

**UPDATED, NOVEMBER 28, 2008**

## **ORIJEN CAT FOOD | AUSTRALIA**

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS IN AUSTRALIA**

- Champion Petfoods Ltd. has voluntarily recalled ORIJEN cat from Australia as a precautionary measure until definitive testing is complete and the cause of the cat deaths is verified.
- The recall is restricted to **AUSTRALIA ONLY** and was issued in response to reports from the Australian veterinary community of a number of cats showing neurological symptoms after reportedly consuming ORIJEN.
- We have sent a Champion Petfoods representative to Australia to investigate the problem first hand and conduct face-to-face consultations with Australian veterinarians.
- With unlimited scope, we have fully engaged to thoroughly and completely investigate every possibility linked to the problems in Australia.

### **WHAT WE KNOW**

- A total of 6 pallets of ORIJEN cat food pet food were sold through Australian pet specialty retailers between February and October of 2008.
- This shipment represents less than ¼ of 1 percent (0.25%) of our total production of ORIJEN cat foods during this nine month period.
- Irradiation is unique to Australia and ORIJEN is not irradiated in any other countries or markets.
- While human foods are typically irradiated between 5 and 10 kGY, ORIJEN cat foods were irradiated at levels exceeding 60 kGY.
- Irradiation is known to reduce the vitamin content of dry cat food. Tests conducted in Canadian laboratories have shown that ORIJEN foods irradiated at 50 kGY resulted in an immediate decrease of Vitamin A content exceeding 75%.
- Champion Petfoods Ltd, was unaware of the irradiation process for imported cat foods with fresh ingredients
- Research findings of a 2007 study published by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists [www.vetpathology.org/misc/terms.shtml](http://www.vetpathology.org/misc/terms.shtml) determined that the feeding of a gamma-irradiated diet of 35-45 kGY was associated with the development of the same conditions as are reported in cats in Australia.
- No equivalent cases are reported outside of Australia.

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## ABOUT ORIJEN

- ORIJEN is high in long-chain Omega-3 fatty acids (DHA, EPA) which are particularly susceptible to breakdown under the irradiation process, which in turn causes the release of the free radicals thought to cause the symptoms seen in the Australian cats.
- *At government-certified laboratories in Canada, Australia and the USA, we have conducted complete and comprehensive nutritional assays of our foods including those actually sold in Australia as well as the corresponding control samples retained in our factory.*
  - ▶ **RESULTS: ALL NUTRIENTS PRESENT AS EXPECTED. SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN VITAMIN A LEVELS FROM IRRADIATED SAMPLES.**
- *At Canadian laboratories, we have conducted complete and comprehensive toxicology tests for the presence of all heavy metals (including but not limited to arsenic, lead and all forms of mercury), all forms of PCBs, aflatoxins, vomitoxins, ochratoxins, t-2 toxins, polychlorinated biphenyls, enterobacteriaceae, salmonella and melamine.*
  - ▶ **RESULTS: NO TOXINS FOUND.**
- *At the University of Michigan's Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, we have conducted comprehensive chemical screenings of our foods sold in Australia as well as the corresponding control samples retained in our factory for 173 toxins including but not limited to polycyclic aromatics and benzenes, pesticides, disinfectants and antioxidants and industrial pollutants.*
  - ▶ **RESULTS: NO TOXINS FOUND.**
- *Conducted tests on oxidative bi-product levels (a measure of the production of free radicals from irradiated samples) on ORIJEN cat foods irradiated at varying levels.*
  - ▶ **RESULTS: THE PRODUCTION OF OXIDATIVE BY-PRODUCTS IN ORIJEN CAT FOODS INCREASES SUBSTANTIALLY WITH INCREASED LEVELS OF IRRADIATION.**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- We are returning to Australia for further consultations with Australian vets.
- Conducting controlled tests of ORIJEN packaging at various and high levels of irradiation to test for the possible release of toxins from packaging materials.
- Establishing a research fund with the objective of adding to the current body of research on the link between irradiation and disease in cats.
- Reach out to the Australian families affected by this regrettable circumstance.

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## CHAMPIONS PETFOODS' PRODUCTS

- Champion Petfoods is a boutique producer of world-class pet foods from fresh regional ingredients. Unlike multinational pet food makers, we focus on ingredients fresh from our region including eggs, chicken, turkey and a variety of wild-caught fish that are passed as fit for human consumption.
- Union Regulation 1774 that mandates all meat ingredients in our foods are produced from animals passed as fit for human consumption.
- We sell only what we produce in our own facilities – none of our foods are co-packed, and all are produced in our very own award-winning factory here in Canada.
- Our foods meet or exceed every known international regulation or pet food standard, including European Union.

## WHO WE ARE?

- We are a family-owned Canadian pet food producer with a 25 year record of food safety that is committed to producing 'world-class pet foods from fresh regional ingredients'.
- Our foods are developed upon the notion that companion dogs and cats are deserving of the same care and respect as human companions.
- We sell only what we produce in our own facilities – none of our foods are co-packed, and all are produced in our very own award-winning factory here in Canada.
- Our foods meet or exceed every known international regulation or pet food standard, including European Union Regulation 1774 that mandates all meat ingredients in our foods be produced from animals passed as fit for human consumption.
- We remain committed to on-going research into this case with the hope that our findings can be used to better inform the international community on the potential effects of irradiation on nutrient dense dry cat food.



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