

From: Guliano, Robert

Sent: 2/14/2019 12:12:17 PM

To: TTAB E Filing

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Subject: U.S. TRADEMARK APPLICATION NO. 87622839 - MERIDIAN - 117055-00109 - Request for Reconsideration Denied - Return to TTAB - Message 6 of 7

Attachment Information:

Count: 6

Files: 2019-02-14_12-00-43.jpg, 2019-02-14_12-01-05.jpg, 2019-02-14_12-01-14.jpg, 2019-02-14_12-01-31.jpg, 2019-02-14_12-01-45.jpg, 2019-02-14_12-01-58.jpg



Natural Science Joint Support



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High fiber support for the joint health of your pet. Natural Science Joint Support contains high fiber Timothy hay and various beneficial ingredients to support the overall joint health of your rabbit, guinea pig, chinchilla, rat, or other small pet. Glucosamine aids in the prevention of cartilage degeneration, and turmeric and yucca exhibit anti-inflammatory properties.

Size: 4.2 oz

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Agriculture > Divisions > Regulatory and Environmental > Agricultural Materials > Pet Feed

Pet Feed

Pet feed is any commercial feed manufactured and distributed for consumption for pets. Any feed that fits the definition of commercial feed must be registered and approved by the WV Department of Agriculture prior to distribution within the state. Pet food includes treats, biscuits, training foods, sample sizes as well as traditional pet foods.



Feed Exemptions

Raw meat pet food is exempt if the meat is not processed and not mixed with other materials. This includes pet chew, bone, toy or exerciser (of any shape or size) made of rawhide, wood or man made material whether flavor-coated or unflavored unless the registrant made a claim on the product label or labeling that the product is intended for use as an animal food or that the product provides anything of nutritional value to the animal.

CODE/RULE
West Virginia Commercial Feed Law 19-14
Commercial Feed Rule 61-5

LINKS
Registration Instructions
Pet Food FAQ
Guide to Making and Selling Pet Treats in West Virginia

Large Package Pet Feed

Pet products in packages over 10 lbs. or bulk shall be registered annually at the rate of \$50.00 per product for label review. Registrations expire annually on August 31 and must be applied for 15 days prior to expiration or will be subject to a late fee of \$100.00.

FORMS
Application for Large Package Pet Feed

Small Package Pet Feed

Products for pets in packages of 10 lbs. and under (excluding specialty pet under 1 lb.) shall be registered annually at the rate of \$40.00 per product. Registrations expire December 31 and must be applied for 15 days prior to expiration or will be subject to a late fee of \$100.00.

FORMS
Application for Small Package (10 lb. and under) Pet Feed



Specialty Pet

Pet food in packages of 1 lbs. or less for any domesticated pet normally maintained in a cage or tank including, but not limited to, gerbils, hamsters, birds, tropical fish, goldfish, snakes, and turtles shall be registered annually at the rate of \$20.00 per product for label review. Registrations expire December 31 and must be applied for 15 days prior to expiration or will be subject to a late fee of \$100.00.

FORMS
Application for Specialty Pet Food Registration

Actions Taken on Unregistered Products

The manufacturer will be notified of the violation and will be given a time period to register the products and pay the applicable fees. If the products are not registered within the time period they will be subject to a stop-sale/embargo order and will be removed from shelves in WV.

Contact:
wvfeedreg@wvda.us



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The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates that can of cat food, bag of dog food, or box of dog treats or snacks in your pantry. The FDA's regulation of pet food is similar to that for other animal foods. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) requires that all animal foods, like human foods, be safe to eat, produced under sanitary conditions, contain no harmful substances, and be truthfully labeled. In addition, canned pet foods must be processed in conformance with the low acid canned food regulations to ensure the pet food is free of viable microorganisms, see Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 113 (21 CFR 113).

FDA Regulation of Pet Food

There is no requirement that pet food products have pre-market approval by the FDA. However, FDA ensures that the ingredients used in pet food are safe and have an appropriate function in the pet food. Many ingredients such as meat, poultry and grains are considered safe and do not require pre-market approval. Other substances such as sources of minerals, vitamins or other nutrients, flavorings, preservatives, or processing aids may be generally recognized as safe (GRAS) for an intended use (21 CFR 582 and 584) or must have approval as food additives (21 CFR 570, 571 and 573). Colorings must have approvals for that use as specified in 21 CFR 70 and be listed in Parts 73, 74, or 81. For more information about pet foods and marketing a pet food, see FDA's [Regulation of Pet Food](#) and [Information on Marketing a Pet Food Product](#).

Labeling

Pet food labeling is regulated at two levels. The current FDA regulations require proper identification of the product, net quantity statement, name and place of business of the manufacturer or distributor, and proper listing of all the ingredients in the product in order from most to least, based on weight. Some states also enforce their own labeling regulations. Many of these regulations are based on a model provided by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). For more information about AAFCO, please visit its website. For more information about labeling requirements, see [Pet Food Labels - General](#).

