



URGENT PET FOOD RECALL ADVISORY **CONTAMINATED FOOD TOXIC TO DOGS AND CATS**

January 9, 2006 – Due to contamination, Diamond Pet Food Company has recalled 19 varieties of dog and cat food made at its Gaston, S.C., facility. Cornell University veterinarians report that at least 100 dogs have died in recent weeks after eating food contaminated with aflatoxin, which comes from a fungus that develops on corn and other crops. Currently, about two-thirds of dogs that show symptoms after eating the tainted food die. Some kennels and consumers around the nation and possibly in more than two dozen other countries remain unaware of the tainted food, and as a result, they continue to give dogs food containing a lethal toxin, says Cornell.

To date, no cases have been reported in cats, but aflatoxin can cause severe liver damage in pets. Contact your veterinarian if your pet exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- Sluggishness
- Loss of appetite
- Jaundice (yellow whites of the eyes, gums, belly)
- Severe, persistent vomiting combined with bloody diarrhea
- Fever

The Gaston facility distributes products in Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

Recalled products can be identified by the Date Code and "Best By" dates listed on the back panel of the package. Recalled products will have a capital "G" (in reference to Gaston) in the 11th or 12th position of the date code (18 lb. to 55 lb. bags), and "Best By" dates between March 1, 2007, and June 10, 2007. The capital "G" will be in the 9th position on smaller 4 lb. to 8 lb. bags. A list of recalled products can be found at www.diamondpet.com.

Customers should immediately stop using recalled products and return any remaining product to their retailer. Veterinarians instituting treatment for aflatoxin can call Diamond Pet Foods toll-free at 1-866-214-6945 and ask to speak with one of the company's consulting veterinarians.

FOR THE MOST RECENT UPDATES, USE THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Cornell University: <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/news/articles/diamondPetFoods.htm>

Food & Drug Administration: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01290.html>

Diamond Pet Food Company: www.diamondpet.com

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