



Susan Thixton <susan@truthaboutpetfood.com>

attention Dr. Steven Solomon, Dr. Timothy Schell

Susan Thixton <susan@truthaboutpetfood.com>
To: Ask CVM <AskCVM@fda.hhs.gov>

Wed, Sep 2, 2020 at 8:59 AM

Per previous request from FDA, this email is being sent to Ask CVM even though the intended recipients are Dr. Steven Solomon and Dr. Timothy Schell. Please forward this email to each recipient.

Dear Dr. Solomon and Dr. Schell –

Pet owners concerned with FDA's allowance of illegal ingredients into pet food with no warning or disclosure would like to bring to your attention a new study from researchers at Purdue University. The study – which can be found here: <https://meridian.allenpress.com/jfp/article/doi/10.4315/JFP-20-108/439970/Risk-of-Foodborne-Illness-from-Pet-Food-Assessing> – surveyed more than 1,000 pet owners across the United States primarily regarding their safe handling practices of pet food. One significant issue the researchers learned was that 8% of adult pet owners, and 5% of children of pet owners – had consumed their pet's food or treat.

It is estimated that 68 million homes in the US own a cat or dog. Converting the study data to real life, this means that more than 5 million U.S. adults and more than 3 million U.S. children have consumed pet food.

Knowing this statistic, can the FDA – with clear conscience – continue to “*exercise enforcement discretion*” allowing pet foods and pet treats to include ingredients that violate federal law sourced from “*diseased animals or animals that died otherwise than by slaughter*” with no warning or disclosure on the pet food label?

We have exhausted every administrative effort with FDA attempting to protect our pets health – asking FDA again and again to stop allowing illegal ingredients in pet food; FDA has turned a deaf ear to every attempt refusing to enforce the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act with pet food.

In this attempt, we are asking FDA to protect human health. Because FDA is now aware that a recent study confirms 8% of adult pet owners and 5% of children of pet owners have or will consume their pet's food, FDA must immediately end enforcement discretion allowing these dangerous ingredients in pet foods and treats. Without immediate action, should a child or adult die linked to these ingredients – should a zoonotic disease be spread linked to these ingredients – the sole responsibility of that death or illness will be FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine.

We are unfortunately well aware of FDA ignoring the risk of these ingredients with animal consumption. But is the FDA willing to 'roll the dice' with 8% of the US pet owning population too?

I am asking for your response to this email. Will the FDA ignore the human health risk of 8% of 68 million US homes with pets? Or will FDA finally enforce the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act with pet food? At the very least, will FDA promptly implement a required warning label on any pet product that contains condemned animal material, diseased animal material or material from animals that have died other than by slaughter?

Susan Thixton
Representing Concerned Pet Owners

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