FDA also reviews specific claims on pet food, such as "maintains urinary tract health," "low magnesium," and "hairball control." Guidance for collecting data to make a urinary tract health claim is available in [Guideline 55](#) on the CVM portion of the FDA internet site.

CVM DOES NOT recommend one product over another or offer guidance on individual pet health issues that are normally provided by the pet's veterinarian. Questions regarding your pet's health and/or the specific use of any veterinary drug, pet food, or other product should always be referred to your veterinarian.

Recalls & Reporting Problems

- [Recalls](#)
- [How to Report a Pet Food Complaint](#)
- [PETNET: An Information Exchange For Pet Food Related Incidents](#)
- [Melamine Pet Food Recall of 2007](#)

Guidance Documents

- [CVM GFI #55 Supportive Data for Cat Food Labels Bearing "Reduces Urinary pH Claims: Protocol Development"](#)
- [CVM GFI #122 Manufacture and Labeling of Raw Meat Foods for Companion and Captive Noncompanion Carnivores and Omnivores](#)
- [CPG Sec. 690.150 Labeling and Marketing of Nutritional Products Intended for Use to Diagnose, Cure, Mitigate, Treat, or Prevent Disease in Dogs and Cats](#)

Federal Register Notices

- [Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Animal Feed and Pet Food, Irradiation - Docket No. 99F-2799, CVM 2000108. Pages 18539-18540 \[FR Doc. 01-088719\] April 10, 2001.](#)

Additional Information

- [Pet Food and Treats in Your Home](#)
- [Jerky Pet Treats](#)
- [FDA and Pet Food \(video\)](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration/Center for Veterinary Medicine Report on the Risk from Pentobarbital in Dog Food](#)
- [Target Animal Safety Review Memorandum: Trace Metal Analysis of Commercial Pet Food for Toxic Metals](#)
- [Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)

Page Last Updated: 08/01/2018

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You are here: [Treats and Chews](#)

Treats and Chews

Treat products are a subset of pet food that are not usually intended to be a source of complete and balanced nutrition, but are primarily for rewarding pets. The AAFCO Model Pet Food Regulations recognize the intended purpose of treat products and do not require that pet treats meet the nutritional adequacy requirements for a complete and balanced dog or cat food.

However, the label on the pet treat package must clearly display the terms "snack" or "treat" on the front (principal display) panel of the product label. If either of these terms appear on the label, the product should be given sparingly as an occasional reward or indulgence. If treats make up too much of a pet's total daily intake, it can both upset an otherwise complete and balanced diet and add unneeded calories.

Although not required, some of treats, including many biscuit products, are formulated to meet nutritional requirements. (Note that "biscuit" is a particular shape or form, usually baked, but does not define a product as a "treat" or "snack" *per se*.) A treat product that meets nutritional adequacy standards may help relieve pet owners' guilt about giving pets "junk food." Of course, if given in large quantities without also reducing the amount of the mainstay food, pets may gain weight.

Products that do meet specific nutritional adequacy requirements will have the required statement of **nutritional adequacy** in small print somewhere on the product label, usually on the back or side.

Other Products in the Marketplace

Chews, Bones and Toys for Pets and Specialty Pets

The following products, whether flavor-coated or unflavored, are exempt from registration and labeling, unless the manufacturer makes any claim that the product is intended for use as an animal food or that it provides any nutritional value to the animal (e.g., "digestible" or "high-protein").

- all chews, bones, toys and exercisers made of animal skin, hide, wood or manmade materials
- hooves
- ears
- animal bones
- ligaments
- snouts
- pizzles

Just be aware that such products are not required to have full pet food labeling unless they claim to be nutritious, low-fat, highly-digestible or so on. Accordingly, many of these products do not bear a **calorie content statement** or guaranteed analysis. But they are not nutritionally complete or balanced, and some can be quite high in calories, so it is important to use sparingly.

In recent years it has become fairly common to find jerky-type products, particularly chicken jerky strips, on the market as pet treats. Such products are composed of poultry flesh and do not meet the snack, treat or chew exemptions described above. They must be fully-labeled in all U.S. jurisdictions and registered in states requiring [small-package product listing](#).

Certain kinds of treats have been the subject of controversy. For instance, years ago bulk-distributed pig ears from a specific Canadian plant were a vector a salmonella strain particularly dangerous to children.

Questions have also been raised regarding the potential for splintering in bone products that could harm animals. The FDA has received many complaints regarding certain jerky treats sourced from China; however, there has been no conclusion in this issue to date.

Prudence dictates pet owners should pay due diligence when they feed pets unusual or new treats.

[Contact Webmaster](#)

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<https://talkspetfood.aaftco.org/treatsandchews>