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Mike has more than 35 years of experience in companion animal veterinary practice and is a valued member of IDEXX's Pet Health Network team since 2013.

Why is the product being recalled?

[According to a press release issued by the Food and Drug Administration](#), a number of pet food products manufactured by *Carnivore Meat Company*, LLC of Green Bay, WI have been voluntarily recalled because of a potential contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes*— a potentially serious foodborne [infection](#).

Although the company has received no reports of human illnesses associated with recalled products, this precautionary, voluntary recall has been issued because an independent lab detected the [bacteria](#) in samples during a recent review.

The affected product was distributed in WA, CA, TX, GA, IL, CO, NM, FL, PA, RI, OH and VT, according to [fda.gov](#). It involved the following product lots:

- Vital Essentials Frozen Beef Tripe Patties, UPC 33211 00809, Lot # 10930, Best by date 20160210
- Vital Essentials Frozen Beef Tripe Nibbles, UPC 33211 00904, Lot # 10719, Best by date 12022015

What is Listeria?

Listeriosis has been in the news a good deal lately, both as a cause of human disease and because it can come from pet [food](#). *Listeria monocytogenes*, is a bacterial, foodborne pathogen, that can cause:

- Inflammation of the brain and surrounding membranes
- Systemic and blood infections
- Complications during pregnancy

Listeria can be found widely in the environment and on food products. It's rarely found in [dogs](#) and [cats](#), but when it is signs may include:

- [Vomiting](#)
- [Diarrhea](#)
- [Fever](#)

Rare cases of neurological [disease](#) have been diagnosed in dogs and cats in relation to listeria. As has dermatologic disease, and one case of a suspected miscarriage in a dog. A study from Japan reported *Listeria* is shed in the feces of about 0.9% of healthy dogs¹.

What causes Listeria?

Most listeriosis cases are sporadic and are often associated with inadequate food safety. Outbreak investigations often provide information about the transmission of listeria that can be used to improve food safety.

[A study, available at cdc.gov](#), run between 1998 and 2008 showed that outbreaks are becoming less frequent. The same study said that twenty-four confirmed listeriosis outbreaks were reported in humans from 1998–2008, resulting in, “359 illnesses, 215 hospitalizations and 38 deaths.” Increased testing, surveillance and food recalls, like the one discussed in this article, have reduced incidence and severity of infections. Many outbreaks have been associated with ready-to-eat meats, sprouts, taco/nacho salad and humus.

There is minimal concern about the transmission of listeria from companion animals to people. Human exposure to listeria is almost exclusively from food and environmental sources¹.

How do you identify suspect product and what should you do if you have already purchased it?

If you are a consumer that has purchased a bag of Vital Essentials Frozen Beef Tripe Patties with the "Best By" date code of 20160210 or a bag of Frozen Beef Tripe Nibbles with a "Best By" date code of 12022015, [please follow the instructions available through the FDA](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian -- they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.

Resources:

1. Companion Animal Zoonoses edited by J. Scott Weese and Martha Fulford 2010.