



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PRESS RELEASE

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#### **Bravo! Issues Nationwide Recall of Select Pet Food Products for Dogs and Cats**

**Hartford, CT/September 21, 2007** – On September 20<sup>th</sup> Bravo!, a Vernon-based manufacturer of raw pet food products, announced a voluntary recall of select tubes of three of its poultry products for cats and dogs. A list of the recalled products appears at the end of this release.

The pet food is being recalled because two of the products have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella and *Listeria monocytogenes*, and another product has the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. The voluntary recall was implemented because the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) detected the bacteria in samples of product obtained during recent inspections.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, FDA, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are working with Bravo to ensure all contaminated product is returned and destroyed.

USDA and FDA are conducting inspections of the manufacturing facility and sampling product to ensure the safety of the foods produced there. Staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and Department of Consumer Protection also is investigating.

The company and the Connecticut Departments of Agriculture and Consumer Protection have not received any reports of illness in either people or animals associated with any of the three recalled products.

The recalled products are distributed nationwide to distributors, retail stores, internet sales and directly to consumers, and they can be identified by the batch ID code located on the hang tag attached to the bottom of the plastic film tubes.

The recalled products should not be sold or fed to pets. Pet owners should return unopened frozen tubes of food to the store where purchased for a full refund. Pet owners should dispose of opened tubes of product in a safe manner (example, a securely covered trash receptacle) and return the washed plastic batch ID tag to the store where purchased for a full refund.

**To prevent the transmission of Salmonella from pets to family members and caregivers, everyone should follow appropriate pet food handling guidelines when feeding their pets.** In general people may risk infection not only by handling raw pet foods, but also by contact with pets or other surfaces exposed to these foods, so it is important that they practice good hygiene by **thoroughly washing their hands with hot water and soap after handling their pets, pet waste and raw pet food. Children should not be allowed to handle raw pet foods.**

**Consumers should take care when storing and handling these raw pet foods to prevent contact and cross-contamination with food intended for human consumption.** Utensils used for pet foods should never be used for preparation of food for human consumption unless thoroughly cleaned and sanitized using very hot water or a sanitizer such as a bleach solution. A list of **safe pet food handling tips** can be found at: [http://www.fda.gov/cvm/CVM\\_Updates/foodbornetips.htm](http://www.fda.gov/cvm/CVM_Updates/foodbornetips.htm).

Consumers should report any complaints to FDA's local District Complaint Coordinator's located on the FDA website: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/complain.html>.

The symptoms of Salmonella sickness include vomiting, diarrhea, poor appetite, dehydration, sluggishness, weakness and high fever. Symptoms of listeriosis include fever, muscle aches, and sometimes gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea or diarrhea. If infection spreads to the nervous system, symptoms such as headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, or convulsions can occur.

Anyone who is experiencing the symptoms of Salmonella or Listeria infection after having handled the recalled product should seek medical attention immediately.

Symptoms of illness in pets are the similar to those for humans. People who have concerns about whether their pet is ill should contact their veterinarian.

For more information on the Bravo! recall, please visit <http://www.bravorawdiet.com/recallinfo.html>,  
or call toll-free **(866) 922-9222**.

Recalled Pet Food

Product: Bravo Original Formula Chicken Blend frozen raw food  
Product Numbers: 21-102, 21-105, 21-110  
Sizes: 2 pound, 5 pound and 10 pound tubes  
Batch ID code (on hang tag): 236  
Reason for Recall: Salmonella, Listeria

Product: Bravo Original Formula Turkey Blend frozen raw food  
Product Numbers: 31-102, 31-105, 31-110  
Sizes: 2 pound, 5 pound and 10 pound tubes  
Batch ID code (on hang tag): 236  
Reason for Recall: Listeria

Product: Bravo Basic Formula Finely Ground Chicken frozen raw food  
Product Number: 21-212  
Size: 2 pound tube  
Batch ID Code (on hang tag): 226  
Reason for Recall: Salmonella, Listeria

Other Batch IDs for these same products are not involved in the recall.

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