

DENNIS J. KUCINICH
10TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5871

14400 DETROIT AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107
(216) 228-8850

PARMATOWN MALL
7904 DAY DRIVE
PARMA, OH 44129
(440) 845-2707



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

www.kucinich.house.gov

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS,
STIMULUS OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
SPENDING

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE

February 3, 2012

Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903-1058

Dear Commissioner Hamburg:

I am concerned about recent reports of illness and death of dogs following ingestion of “Waggin’ Train” and other chicken jerky products.

In September 2007, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning to consumers of possible health dangers of feeding “Waggin’ Train” and other chicken jerky products imported from China to their dogs. The FDA reissued this warning in November 2011 following what it describes as “an increase in the number of complaints it received of dog illnesses associated with consumption of chicken jerky products imported from China...reported to FDA by dog owners and veterinarians.”

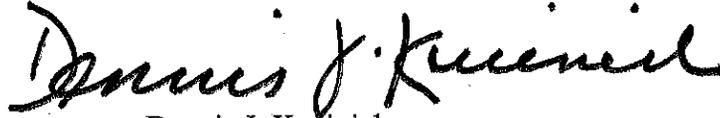
Specifically, the “FDA is advising consumers who choose to feed their dogs chicken jerky products to watch their dogs closely for any or all of the following signs that may occur within hours to days of feeding the products: decreased appetite; decreased activity; vomiting; diarrhea, sometimes with blood; increased water consumption and/or increased urination. If the dog shows any of these signs, stop feeding the chicken jerky product. Owners should consult their veterinarian if signs are severe or persist for more than 24 hours. Blood tests may indicate kidney failure (increased urea nitrogen and creatinine). Urine tests may indicate Fanconi syndrome (increased glucose). Although most dogs appear to recover, some reports to the FDA have involved dogs that have died.”

Despite an increase in consumer complaints and specific reported illnesses associated with consumption, “scientists have not been able to determine a definitive cause for the reported illnesses.” The FDA must not wait to issue a voluntary recall until it is able to definitively identify a causal agent. The FDA has clearly established an association between consumption of the chicken jerky and illness and death. It is simply not feasible to expect every dog owner to be aware of a modestly publicized warning from the FDA.

I am requesting a detailed briefing on the status of FDA's investigation and the information that is considered to be necessary to proceed to a voluntary recall. The briefing should cover in considerable scientific detail the scope of potential biological and chemical contaminants for which testing has been conducted, the raw data from such testing with an accompanying summary, methodological protocols, and any other supporting qualitative and quantitative data.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis J. Kucinich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress