



# CHICAGO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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## **PRESIDENT**

Kathleen Heneghan, DVM

April 7, 2007

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Shannon Greeley, DVM

## **Pet food recall press conference with Senator Dick Durbin**

## **SECRETARY**

Elizabeth Robertson, DVM

The Chicago Veterinary Medical Association would like to first extend their heartfelt condolences to those pet owners whose pets fell ill or died due to exposure to this tainted food. Many of our local veterinarians have treated cats and dogs with suspected toxicity, and we thank you, Senator Durbin, for asking us to participate in this forum for discussion.

## **TREASURER**

Yuval Nir, DVM

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

Jack Brar, DVM

Unfortunately, we cannot comment on any specific case as food and tissue testing is ongoing. We believe that it will be several weeks to months before a final determination is made regarding the causative agent. Once that has been confirmed, we will then have more concrete information on the total number of pets affected by this ailment.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **3-YEAR**

Ajaz Alvi, DVM  
Natalie Marks, DVM  
Bala Rengarajan, DVM

We recommend the following websites for the most accurate and up to date information on the pet food recall: [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) and [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org). Both sites have a comprehensive list of any recalled foods or treats, as well as instructions for both pet owners and veterinarians, should they have questions. Many pet food companies have done voluntary recalls to ensure that their products are safe. We trust that the foods not on the list are still safe to feed your pets, as we continue to feed those foods to ours as well.

### **2-YEAR**

Doug Carlson, DVM  
Lori Civallo, DVM  
Alexis Newman, DVM

### **1-YEAR**

Gurdial Basran, DVM  
David Gonsky, DVM  
Andrew Miz, DVM

We understand that many of you are considering homemade diets as a way to avoid potential risk. If so, you must contact your veterinarian for specifics on ingredients and supplements. Homemade diets will not be nutritionally complete unless you get a recipe from your veterinarian. Such incomplete diets could lead directly to heart failure or other problems.

## **ISVMA REPRESENTATIVES**

Susan Ferraro, DVM  
Todd Florian, DVM  
Paul Arndt, DVM  
Steve Cairo, DVM  
Ed McGinniss, DVM

## **STAFF**

Sue Morris  
Executive Director

Suzanne Egan  
Administrative Assistant

So, what would veterinarians like to see done?

- \* Set standard protocols for reporting and communicate that to veterinarians
- \* Have FDA serve as clearing house for information – partner with AVMA
- \* More frequent checks of pet food manufacturing processes and facilities

## **LEGAL COUNSEL**

Norm Bloch

Veterinarians work together with physicians to protect public health. We would like to ensure that we've taken the appropriate steps to prevent any such occurrences in the future. Thank you so much for your time and attention.