

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Radagast Pet Food, Inc.

503-736-4649

**RADAGAST PET FOOD, INC. VOLUNTARILY RECALLS THREE LOTS OF RAD CAT RAW DIET FREE-RANGE CHICKEN RECIPE AND ONE LOT OF PASTURE-RAISED VENISON RECIPE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK**

**July 6, 2018, Radagast Pet Food, Inc. of Portland, OR** is recalling three lots of Rad Cat Raw Diet Free-Range Chicken Recipe because testing results indicate they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. The Company is also recalling one lot of Rad Cat Raw Diet Pasture-Raised Venison Recipe because testing results indicate it has the potential to be contaminated with Shiga Toxin producing *E. coli* O121. This recall is being conducted out of an abundance of caution. Due to Radagast Pet Food's commitment to food safety and quality, The Company is conducting this voluntary recall.

This recall includes only the lots listed below.

*Listeria monocytogenes* is pathogenic to humans. Healthy people exposed to *Listeria monocytogenes* should monitor themselves for some or all of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramping, and fever. There is risk to humans from handling contaminated pet products, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the products or any surfaces exposed to these products. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

*Listeria monocytogenes* can affect animals eating the product. Animals exposed to *Listeria monocytogenes* can display short-term symptoms such as: vomiting, diarrhea, fever, muscular or respiratory signs and anorexia. If your pet has consumed the recalled product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.

Shiga Toxin releasing *E. coli* O121 (STEC) is a pathogenic bacterium that can cause illness in humans. People handling or consuming raw pet foods contaminated with this pathogenic bacterium can lead to *E. coli* infections. *E. coli* O121 can cause symptoms which include stomach cramps, mild fever and vomiting, and diarrhea, often with bloody stools. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

Although *E. coli* O121 is not known to cause illness in cats, the FDA has a zero-tolerance rule for pathogens in pet food, as humans that handle the food may become infected. Infected cats can become carriers of *E. coli* O121 and transfer the *E. coli* O121 to the home environment.

No pet or human illnesses have been reported.

The three lots of Rad Cat Raw Diet Free-Range Chicken Recipe were shipped to distributors in the US in May and June 2018:

Affected products are determined by **Lot Code identification only**.

Free-Range Chicken Recipe:

**Lot Code 63057, Best By Date: 10/9/2019**

**Lot Code 63069, Best By Date: 10/23/2019\***

**Lot Code 63076, Best By Date: 10/31/2019\***

(8oz UPC 8 51536 00103 6, 16oz UPC 8 51536 00104 3, 24oz UPC 8 51536 00105 0)

\*These two lots were shipped to one distributor in Vancouver, BC, Canada in addition to US distributors in May and June, 2018:

The single lot of Rad Cat Raw Diet Pasture-Raised Venison Recipe, was shipped to distributors in the US only in May and June:

Pasture-Raised Venison Recipe:

**Lot Code 63063, Best By Date: 10/15/2019**

(8oz UPC 8 51536 00121 0, 16oz UPC 8 51536 00122 7, 24oz UPC 8 51536 00123 4 and 1oz Samples)

The Company discovered these lots were potentially contaminated during enhanced quality testing it conducted as a follow-up to its March 2018 recall.

Consumers are encouraged to check the Lot Codes on their Free-Range Chicken Recipe and Pasture-Raised Venison Recipe containers. The Lot Codes can be found printed on the bottom of the plastic containers. Any products with these Lot Codes should be returned to the specialty retailer where purchased for a full refund.

Consumers with questions should contact Radagast Pet Food, Inc. at 503-736-4649 Monday-Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm Pacific Time or contact us through our website at [www.RadFood.com](http://www.RadFood.com).

## **Rad Cat Raw Diet Voluntary Recall Notice FAQ**

**July 6, 2018**

### **What products and Lot Codes of Rad Cat Raw Diet are being voluntarily recalled?**

	<u>Lot Code</u>	<u>Best By</u>
Free-Range Chicken Recipe (8oz, 16oz, 24oz)	63057	10/09/2019
Free-Range Chicken Recipe (8oz, 16oz, 24oz)	63069	10/23/2019
Free-Range Chicken Recipe (8oz, 16oz, 24oz)	63076	10/31/2019
Pasture-Raised Venison Recipe (8oz, 16oz, 24oz)	63063	10/15/2019

### **Where can I find the Lot Code and Best by Date?**

All Lot Codes can be found on the bottom of the container.

