularly eat pet food or were reporting having eaten it at some point in the past.

Pet food and pet treats are labeled for pet consumption not human consumption. As we explained in our response to your Citizen Petition [FDA-2016-P-3578] "...as long as hazards are controlled, and the animal food is not otherwise adulterated, we do not believe that the use of diseased animals or animals that died otherwise than by slaughter to make animal food poses a safety concern..." [FDA Response, p. 5]. In addition, we do not intend to require labeling specifically related to ingredients derived from animals that died other than by slaughter.

Sincerely,

AskCVM