

FDA Cautions Pet Owners Not to Feed Performance Dog Raw Pet Food Due to *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes*

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Fast Facts

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- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is cautioning pet owners not to feed their pets any Performance Dog frozen raw pet food after a sample tested positive for *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes* (*L. mono*).
- Two samples of different finished products collected during an inspection of Bravo Packing, Inc., the manufacturer of Performance Dog raw pet food, tested positive for *Salmonella* and/or *L. mono*. One of the products sampled had not yet been distributed.
- The product that entered the marketplace is Performance Dog raw pet food, lot code 072219, sold to customers frozen in two-pound pouches. However, the FDA is cautioning about all Performance Dog frozen raw pet food produced on or after July 22, 2019 because the products do not have lot codes printed on retail packaging. If you have any Performance Dog product that you purchased after July 22, 2019, throw it away.
- FDA is issuing this alert because Performance Dog raw pet food represents a serious threat to human and animal health. Because these products are sold and stored frozen, FDA is concerned that people may still have them in their possession.
- *Salmonella* and *L. mono* can affect both human and animal health. People with symptoms of *Salmonella* or *L. mono* infection should consult their health care providers. Consult a veterinarian if your pet has symptoms of *Salmonella* or *L. mono* infection.

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What is the problem?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is cautioning pet owners not to feed their pets Performance Dog frozen raw pet food purchased after July 22, 2019 because a sample tested positive for *Salmonella* and *L. mono*.

The FDA collected two samples of raw pet food manufactured by Bravo Packing, Inc. (Performance Dog and a beef variety) during a routine inspection of the manufacturing facility in Carneys Point, NJ. The sample of Performance Dog raw pet food lot 072219 tested positive for *Salmonella* and *L. mono*. The sample of the beef raw pet food tested positive for *Salmonella*, but the product had not yet been distributed.

This is the second time Bravo Packing, Inc. product has tested positive for pathogen contamination. In September 2018, Bravo Packing, Inc. recalled (</safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/bravo-packing-inc-recalls-performance-dog-raw-pet-food-because-possible-salmonella-health-risk>) all Performance Dog frozen raw pet food due to *Salmonella*. Also, during a 2016 inspection, the FDA collected samples of Bravo Packing, Inc. horse meat chunk animal food that tested positive for the drugs pentobarbital and phenytoin.

The FDA is advising the public about Performance Dog raw pet food because this product represents a serious threat to human and animal health. Because retail packaging is not printed with lot code information, FDA is cautioning about all Performance Dog raw pet food purchased after July 22, 2019.

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What products are involved?

Bravo Packing, Inc. Performance Dog products are sold frozen in two-pound plastic pouches. Lot codes are printed on the outside of the boxes used to distribute the product, but the lot codes are not printed on the individual sealed plastic pouches, also known as chubs. Therefore, there are no unique identification numbers on the individual chubs that would allow customers to verify whether their product belongs to the affected lot.

If you have Performance Dog raw pet food that you purchased after July 22, 2019, or you are uncertain of the date of purchase, and you cannot determine the lot code, FDA recommends that you exercise caution and throw the product away.

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What do consumers need to do?

If you have any of the affected product, stop feeding it to your pets and throw it away in a secure container where other animals, including wildlife, cannot access it.

Consumers who have had this product in their homes should clean refrigerators/freezers where the product was stored (<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/communication/clean-refrigerator-steps.html>) and clean and disinfect all bowls, utensils, food prep surfaces, pet bedding, toys, floors, and any other surfaces that the food or pet may have had contact with. Because animals can shed the bacteria in the feces when

they have bowel movements, it's particularly important to clean up the animal's feces in yards or parks where people or other animals may become exposed, in addition to cleaning items in the home. Consumers should thoroughly wash their hands after handling the affected product or cleaning up potentially contaminated items and surfaces.

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What do retailers need to do?

Retailers, distributors and other operators who have offered the affected products for sale should wash and sanitize display cases and freezers where the products were stored.

What is *Salmonella* and what are the symptoms of *Salmonella* infection (salmonellosis)?

Salmonella is a bacterium that can cause illness and death in humans and animals, especially those who are very young, very old, or have weak immune systems. According to CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/>), people infected with *Salmonella* can develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps. Most people recover without treatment, but in some people, the diarrhea may be so severe that they need to be hospitalized. In some patients, the *Salmonella* infection may spread from the intestines to the blood stream and then to other body sites unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics. Consult your health care provider if you have symptoms of *Salmonella* infection.

