



**DATE:** March 9, 2010

**TO:** All Local Health Departments  
Attn: Chief Food Inspection Officer

**FROM:** A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CP-FS  
Director, Food Protection Program

**SUBJECT:** Nature's Variety Expands Recall

**SUGGESTED**

**ACTION:** **Unclassified Recall; Chicken Formula Raw Frozen Diets for dogs and cats because it has the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*; Recommend notification of affected stores via phone, fax or e-mail.**

From the information provided by FDA, the products being recalled were distributed in the State of Indiana. The affected products were distributed through retail stores and internet sales in the United States and Canada. Detail information is not available at this time. In addition, if any recalled product is found, please notify this office at 317-233-7360.

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**Recall -- Firm Press Release**

**FDA posts press releases and other notices of recalls and market withdrawals from the firms involved as a service to consumers, the media, and other interested parties. FDA does not endorse either the product or the company.**

Nature's Variety Expands Nationwide Voluntary Recall to Include All Raw Frozen Chicken Diets with Any "Best If Used By" Date On or Before 2/5/11

**Contact:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** -- Lincoln, NE, March 8, 2010 – Nature's Variety has expanded its voluntary recall of Chicken Formula Raw Frozen Diets for dogs and cats to include the "Best If Used By" dates of 10/29/10 and 11/9/10 because these products may

be contaminated with Salmonella. Salmonella can affect animals and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated pet products. People handling pet food can become infected with Salmonella, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the product or any surfaces exposed to these products.

Healthy people infected with Salmonella should monitor themselves for some or all of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever. Rarely, Salmonella can result in more serious ailments, including arterial infections, endocarditis, arthritis, muscle pain, eye irritation, and urinary tract symptoms. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

Pets with Salmonella infections may become lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, or vomiting. Some pets may experience only a decreased appetite, fever, or abdominal pain. If your pet has consumed any of the affected products and is experiencing any of these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.

The recall includes the following products with a "Best If Used By" date of 10/29/10 or 11/9/10:

- - UPC#7 69949 60131 9 – Chicken Formula 0.75 lb trial sized medallions
  - UPC#7 69949 60130 2 – Chicken Formula 3 lb medallions
  - UPC#7 69949 60120 3 – Chicken Formula 6 lb patties
  - UPC#7 69949 60121 0 – Chicken Formula 2 lb single chubs

In an abundance of caution, Nature's Variety has also chosen to expand this voluntary recall to include all Chicken Formula and Organic Chicken Formula Raw Frozen Diets for dogs and cats with any "Best If Used By" date on or before 2/5/11. Nature's Variety has elected to clear the market of raw frozen chicken diets as it implements a state-of-the-art new food safety process called High Pressure Pasteurization for use on all Nature's Variety Raw Frozen Diets.

The products included in the expanded recall are any Chicken Formula or Organic Chicken Formula Raw Frozen Diet with a "Best If Used By" date on or before 2/5/11, including:

- - UPC#7 69949 60131 9 – Chicken Formula 0.75 lb trial sized medallions
  - UPC#7 69949 60130 2 – Chicken Formula 3 lb medallions
  - UPC#7 69949 60120 3 – Chicken Formula 6 lb patties
  - UPC#7 69949 60121 0 – Chicken Formula 2 lb single chubs
  - UPC#7 69949 50121 3 – Chicken Formula 12 lb case of chubs
  - UPC#7 69949 60137 1 – Organic Chicken Formula 3 lb medallions
  - UPC#7 69949 60127 2 – Organic Chicken Formula 6 lb patties

The "Best If Used By" date is located on the back of the package above the safe handling instructions. The affected product was distributed through retail stores and internet sales in the United States and Canada.

No other Raw Frozen Diets are involved in this expansion other than chicken, and no other Nature's Variety products are involved.

Nature's Variety now uses High Pressure Pasteurization on their Raw Frozen Diets as a unique process to kill pathogenic bacteria through high-pressure, water-based technology. Having incorporated this state-of-the-art technology on a portion of their raw product offerings in late 2009, Nature's Variety was able to confidently implement the process universally on all Raw Frozen Diets after the 2/11/10 recall in order to enhance food safety. Nature's Variety also utilizes a test and hold protocol to ensure that all High Pressure Pasteurized Raw Frozen Diets test negative for harmful bacteria before being released for sale.

"Nature's Variety believes replacing all raw frozen chicken products on the market with new raw frozen chicken products that use High Pressure Pasteurization is an important and responsible step in order to reinforce consumer confidence and trust," stated Reed Howlett, CEO of Nature's Variety. "By recalling all raw frozen chicken products with 'Best If Used By' dates on or before 2/5/11, we can provide our pet parents with new raw frozen chicken products that have been processed through High Pressure Pasteurization. Adopting High Pressure Pasteurization is an important step to ensure that our products meet the strictest quality and food safety standards."

Howlett stated, "Our commitment to consumers in the future is the same as it's been in the past – to offer Raw Frozen Diets made from the highest quality ingredients, made in our own plant in the Midwest, by people who care deeply about pet nutrition, health, and happiness."

If you are a consumer and have purchased one of these products, please return the unopened product to your retailer for a full refund or replacement. If your package has been opened, please dispose of the raw food in a safe manner by securing it in a covered trash receptacle. Then, bring your receipt (or the empty package in a sealed bag) to your local retailer for a full refund or replacement.

Consumers with additional questions can call the Nature's Variety dedicated Customer Care line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 800-374-3142. For additional resources about High Pressure Pasteurization or other Nature's Variety food safety protocols, visit [www.naturesvariety.com](http://www.naturesvariety.com).

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## ***About Nature's Variety***

Nature's Variety specializes in natural, holistic dog and cat food. The line of premium products was developed by families who have been practicing sustainable agriculture for more than 140 years, raising quality livestock and growing crops in America's heartland. Nature's Variety offers the purest forms of pet nutrition – including a wide variety of protein choices in every pet food form (raw frozen diets, dry kibble diets, canned diets, and treats). For more information about Nature's Variety, visit [www.naturesvariety.com](http://www.naturesvariety.com)<sup>1</sup>.