



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 21, 2005

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MEDIA ADVISORY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Diamond Pet Food has notified its distributors to hold the sale of all of its products formulated with corn that were produced in its Gaston, South Carolina facility because the product may contain aflatoxin. Aflatoxin is a naturally occurring toxic byproduct of the fungus *Aspergillus flavus*, which is found on corn and other crops and can be harmful to pets if consumed. Tennessee's State Veterinarian, Dr. Ron Wilson, urges pet owners be aware of the symptoms of aflatoxin exposure (listed in the following statement) and to contact their local veterinarian immediately if their animals show signs of illness. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is working with retailers and distributors of pet foods to ensure that the affected products are removed from commerce in the state. Consumers who may have purchased products identified below are urged to discontinue feeding the product and to return it to their local retailer. Following is more information provided by Diamond Pet Food.

Media Statement Diamond Pet Food

Media Contact:

Mark Brinkman, Diamond Pet Food
(573) 229-4203
<http://www.diamondpet.com>

Diamond Pet Food has discovered aflatoxin in a product manufactured at our facility in Gaston, South Carolina. Aflatoxin is a naturally occurring toxic chemical by-product from the growth of the fungus *Aspergillus flavus*, on corn and other crops.

Out of an abundance of caution, we have notified our distributors and recommended they hold the sale of all Diamond Pet Food products formulated with corn that were produced out of our Gaston facility (see complete list below). Please note that products manufactured at our facilities in Meta, Missouri and Lathrop, California are not affected. The Gaston facility date codes are unique from other Diamond facility codes in that either the eleventh or twelfth character in the date code will be a capital "G" (in reference to Gaston). The range of date codes being reviewed are "Best By 01-March-07" through Best By "10-June-07". Diamond's quantitative analysis records substantiate that Diamond's corn shipments were definitively clear of aflatoxin after December 10. As such, "Best By 11-June-07" date codes or later are not affected by this notice.

States serviced by our Gaston facility include Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky (eastern), Main, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Vermont and Virginia.

MORE

ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER
BOX 40627, NASHVILLE, TN 37204
Tennessee.gov/agriculture

Diamond Pet Food Recall 2 – 2 – 2 – 2 – 2 – 2

We are rapidly analyzing retained samples of all products produced in Gaston so we can isolate specific lot numbers impacted and provide this information to our distributors, retailers and customers as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, if your pet is showing any symptoms of illness, including sluggishness or lethargy combined with a reluctance to eat, yellowish tint to the eyes and/or gums, and severe or bloody diarrhea, please consult your veterinarian immediately.

Product quality and customer satisfaction are important to us. We pledge to keep you updated as new developments occur.

Gaston Facility Products Removed From Sale

Diamond Low Fat Dog Food
Diamond Hi-Energy Dog Food
Diamond Maintenance Dog Food
Diamond Performance Dog Food
Diamond Premium Adult Dog Food
Diamond Puppy Food
Diamond Maintenance Cat Food
Diamond Professional Cat Food
Country Value Puppy
Country Value Adult Dog
Country Value High Energy Dog
Country Value Adult Cat Food
Professional Chicken & Rice Senior Dog Food
Professional Reduced Fat Chicken & Rice Dog Food
Professional Adult Dog Food
Professional Large-Breed Puppy Food
Professional Puppy Food
Professional Reduced Fat Cat Food
Professional Adult Cat Food

For more information about the specified Diamond Pet Food products, call Mark Brinkman, Diamond Pet Food, (573) 229-4203. For a list of dealers in each of the affected states, visit <http://www.diamondpet.com>.

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