### **Why were these products recalled?**

As a follow-up and expansion to our March recall, we have been conducting enhanced sampling and testing of all of our products and production environment. We have found that three lots of our Free-Range Chicken may contain *Listeria monocytogenes* (L. mono.) and we are recalling these lots out of an abundance of caution.

One Lot of our Pasture-Raised Venison may contain a type of E. coli (E. coli O121) that is a Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli. (STEC). This has not been shown to be pathogenic to cats or dogs, but if ingested by humans, could make them ill. The FDA has a zero tolerance policy for ANY pathogens in pet food, even if these pathogens are not harmful to pets. If humans do not handle pet food appropriately or if cats or dogs shed this bacteria in their feces, humans could be infected, if the bacteria is ingested.

There have been no reports of illness in humans or in pets related to any of these Lots. No other Rad Cat products or Lots are involved in the recall. This recall is being conducted with full knowledge of the FDA.

### **What is Listeria?**

There are many types of Listeria, of which *Listeria monocytogenes* is only one. It is very commonly found in the environment, mostly outdoors, in soil and even in our homes, as it is easily carried in on the soles of our shoes and the feet of our cats and dogs. Sometimes it can be found in processing environments and on many agricultural products, such as fruits, vegetables and even on raw meat ingredients, poultry and fish.

### **What is STEC (Shiga toxin releasing E. coli)?**

There are many kinds of E. coli but only some are pathogenic. These bacteria are normal inhabitants of the intestinal tract of animals and humans and do not cause disease. STEC is a kind of E. coli that, like

the more well-known O157:H7 can cause illness in humans if ingested, through direct contact with environments contaminated by their feces. The kind of STEC found in our Venison was O121 and is not known to be pathogenic to cats and dogs.

#### **How did Rad Cat get Listeria in these chicken Lots?**

We have been working with an expert food safety consulting group to ensure that our processes and procedures are as robust as possible. During the investigation to identify where the L. mono. could have come from, we determined that three chicken lots may have been affected, so we are recalling them.

#### **How did Rad Cat get E. coli O121 (STEC) in these venison Lots?**

Deer naturally carry this bacteria in their digestive systems and are “natural reservoirs” for STEC. This can lead to contamination of meat during harvest and processing. As part of our food safety investigation relating to our March recall, we tested our venison for the “Big 6” E. coli and found that this lot of venison may be affected, so we are recalling it. Even though this is not known to be harmful to cats and other animals, there is a zero tolerance policy by the FDA for pathogens in pet food and we are observing that rule.

#### **Doesn't all raw pet food have the risk of containing pathogens?**

Every type of food contains some risk, which includes raw diets. We have always done the very best we can to mitigate risk and to avoid the presence of pathogens in any of our products, but bacteria can be naturally present in any raw food. The FDA recognizes only two official “kill-steps”, which are cooking and irradiation. All other steps, such as HPP, are only “intervention” steps, which are designed to reduce risk of pathogens in products, such as raw meat. So, unless a product has undergone a cooking step or irradiation, it has the potential to contain pathogens. But sometimes even the cooking step doesn't work efficiently enough, as there have been many recalls for dry food that have been contaminated with salmonella and/or listeria.

#### **What is Rad Cat doing to make sure their foods are safe?**

We have always made the safety of our products our number one concern. That is why we have engaged an expert food safety consulting firm to help us enhance our processing and testing methods. We will continue to use high pressure processing on our poultry ingredients and continue to evaluate other intervention steps to ensure the highest quality and safety possible.

All of our meats are treated with ozonated water, which is a very effective anti-microbial treatment (for example, many fish processors use it to extend the shelf life of their products). Ozone is also used in our processing environment for cleaning and sanitation. It is used by many processors for this purpose and is extremely effective.

All of our ingredients are the very same that are intended for human consumption and we test raw materials from suppliers.

We operate our own manufacturing plant, where we make all of our products. We operate our plant under the same guidelines for human food facilities, which includes a Food Safety Plan, environmental and product testing programs. We use a HACCP safety system, that is recognized by the USDA and FDA as a preventive approach to food safety, which helps us comply with their guidelines.

