



An Open Letter to Dr B's Valuable BARF CUSTOMERS

Re the possible contamination of RAW food
with Salmonella

Properly sourced and balanced food that is genuinely RAW and not pasteurized in any way is producing unprecedented health benefits for the dogs and cats that are fed this way.

Unfortunately, the adoption by the FDA of a zero tolerance to the presence of Salmonella in such food is creating confusion in the minds of pet owners who feed their pets raw foods such as Dr B's BARF.

Despite these pet owners experiencing brilliant health in their pets, the uncertainty produced by this policy threatens to undermine their confidence in products such as Dr B's BARF. Should pet owners feeding Dr B's BARF act upon this policy, the long-term health of their pets will be severely compromised. For that reason, it is important that a clear statement of the facts replaces any hysteria that this misguided policy might engender.

Q1. A test conducted by the Hong Kong Consumer Council has found Salmonella in some samples of Dr.B's BARF Diet. Will it make my pet sick?

A1. Since BARF Australia commenced production of Dr B's BARF raw frozen foods for dogs and cats in 2003, there have been no reports documenting clinical salmonellosis in dogs fed Dr B's BARF. The products tested by the Hong Kong Consumer Council are no different to any other products produced by BARF Australia. Indeed, these products have already been fed to a large number of pets both in Australia and overseas. As we would expect, these pets are experiencing nothing other than good health.

While it is theoretically possible that Salmonella in properly formulated raw foods might cause problem in pets that are severely immune-compromised, no such reports have occurred in relation to Dr B's BARF; this group of products has been fed on numerous occasions to such animals, with a resultant return to health and immune system normality.

The FDA adopted this zero tolerance policy because of public health concerns. These concerns are firstly, that raw pet food might result in the contamination of human food and secondly, that raw fed pets may pass Salmonella to their human carers.

Neither of these theoretical considerations has ever been a problem in practice. In addition, it is important to note that Salmonella can be found in up to 36% of healthy dogs and 18% of healthy cats regardless of what they are fed.

Q2. Isn't it better to be safe than sorry? Why don't you make sure that there is no Salmonella in your product?

A2. Presently, it is not possible to completely eliminate Salmonella in raw poultry. The chicken fillet you bought in the supermarket will be equally as likely to be contaminated with Salmonella. To eliminate Salmonella in pet food requires a "kill" process; you either cook it, irradiate it or use a process known as high pressure pasteurisation (HPP). Any one of these processes kills the natural goodness of the living food. And natural, unprocessed living food is what we strive to feed our cats and dogs. It is a good thing that Australia, together with most countries in the world, has NOT followed the US FDA to adopt the zero tolerance policy.

Q3. Are there any past or recent problems, complaints or recalls with your products?

A3. Dr Billingham's Petfoods are widely sold throughout Australia and Asia and we have not had any complaints that have necessitated recalls due to any food safety issues. Indeed we have not had any recalls for any reason on these or any other products in our range over the twelve years we have been producing raw pet food. We are very confident of all our processes and sourcing of raw materials in terms of limiting microbial contamination and in terms of preventing microbial multiplication.

Q4. Do you have any other information, for example precautions for pet owners, in regard to the consumption of the above-mentioned products by pets?

A4. As I mentioned above, salmonella is endemic in raw poultry but of little risk to pets. Our carnivorous companion animals are well adapted by a long process of evolution to handle food containing a microbial load. However, we are very confident that we minimise microbial contamination of our food because of our safe handling and sourcing procedures. From a human safety point of view, the zoonotic risk to owners of pets is little different whether the pets are fed raw or processed pet foods; recalls because of the presence of Salmonella in processed pet food, far outnumber those for raw. The risk to handlers of raw pet food are the same as handling any other raw meat. In this regard, our packaging contains the following advice: Preparation — A raw pet

food diet will spoil if left unrefrigerated for an extended period of time. To thaw, remove from plastic, place in a container with lid and defrost in refrigerator. Excess food should be refrigerated for the next feeding or discarded. Patties should be kept in the freezer until removed for thawing. Safe Handling Instructions — Raw meat products may contain bacteria that could cause illness if mishandled. Wash working surfaces, utensils and hands with hot soapy water after each feeding. Treat as you would any raw meat product. Do not re-freeze once thawed.