Pets do not always display symptoms when infected with *Salmonella*, but signs can include vomiting, diarrhea (which may be bloody), fever, loss of appetite and/or decreased activity level. If your pet has these symptoms, consult a veterinarian promptly. You should also be aware that infected pets can shed the bacteria in their feces and saliva without showing signs of being sick, further contaminating the household environment.

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What is *Listeria monocytogenes* (*L. mono*) and what are the symptoms of *L. mono* infection (listeriosis)?

Listeria monocytogenes is a bacterium that can cause illness and death in humans and animals, especially those who are pregnant, very young, very old, or have weak immune systems. According to CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/index.html>), listeriosis in humans can cause a variety of symptoms, depending on the person and the part of the body affected. Symptoms can include headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, and convulsions in addition to fever and muscle aches.

Pregnant women typically experience only fever and other flu-like symptoms, such as fatigue and muscle aches. However, infections during pregnancy can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, or life-threatening infection of the newborn.

Pregnant women and their newborns, adults age 65 and older, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to get sick (<https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/risk.html>) with listeriosis. Anyone with symptoms of listeriosis should contact a health care provider.

L. mono infections are uncommon in pets, but they are possible. Symptoms may include mild to severe diarrhea; anorexia; fever; nervous, muscular and respiratory signs; abortion; depression; shock; and death. Pets do not need to display symptoms to be able to pass *L. mono* on to their human companions. As with *Salmonella*, infected pets can shed *L. mono* in their feces and saliva without showing signs of being sick, further contaminating the household environment.

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Why is the FDA concerned about *Salmonella* and *L. mono* in pet food and treats?

Pet foods and treats contaminated with *Salmonella* and *L. mono* are of particular public health importance because they can affect both human and animal health. Pets can get sick from these pathogens and may also be carriers of the bacteria and pass it on to their human companions without appearing to be ill. People can get sick from handling contaminated pet foods and treats or touching surfaces that have had contact with the contaminated pet foods and treats. Additionally, if a person gets *Salmonella* or *L. mono* on their hands, they can spread the bacteria to other people, objects, and surfaces.

The FDA has recently investigated cases in which humans and/or animals have gotten sick from exposure to *Salmonella*-contaminated pet foods (see *Salmonella*-human cases linked to pet food ([/animal-veterinary/news-events/fda-investigates-outbreak-salmonella-infections-linked-raws-paws-ground-turkey-food-pets](#)), *Salmonella*-human cases linked to pig ear pet treats ([/animal-veterinary/news-events/fda-investigates-contaminated-pig-ear-pet-treats-connected-human-salmonella-infections](#)), *Salmonella*-kitten ([/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/blue-ridge-beef-recalls-kitten-grind-raw-pet-food-lotga1102-because-possible-contamination](#)), *Salmonella*-kitten and dog ([/animal-veterinary/news-events/updated-fda-investigates-pattern-contamination-certain-raw-pet-foods-made-arrow-reliance-inc](#))). Although FDA is not aware of a documented case of a person acquiring *L. mono* infection from a pet food, once *Salmonella* or *L. mono* get established in the pet's gastrointestinal tract, the animal can shed the bacteria in the feces when it has a bowel movement, and the contamination may continue to spread.

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act requires that all animal food, like human food, be safe to eat, produced under sanitary conditions, contain no harmful substances, and be truthfully labeled. Without an effective control for pathogens, such as cooking, animal food is more likely to contain pathogens such as *Salmonella* and *L. mono*. Refrigeration or freezing does not kill the bacteria.

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What should I do if I think I have salmonellosis or listeriosis?

If you think you have symptoms of *Salmonella* or *L. mono* infection, consult your health care provider.

What should I do if I think my pet has salmonellosis or listeriosis?

People who think their pets have become ill after consuming contaminated pet food should first contact their veterinarians. Veterinarians who wish to have pets tested for *Salmonella* may do so through the Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (Vet-LIRN ([/animal-veterinary/science-](#)

research/veterinary-laboratory-investigation-and-response-network)) if the pet is from a household with a person infected with *Salmonella*.

How can I report a human or animal illness related to pet food?

FDA encourages consumers to report complaints about pet food products electronically through the Safety Reporting Portal (<https://www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov/>). This information helps FDA further protect human and animal health.

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The information in this release reflects the FDA's best efforts to communicate what it has learned from the manufacturer and any state and local public health agencies involved in the investigation. The agency will update this page as more information becomes available.

Additional Information

- [Get the Facts! Raw Pet Food Diets can be Dangerous to You and Your Pet \(/animal-veterinary/animal-health-literacy/get-facts-raw-pet-food-diets-can-be-dangerous-you-and-your-pet\)](#)
- [CDC: Salmonella \(https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/\)](https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/)
- [CDC \(https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/index.html) [Listeria \(https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/index.html)

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