

Your Name: Dr Victoria Tamara Perchyonok

Re Safety and regulation of dog food industry

I am an owner of 2 gorgeous mini poodles who have been on Royal Canine dry food and after a lot of research and recommendations I was happy to use the Mini Puppy, Muni adult, Poodle adult and Mini digestive at the appropriate stages of my pets life. My 3 year old was always very sensitive to the fish based products and has known allergy for the products but up to about 6-8 month ago we had a really positive experience with the dry food from Royal Canin with not much to report. However the situation has changed since we started purchasing new version of Royal canine of Mini Digestive as all of the sudden my generally health 3 year healthy dog started lickingbitting his paws after every meal, itch constantly, ear infections and generally signs of allergy to something in the Royal Canin Dry food which to my surprise had no extra ingredients labelled on the package?

I am sure the formulation has changed as my dog who is young and healthy has not been well for the period of 6-8 month and progressively worse and finally after numerous , almost weekly visits to the our Vet and trying all possible means of finding solution to the problem, get rid of Royal Canin dry dog from our home and with some adjustment and well balanced diet recommended and worked out with our Vet the problem is currently been resolved. I have written this email to bring this important information to your attention as I know I am only one pet owner who left Royal Canin company due to the fact that my gorgeous and generally heathy young mini poodle been unwell for 6-8 month through the fact that the new formulation/ modification was not clearly labelled on the packaging and that is caused unnecessary stress on my pet, me as well as caused very significant financial burden due to the top level treatment for the allergic reaction to poorly labelled product such as Royal Canin Digestive and related products. Royal Canin Sensitivity and Hypoallergenic Vet only products caused the same reaction with my pet which I am really concerned about as how many other pet owners are running in circles with their pets and getting treatment for condition which is caused by the allergen in the Premium dog food such as Royal Canin and the labelling on this product does not say that product can cause allergy.

I have contacted the Royal Canin Australia in order to find out the list of ingredients in the dry food but only received insufficientincomplete information in writting. I would like to ask consumer affairs to investigate the lack of clear labelling of the commercial animal product which does contain allergens which make pet animals unwell and therefor should be labelled as that: product might cause allergy as after 3 years of being on the product my pet developed an allergic reaction to the Royal Canin Dry food including, Mini Puppy, Mini Adult, Mini Dermacoat, Sensitivity Vet Brand just to name a few products purchased from Royal Canin brand.

Look forward to hear from you and investigation in the dog food labelling as Royal Canin representative admitted 2 out of 100 dogs develop allergy to their product over a live time and they think its ok? No its not the labelling should be clear and consumers should choose whether they would like to make their pet 2 out of a 100 dogs which become allergic !

I have asked the Royal Canine representative what is labelled as animal fat and they are admitted they use fish fat and they do not think they casue allergy... HOW wrong my pet is allergic to fish oil and fish products and I was not ablet to get this information

from the packet. Also after searching some literature, fish allergy is in top 5 allergens common in dogs. That is not correct, I have to choose and know what products are and labels should state "Can cause allergy"

Now my 2 year old mini poodle have displayed signs and symptoms of food related allergy and is now being treated at the vet. Not only has Royal Canin failed its duty of care to the animals and its owners in not labelling their products as can cause ALLERGY, its also has changed formulation of the product in the last 6-8 month and has not bothered to change the packaging of their product to correctly display the change. This is false advertising and I am sure should be investigated. I have tried to contact RSPCA as well as Pet Product registration association as suggested by one of your representatives but have been ignored.

Personally this is a huge problem as the amount of suffering by my 2 pets as wells personal stress and veterinary care of my pets. On the bigger scale how many other pet owners going in circles with their pets and how much of it is due to the irresponsible poor labelling of the pet food item needs to be as strictly regulated as human foods. Plenty of media reports about poor quality of dry dog foods everywhere in the media but the companies like Royal Canine and others are still in business with no proper control or regulation and I do not mean pet food association organisation as does not seem to be doing its job due to the facts mentioned above.

Please help us to solve this horrible problem as dog food companies need to be held responsible

Regards and hope to hear from you
Dr Tamara Perchyonok