

# WARNING: Jerky Pet Treats Danger

FDA has been actively investigating jerky pet treats causing illness in over 3,600 dogs and 10 cats, including more than 580 deaths. This is likely a small fraction of affected animals. The FDA discourages the feeding of jerky pet treats until further information on their safety is available.

The treats are sold as jerky tenders or strips and are made with chicken, duck, sweet potato, dried fruit, and in combinations of these ingredients. Adulterants have been found in jerky pet treats, and to mitigate the risk that pets may become sick and potentially die from ingesting them, the FDA discourages the feeding of jerky pet treats until further information on their safety is available.

**Labels Lie** Most of the jerky treats implicated have been made in China. Manufacturers of pet foods are not required by U.S. law to state the country of origin for each ingredient in their products. Although some brands of jerky pet treats are actually made in the USA, most are not. Country of origin labelling laws do not apply to processed meats, therefore regardless of what is printed on the package – the treats may have been imported from China – and are not made in the USA.

**Symptoms** Watch your pet closely. Signs that may occur within hours to days of feeding the products are decreased appetite, decreased activity, vomiting, diarrhea (sometimes with blood or mucus), increased water consumption and/or increased urination. Severe cases are diagnosed with pancreatitis, gastrointestinal bleeding, and kidney failure or the resemblance of a rare kidney related illness called acquired Fanconi syndrome.

**FDA Testing** FDA laboratories and the other animal health diagnostic laboratories in the Vet-LIRN™ network are continuing to test samples of jerky pet treats. FDA recommends that pet owners whose pet becomes sick after eating jerky pet treats should hold on to any unused portion of the product in its original container in case FDA calls to request samples for testing.

**Reporting Problems** You can help FDA's investigation by reporting your complaints through the Safety Reporting Portal: [www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov](http://www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov) or your local FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator: [www.fda.gov/Safety/ReportaProblem/ConsumerComplaintCoordinators/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/ReportaProblem/ConsumerComplaintCoordinators/default.htm). You should also contact the pet food/treats company and alert them about your pet's illness.

**Veterinarians** Veterinarians are encouraged to report suspected jerky pet treat-related illnesses to the FDA Safety Reporting Portal: <https://www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov>, and to prominently display a notification summary available for download at: <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/NewsEvents/Newsroom/FactSheets/UCM371715.pdf>.

In addition to submitting the report the FDA also recommends veterinarians:

- Request a urine sample if jerky pet treat-related illness is suspected (even if the animal presents with just GI signs).
- Freeze a subsample of the urine (10 ml if possible) and conduct routine urinalysis on the rest of the sample.
- Obtain routine blood work for liver and kidney injury.

**For More Information** FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine: [www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm) Report pet food complaints:

[www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ReportaProblem/ucm182403.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ReportaProblem/ucm182403.htm)

Questions & Answers about jerky treats:

[www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ProductSafetyInformation/ucm295445.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ProductSafetyInformation/ucm295445.htm)