



Pet Food Consumers to Test Pet Food for Safety.

Safety Harbor, FL - April 23, 2014. American pet food consumers have initiated a crowd funding program to test multiple pet foods sold in the U.S. and Canada. The consumers have established a minimum of \$10,000.00 to raise for their pet food testing fund, but hope to raise thousands more.



Over the past year, pet food/treat recalls have occurred at a rate of one per month (in the U.S.). In May of 2013, pet food consumers learned dog DNA was found in pet food/animal feed in Spain. In March 2014, a consumer association based in Hong Kong tested various pet foods and found some popular pet foods manufactured in the U.S. contained dangerous aflatoxins, melamine, and cyanuric acid. Pet food consumers have had enough.

Supervised by a U.S. consumer group - Association for Truth in Pet Food (ATPF) - pet food consumers are banding together for an unprecedented pet food testing project. The groups goal is to raise thousands of dollars to test pet foods manufactured in the U.S. and Canada for dangerous contaminants such as mycotoxins, pesticides, heavy metals, and drugs.

"Testing on this large of a scale has never been done before" says Susan Thixton of the ATPF regarding the pet food testing project. She shares "After learning of the test results in Hong Kong - consumers wanted this to happen. One consumer got it started by offering to donate \$2,500.00 for pet food testing, and within moments another offered to match that donation. It was amazing."

Thixton shares various industry experts are providing input as to what the worst dangers of pet food could be (to test for). So far, she's been told mycotoxins are the largest threat to pets - even at low levels (FDA allows 20 parts per billion in pet foods for aflatoxins). But with recent news from Hong Kong finding melamine and cyanuric acid (the contaminants responsible for the 2007 pet food recall) in U.S. manufactured pet foods, consumers have numerous fears of what their testing might find.

The group shares if enough funding is raised they also will test pet foods that contain rendered meat ingredients (such as meat meal, meat and bone meal) for euthanizing drugs and ultimately species specific DNA. FDA currently allows pet food to include "animals which have died otherwise than by slaughter" which would include any animal that was euthanized ([FDA CPG Sec. 675.400 Rendered Animal Feed Ingredients](#)). Thixton states the worst fear is euthanized pets becoming rendered pet food ingredients.

Consumers have initiated a Indiegogo crowd sourcing fund to raise money for the pet food testing. 100% of funds raised will go towards pet food testing (purchasing products, shipment to labs, laboratory testing). To donate to this worthy and ambitious cause, visit igg.me/at/thepetfoodtest

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About Association for Truth in Pet Food. The Association for Truth in Pet Food (ATPF) is a pet food consumer advocacy organization that provides pet food consumers a voice within the industry. The Association is a little over a year young, but within its first year the group has been provided advisory positions on two AAFCO committees and has been acknowledged by FDA to represent pet food consumers. ATPF hosts the pet food transparency effort - Pledge to Quality and Origin - where 23 pet food and treat manufacturers have provided full disclosure to the grade and country of origin of their ingredients. For more information visit www.AssociationforTruthinPetFood.com