Please visit our website at [http://radfood.com/education/safety\\_and\\_quality](http://radfood.com/education/safety_and_quality) for more information about our product safety.

### **What should I do if I believe my pet has been exposed to the recalled product?**

It is very unlikely that any pets will contract illness from Listeria or E.coli. The symptoms are very similar to those that occur in humans, such as: vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and fever. If any of these symptoms present themselves in your pet, please contact your veterinarian.

### **Does this mean my cat is going to get Listeria or E. coli poisoning?**

While we can't give a black and white 'yes' or 'no', we *can* say that it is highly unlikely. Cats have very acidic digestive systems that actually kill bacteria or make it so they cannot proliferate there. Cats are exposed to extremely high levels of bacteria every day (including E. coli) and they are designed by Nature to tolerate high bacterial loads that would make humans ill. They live very close to the ground and pick up considerable bacteria on their paws, which they lick frequently. The chances of a cat becoming sick from bacteria found in frozen, raw food, is highly unlikely. Cats very rarely get listeriosis and typically don't show signs of disease, even if they are carriers. Our best advice is to watch your kitty and if you see any symptoms that could be illness from Listeria and if you have fed these lots, we encourage you to seek veterinary treatment right away.

### **Is Listeriosis common in cats and what are the symptoms?**

No – in fact, it is a very infrequent occurrence. The symptoms of Listeriosis can mimic other illnesses, such as viral infections and gastroenteritis from other causes. Because cats have a very acidic digestive system, bacteria is often neutralized or cannot proliferate in such a hostile environment.

This bacteria can be present in our pets' environment and they could be exposed to it on a regular basis, especially if they go outside. Most *Listeria monocytogenes* found in homes is carried in on the soles of our shoes from the out of doors. There are also many other organisms that we track in to our homes that our felines walk through and then lick their paws.

However, there are some cats that can have compromised immune functions, for a variety of reasons, and can become ill. Some cats that have a higher stomach pH can also be more susceptible.

The symptoms associated with this illness are very similar to those that would present in humans, which can include diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever.

### **Can my cat get a urinary tract infection (UTI) from E. coli?**

Cats will not get a UTI from ingesting E. coli. These infections occur due to cats' anatomy, where bacteria enter the urethra from an external route.

### **What should I do if I have any of the products that are being recalled?**

Please return recalled products to the retailer you purchased from so they can be disposed of in a secure garbage receptacle. For refund claims, return affected lots to the retailer you purchased from along with proof of purchase for a full refund. Please make sure you identify the affected product by the Lot Code and Best By Date, and not the product code (UPC barcode). Only the announced Lot Codes are being recalled.

If you purchased any of the recalled Lots from an online retailer, contact that retailer for assistance with your refund claim.

More information about this recall can be found at [www.RadFood.com](http://www.RadFood.com) or call 503-736-4649 Monday through Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm PST.

### **What about Lot Codes that are not on the recall list? Can I return these?**

We have no reason to believe that any lots other than those currently being voluntarily recalled are affected. We will provide refunds for all lots associated with this recall and will honor our 100% product guarantee for other lots if customers' cats will not eat the product.

### **Doesn't HPP kill Listeria?**

High Pressure Processing at 87,000 psi has been proven to rupture the cell walls of E.coli, Salmonella and Listeria species. However, it is not recognized by the FDA as an official 'kill step' for raw pet food.

### **If I have more questions, who do I ask?**

You can contact us directly through email at [info@RadFood.com](mailto:info@RadFood.com) or call us at 503-736-4649 from 9:00am – 5:00pm PST. We have very limited staff, so if you get voicemail, please leave a message. If you email, we will respond as soon as we possibly can. We always respond to our customers and will respond to every message in the order in which they are received.

Social media: Sometimes messages and posts here aren't seen for a variety of reasons, so we encourage you to call or email with questions. We will do our best to monitor our social media platforms and respond in a timely manner.

If, for some reason, you call, email or post on FB or Instagram and do not get a response, please try again. Sometimes there are circumstances when we don't receive messages. Responding to your questions is very important to us, so please try again.

Retail stores that carry our products will also be notified of this recall and can assist you with obtaining a credit for recalled product, as well.