

March 21, 2007

The Honorable Joseph D. Deters
Prosecuting Attorney
Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office
230 E. Ninth St., Ste. 4000
Cincinnati, OH 45202

1 page via mail and fax: 513-946-3017

Dear Mr. Deters:

On behalf of PETA and our more than 1.6 million members and supporters, as well as the hundreds of millions of North Americans who share their lives with one or more dogs or cats, PETA is calling on you today to launch an investigation into whether or not Iams is in violation of the Ohio anti-cruelty law (Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 959.131).

The Bloomberg news service reports that 13 cats and one dog have died as a result of eating food manufactured at Menu Foods (which includes Iams and Eukanuba brands), although the death toll is likely to rise dramatically (“14 Cat, Dog Deaths Linked to Menu Foods, FDA Says,” 21 Mar.). Veterinarians everywhere are reporting cases of renal failure in dogs and cats because of contaminated food.

As we see it, Iams and its agents may have violated Ohio state law. Iams’ manufacturer, Menu Foods, reportedly knew about the food contamination issue as early as February 20, yet a product recall was not announced until March 16—almost a full month later—a month in which people’s animal companions were sickened and may have died. It is reasonable to assume that Iams may have known about this food contamination issue well before the announced product recall. If current reports from veterinary offices around the country of dogs and cats in renal failure resulting from contaminated food are accurate, the body count is sure to rise. Iams, by delaying its recall announcement, should be held fully accountable for every pertinent death, to the extent allowed by Ohio law.

I would be happy to discuss this complaint with you further and can be reached at ShalinG@peta.org or 757-962-8325.

Sincerely,



Shalin G. Gala (Mr.)
Research Associate



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
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