

PRESS RELEASE

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JAVMA report offers tips to protect pets from *Salmonella* —raw food, bulk-bin treats discouraged

Schaumburg, IL

— Following media reports about *Salmonella* outbreaks tied to pet products, a new report in the June 1 [Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association \(JAVMA\)](#) lays out recommendations for pet owners on how to avoid *Salmonella* infection in pets.

The report, written by Kate S. KuKanich, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, details the circumstances under which *Salmonella* organisms are most often ingested and includes a history of *Salmonella* outbreaks associated with pet food and treats. In addition, it offers recommendations on how pet owners can minimize the risk of *Salmonella* infection for both their pets and families.

Recommendations include:

- Avoiding raw food diets for pets.
- Purchasing individually packaged pig ears, rather than buying them from bulk bins.
- Checking the packaging of pet food products to ensure that they are in good condition prior to purchase; returning products to the store if they appear tainted, discolored, or malodorous.
- Storing pet foods, treats, and nutritional products in accordance with label instructions, preferably in a cool, dry environment.
- Saving the original pet food packaging material, including the date code and product code of all food products, for product identification in case of food contamination.
- Discouraging children, the elderly, and immunosuppressed people from handling pet food and treats.
- Washing hands with soap and water before and after handling pet food, treats, and nutritional products.
- Using a clean scoop to dispense pet food into bowls.
- Washing water and food bowls used by pets, as well as feeding scoops, routinely with hot soapy water in a sink other than in the kitchen or bathroom.
- Avoiding feeding pets in the kitchen.

For more information, please visit the AVMA website: www.avma.org.

For a copy of the report, contact the AVMA.

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The AVMA, founded in 1863, is one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world. More than 81,500 member veterinarians worldwide are engaged in a wide variety of professional activities. The year 2011 is being celebrated by veterinarians around the world as Vet2011, the 250th anniversary of the birth of veterinary medicine and education.

Fonte: <http://www.avma.org/press/releases/110621-JAVMA-report-Salmonella.asp>