

MONTEREY COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LEN FOSTER, Director

ANIMAL SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Monterey County Animal Services
(831) 769-8850**

FDA Health Alert for Merrick Beef Filet Squares Dog Treats

Products may be contaminated with Salmonella – No illnesses associated have been reported

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers not to use Merrick Beef Filet Squares for dogs distributed by Merrick Pet Care with a package date of “Best By 111911” because the product may be contaminated with Salmonella.

The affected Merrick Beef Filet Squares were packaged in a 10-ounce green, red and tan re-sealable plastic bag. The “best by” date is imprinted on the top portion of the bag, which is torn off when the bag is opened. The FDA recommends that consumers who are unable to determine the “best by” date discontinue use of the product. The product was distributed nationwide through retail stores and Internet sales.

Although no illnesses associated with these products have been reported, the FDA is advising consumers in possession of these products not to handle or feed them to their pets.

Salmonella

Salmonella can affect both humans and animals. People handling pet treats can become infected with *Salmonella*, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the treats or any surfaces exposed to these products.

Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their health care provider immediately.

Pets with *Salmonella* infections may become lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever and vomiting. Some pets may only experience a decreased appetite, fever and abdominal pain. Infected, but otherwise healthy pets can be carriers and infect other animals or humans. If your pet has consumed any of the affected products or is experiencing any of these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Consumers can report complaints about FDA-regulated pet food and pet treat products by calling the consumer complaint coordinator in their area. You can locate the nearest consumer complaint coordinator at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/ReportaProblem/ConsumerComplaintCoordinators/default.htm>

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The Monterey County Health Department releases notices of recalls and market withdrawal from the firms involved as a service to Monterey County residents, the media and other interested parties. The Health Department does not endorse either the product or the company.