

Dear Committee

Re: Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food. Please find our submission following:

As a long time dog owner, registered breeder and degree qualified Nutritionist, I felt the need to submit my view on the current state of commercial pet food.

I am so happy that the safety of processed pet food is now being investigated by the Australian Government.

With the recent deaths and sicknesses of over 70 dogs from eating Advance Dermocare, this is a timely enquiry to be undertaken. Whilst I believe that dogs should be fed a species appropriate raw food diet, I understand that not everybody has the knowledge on how to formulate such a diet, therefore an alternative should be available for such pet owners. I believe the standard should be a compilation of suitable ingredients for canines.

I would love to see an Australian standard, where imported pet foods are frowned upon. This is because *most* imported kibble has to be irradiated which I believe may contribute to early death or disease.

The standpoint of the RSPCA is that irradiation of all pet foods and pet meats should be banned. Since 2009, cat food has been spared from irradiation, as it has been linked to Severe Neurological Impairment.

Even at low doses, some irradiated foods lose 20% of vitamins such as C, E, K, and B complex. Because irradiation breaks down the food's cell walls, accelerated vitamin losses occur during storage—up to 80%. Ironically, irradiation both creates harmful free radicals and destroys the antioxidant vitamins necessary to fight them.

I also believe there should be a higher percentage of protein in dog foods, and minimal grains/carbohydrates in comparison to the current formulations. Dogs can easily become overweight by eating too many grains, and this can also lead to disease and early death. A rating on how healthy the food is and how species appropriate it may be, could be a good way to educate consumers when buying foods. Manufactures may then feel compelled to better formulate such complete balanced dog food.

We shall be pleased to provide more information as you may require.

We agree to the publication of our submission on the internet.

With thanks,

Yours faithfully,

Mr and Mrs Danine