Q5. Any known food safety concerns in regard to the use of whole raw egg in the above-mentioned products?

A5. Our manufacturing site is licensed by Safe Food Queensland to process eggs and all our suppliers are licensed by Safe food Queensland to produce eggs for human consumption As part of our HACCP program we have a strict program that prevents any eggs that may be contaminated in any way coming into contact with any raw meat products. This program is subject to monitoring by Safe food Queensland to ensure any eggs that may be contaminated in any way are subjected to Thermal processing.

I should also like to point out that while eggs are commonly a risk factor for Salmonella in North America, we do not appear to have this problem in Australia. I am not sure why, but I suspect the answer lies with Australia's high levels of health protection and safety at all levels of food production and processing.

Q6. Are there any plans to perform verification test of the above-mentioned products or follow-up actions/investigations?

A6. Our Manufacturing site is regularly audited by independent third parties and operates under HACCP principles as defined by CAC/RCP1-1969 (rev4-2003)) The site and its processes are certified to SQF 2000 level 3. As such we have well defined critical control points and quality control points which are routinely monitored to ensure all risks associated with the safety of our products both to the end consumer (the pet) and their owners are strictly monitored and controlled. We will as a matter of course re-view our monitoring of the control points and review all processes to ensure all possible steps are being taken to produce a Safe wholesome product.

We have sent retention samples to independent lab for a microbiological report. The preliminary result is negative for Salmonella.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Dingle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS



ANALYSIS PERFORMED FOR

Raewyn Duncan
V.I.P. Petfoods
P O Box 6128
Yatala QLD 4207

CERTIFICATE NO.: 398721-B
ISSUE DATE: 13/10/15
REVISION NO: 01
This certificate supercedes any previous revisions

SAMPLE INFORMATION

Description: Meat - Pet Food
Date Received: 8/10/2015 9:00 AM
Testing Commenced: 8/10/2015
Order No:

CONDITIONS OF SAMPLE ON RECEIPT

Receipt Temperature: 1.8 °C (Surface Temperature taken by infra-red)
Storage Temperature: 4 °C
Sampled Date (if provided):

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

Sample(s) were analysed as received, and the results pertain only to the submitted sample(s).

Meat - Pet Food

CODE	Sample DESCRIPTION	Salmonella spp. (/25g)
398721-B-2	Dr B's Cat Turkey, BB4:14/4/17	ND
		M16.4
		AOAC RI 071101

DEFINITIONS: > = Greater than < = Less than ~ = Estimated ND = Not detected MPN = Most probable number CFU = Colony forming units
- = Not tested TBA = To be advised * = Test not covered by scope of NATA accreditation RP = Result Pending, confirmatory testing in progress

Christie-Lee Fooley, Microbiologist
(Brisbane)



The results of the tests, calibrations and/or measurements included in this document are traceable to Australian/national standards.
Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025.
NATA Corporate Accreditation No.: 2455

HPC Holdings Pty Ltd trading as Symbio Laboratories ABN 93 621 286 928
Brisbane: 52 Brandl Street, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113
Melbourne: Unit 15, 640-680 Geelong Rd, Brooklyn VIC 3025
Sydney: 1 Braidwood St, Enfield NSW 2136
Rockhampton: Unit 3, 191 Berserker St, Berserker QLD 4701
Wagga Wagga: Unit 5, 10-12 Koorngal Rd, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Tel: 1300 703 166
Fax: +617 3219 0333

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS



ANALYSIS PERFORMED FOR

Raewyn Duncan
V.I.P. Petfoods
P O Box 6128
Yatala QLD 4207

CERTIFICATE NO.: 398721-C
ISSUE DATE: 13/10/15
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This certificate supercedes any previous revisions

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Meat - Pet Food

Table with 3 columns: CODE, Sample DESCRIPTION, Salmonella spp. (/25g). Row 1: 398721-C-3, Dr B's Dog Kangaroo, BB4:9/4/17, ND. Row 2: M16.4. Row 3: AOAC RI 071101.

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Handwritten signature of Cristie-Lee Tooley, Microbiologist (Brisbane)



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Tel: 1300 703 166
Fax: +617 3219 0333