

Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
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Dear Committee members,

I was previously unaware that I could attach photos to my submission so I would now like for these to be included for your attention and inclusion.

These photos refer to the mouldy bag of Applaws Duck and Venison dry dog food that I purchased from my local Woolworths store at GOLDEN GROVE, SA, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2018. As you can tell from the photos, this food had a BB date of 13/5/2019 – so technically could still be sold and fed to that date. I dread to think what state this food would be in and what pathogens it would contain by that date. I have referred to the food as being 'mouldy' but I should correct myself here and state that whilst it appears to be contaminated with mould – that does not necessarily mean that that is the only microorganism – or other contaminant being present in this 'food'. The Australian Renderers Association have stated in their submission that their main disease causing pathogen they test for when required is Salmonella, so clearly other disease causing pathogens e.g. Clostridium, Listeria etc can pass through undetected leaving it to the consumer to take the risk of infection, illness and disease to their pets.

**The PFIAA state that -**

***Australian cats and dogs can sleep easy, knowing that pet foods made by members of the Pet Food Industry Association of Australia (PFIAA), representing over 98% of prepared pet foods sold in Australia, are produced to some of the highest standards in the world.***

I ask you to have a look at the photos I have supplied and critically ask given the history of complaints regarding pet deaths, life long disability e.g. ME affected dogs from Advance Dermocare, illness – both acute and chronic just how unprotected the consumer is from self regulation, voluntary quality control standards and the lack of any punitive or legal framework. Both 'premium' and supermarket brands are affected and involved in this.

It's no wonder that the PFIAA as part of their mission statement state '***promotion of prepared pet food as the preferred method of pet nutrition and reinforced through establishment and self regulation of industry standards.***'. The current situation protects them from liability and outside regulation. This whole situation needs

to change • regulation needs to commence from right at the beginning of the food production process to include the careful selection of animals and processing procedures though to the end to include the consumer as part of the regulatory process.

Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity to provide a submission for this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,  
Ruth Quick

**Mouldy Duck and Venison Applaws dry dog food BB 13/5/19 (3 pics)**





