

My name is Mark O'Toole and I live in South Australia, in March 2018 we received devastating news that our beloved Stan had been diagnosed with Megaoesophagus after eating Advance Dermocare.

We were overseas when our daughter and son advised us that Stan had the terrible incurable disease. We had no other option but to organise flights and cut our holiday short to be with our gorgeous boy. We then found out that Victorian Police dogs had also eaten Advance Dermocare and some of them had also contracted the awful disease. More and more dogs have come to light since the discovery and I'm shocked that it has reached over 100 dogs, not all of them have been euthanised but are just about coping to live with Megaoesophagus, (or at least their owners are). This care takes up a lot of time and dedication from the owners, and why do they do it.....because they love their dogs. Its as simple as that.....and as owners we need to be protected and brought into the 21st Century with safety regulations put in place and an independent body there to monitor the actions of these big pet food companies.

We were shocked when we arrived home as to the amount of weight Stan had lost, our daughter and son had been taking him daily to the vets to keep him hydrated, as he couldn't keep down food or water, but even with all the care in the world the awful illness had taken our beautiful boy from us. We then spent some time with him before realising that the only kind thing we could do for him was to put him to sleep.....and so after 9 nine fabulous years of so much love and fun Stan was gone. He was without a doubt a huge part of our family. He had seen us through the highs and lows of emigrating to a new country and had brought us through with his unconditional love.

In my mind to bring in regulations to the pet food industry is a no brainer. Lets face it if all of those poor dogs concerned were humans this would be a very different story. But to us Stan was like a human he was our best friend and we loved him! How can we not have regulations in place to protect 'Mans Best Friend'

Mars did the right thing to recall the food but their management of the aftercare is without a doubt heartless..... these big companies need to be brought to task and they must state what they put in their pet foods and where it was sourced.

The University of Melbourne are taking their time as obviously they don't want to mis-diagnose, but it seems that the food is being blamed for the disease, how it couldn't be I don't know, it seems pretty obvious to me and all the other owners of dogs who fed their best mates this food.

It is now time for the Government to act upon this, at the moment I am very worried as to what I should be feeding my other dog, there have been so many reports in the media of other dog foods which have had contamination issues (I refer to the mould in Applaws dog food, Mate Dog Food recalled because of contaminants, Nutro wet food (not recalled) and Pedigree DentaFlex to name but a few.

Please please please, think about this don't just dismiss it because its not happened in your back yard, we have to stop these huge companies sourcing ingredients from places like China who frankly don't care. We as Australians DO care.

As a consumer I need to know what the main ingredients in the food are, and that the food is made to a high standard with clear precise labelling and the nutritional value for all pet food made in Australia. I pay a high price for food which I think is nourishing for my dog, Advance Dermocare was not cheap food and it killed my dog. How dare the companies charge such a high price and not even care what is put in there. They need regulating asap, and brought to account for the damage they have done.

I need to feel safe in what I am feeding my dog. Regulation and clear and precise labelling is desperately needed in the pet food industry. Its time for Australia to protect its consumers and their pets. Enough is enough. At present most dog foods state that they are not fit for Human Consumption. As a concerned pet owner I would like to know why this is, is it because at present they are full of toxins and it doesn't matter if they are given to our pets? Come on Australia its time..... My submission demands that our pet food products all must be labelled "fit for human consumption"