



DATE: March 2, 2011

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

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

SUBJECT: WellPet LLC Recall

SUGGESTED

ACTION: **Unclassified Recall; Wellness® canned cat food might contain less than adequate levels of thiamine; Recommend notification of affected stores via phone, fax or e-mail.**

From the information provided by FDA, the products being recalled may have been distributed in the State of Indiana. The recalled canned products may have been distributed to retail stores nationwide. Detail information is not available at this time. In addition, if any recalled products are found, please notify this office at 317-233-7360.

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.

Wellpet LLC Voluntarily Recalls Certain Lots Of Canned Cat Food

Contact:
Media:
Claire Burke
Hunter PR
212-679-6600

Consumer:
877-227-9587
www.wellnesspetfood.com¹

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 28, 2011 - WellPet LLC announced today it has voluntarily recalled certain lots of Wellness® canned cat food.

While recent laboratory testing found that most lots of Wellness canned cat food that were tested contain sufficient amounts of thiamine (also known as Vitamin B1), some of the lots listed below might contain less than adequate levels of thiamine. However, out of an abundance of caution, WellPet has decided to recall all of the lots listed below.

Cats fed only the affected lots for several weeks may be at risk for developing a thiamine deficiency. Thiamine is essential for cats. Symptoms of deficiency displayed by an affected cat can be gastrointestinal or neurological in nature. Early signs of thiamine deficiency may include decreased appetite, salivation, vomiting, and weight loss. In advanced cases, neurologic signs can develop, which may include ventriflexion (bending towards the floor) of the neck, wobbly walking, circling, falling, and seizures. If your cat has consumed the recalled lots and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian. If treated promptly, thiamine deficiency is typically reversible.

The lots involved in this voluntary recall are:

Wellness Canned Cat Food (all flavors and sizes) with best by dates from 14APR 13 through 30SEP13;

Wellness Canned Cat Food Chicken & Herring (all sizes) with 10NOV13 or 17NOV13 best buy dates.

Consumers who still have cans of cat food from these lots should stop feeding them to their cats and call us at (877) 227-9587 Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Eastern Time. Consumers with further questions should visit our website at www.wellnesspetfood.com² or call us at this same number.

WellPet discovered the lower thiamine levels during independent testing conducted together with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in response to a single, isolated consumer complaint received by the FDA. Although WellPet has received no other reports concerning thiamine in its products, WellPet has taken additional steps with the manufacturer to ensure that this does not happen again.

“As a pet parent myself, I’m concerned for the health and welfare of all pets, and as a company we are committed to delivering the most nutritious natural pet food,” said Tim Callahan, chief executive officer of WellPet, the maker of Wellness products. “Even though the chance of a cat developing a thiamine deficiency is extremely remote, we are voluntarily recalling all of these lots of our canned cat food as an extra precaution.”

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[RSS Feed for FDA Recalls Information](#)³ [[what's this?](#)⁴]

[Photo: Product Labels](#)⁵

[Recalled Product Photos Are Also Available on FDA's Flickr Photostream.](#)⁶