

Article: Christian Science Monitor, May 2012: recap by Dr. Andrew Jones

Pet food recall from Diamond Pet Foods has been expanded eight times, triggered an FDA investigation and critique, and now includes cat food.

The company's handling of the salmonella crisis may be even worse.

From the recall of a single batch of its "Diamond Naturals" dry dog food on April 6 for possible salmonella contamination, Diamond Pet Foods has expanded the recall on eight separate occasions, endured a week-long inspection of one of its plants by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which criticized its practices, and most recently acknowledged that cats are also at risk.

Yet the Missouri-based maker of Diamond, Premium Edge, Kirkland Signature, and other pet food brands has not called special attention to the expansion of the recall to cat food beyond amending a statement on the company's Internet recall site: "Diamond Pet Foods has voluntarily recalled some brands of dry dog and cat food that it manufactured in its Gaston, S.C. facility between December 9, 2011 and April 7, 2012 due to potential Salmonella contamination

The Calgary Herald in Alberta, Canada, reported that two cats in a Montreal animal shelter have died, and another is ill, after eating Diamond Pet Foods products. Also in Quebec, another person has been reported with a case of salmonella, bringing the total number of cases to 16 in the United States and Canada caused apparently by handling the pet food.

On April 12, six days after Diamond's first recall, the FDA began an investigation. Its week-long inspection of Diamond's Gaston facility found numerous violations.

"All reasonable precautions are not taken to ensure that production procedures to not contribute contamination from any source," its report said, noting that the factory's screening process for possible contaminants wasn't thorough enough.

Other violations: Factory workers were seen handling sensitive equipment with bare hands; there weren't enough hand-washing stations throughout the plant (even in areas where raw meat was being handled); the factory used damaged equipment with holes and cuts, which would make the tools difficult to clean properly.

Here are the recalled foods:

- Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul
- Country Value
- Diamond
- Diamond Naturals
- Premium Edge
- Professional

4Health
Taste of the Wild

Apex
Kirkland Signature/Kirkland Signature Nature's Domain
Canidae

Diamond Naturals Small Breed Adult Dog Lamb & Rice Formula Dry Food

"Until things change at their plants, avoid their foods until they become safe."
Dr. Andrew Jones