



## Pet Food Recalls

We started SmartPak Canine because we love dogs and wanted to do everything possible to promote their health and well being. We've made it a key focus of our business to promote the feeding of higher quality dog foods, in the correct amounts, as the cornerstone of a healthy lifestyle. As pet owners, our reaction to the recent dog and cat injuries and deaths fills us with sadness for the owners of those pets and frustration that such a thing could happen.

### Background

The situation started in mid-March, when Menu foods reported to the FDA that they were getting reports of dogs experiencing kidney failure. The FDA and Menu foods investigated, and determined that the wheat gluten in hundreds of brands of food contained Melamine, an industrial chemical that is high in Nitrogen.

It is suspected that this chemical was added to enhance the test results for protein content, since protein tests can give higher readings when spiked with nitrogen containing Melamine. No one had ever seen this chemical used to adulterate pet food before, and the industry was not equipped to test for it.

Recently, that same chemical was discovered in a particular batch of Rice Protein concentrate, imported by a company named Wilbur-Ellis.

Although none of the dog foods we carry contain wheat gluten, several very high quality foods we offer do make use of rice protein concentrate. And two of those brands used rice protein concentrate from Wilbur-Ellis, and are the subject of recalls. For more info see: <http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/petfoodup042007.html>

### Natural Balance Recall

Natural Balance has issued a voluntary recall for all of its Venison dog products and the dry Venison cat food. The recalled products include Venison and Brown Rice canned and bagged dog foods, Venison and Brown Rice dog treats, and Venison and Green Pea dry cat food. Laboratory results have shown that the products contain melamine. The recall was prompted by consumer complaints received by Natural Balance involving a small number of cats and dogs that developed kidney failure after eating the affected product. The FDA and Natural Balance are partway through their investigation and at present believe that they have traced the source of the Melamine to a batch of rice protein concentrate supplied by Wilbur-Ellis. Although Natural Balance is not recalling any other flavors at this time, as a precautionary measure SmartPak is halting sales of all brands of the Natural Balance dog foods that we carry until Natural Balance completes their investigation.

Dogs or cats who have consumed the suspect food and show signs of kidney failure (such as loss of appetite, lethargy and vomiting) should be seen by a veterinarian.

We will be sure to post additional information on our website as it becomes available. Please note that if you are switching dog foods, you may notice that your dog has an upset stomach. As always, you should contact your vet if you notice any changes in your dog's health. For more information on this recall visit the Natural Balance website at [www.naturalbalanceinc.com](http://www.naturalbalanceinc.com).

### LiveSmart Weight Management Chicken and Brown Rice Recall

On Friday, April 20, SmartPak initiated a voluntary recall of a single production run of the LiveSmart Weight Management Chicken and Brown Rice Dog Food.

The particular lot of food recalled included rice protein concentrate that was supplied by Wilbur-Ellis, the same company that supplied rice protein concentrate contaminated with Melamine to Natural Balance. This was the first time that our supplier purchased and used rice protein concentrate from Wilbur-Ellis. No previous lots were affected, nor do we use rice protein concentrate in any other formulas of LiveSmart dog or cat foods.

Thankfully, the product was just produced, and only a very limited amount of product had left our facility prior to the recall (less than 1200 pounds). We have notified every affected pet

owner via both phone and email.

We have not had any reports of injury to any dogs. Dogs who have consumed the LiveSmart Weight Management food and show signs of kidney failure (such as loss of appetite, lethargy and vomiting) should be seen by a veterinarian.

We have temporarily suspended further distribution of the LiveSmart Weight Management Chicken and Brown Rice Dog Food. We will notify you when we have the product back in stock and will continue to update our website as more information becomes available.

**SmartPak** is the premier online provider of *dog supplies* and *dog supplements*. Questions? Call us Toll-Free at  - **800-326-0282** .  
© Copyright 2006 by SmartPak. All Rights reserved.