



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

## ***2010 Veterinary Alert # 6:***

### **Frozen Reptile Feed Recalled by MiceDirect Because of Possible Health Risk from *Salmonella***

July 30, 2010

On July 26, 2010, Biggers & Callaham LLC., D/B/A MiceDirect of Cleveland, Georgia voluntarily recalled frozen reptile feed (mice, rats, chicks) because it was potentially contaminated with *Salmonella*. Human illnesses that may be related to the frozen reptile feed have been reported in 17 states. The recalled product should not be fed to animals, even after heating in a microwave oven, since the heating may not be adequate to kill *Salmonella*. The recall is based upon sampling by the FDA of frozen mice. The company continues their investigation. The full recall notice is posted on the FDA website, <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm220367.htm>.

*Salmonella* can affect animals and poses a risk to humans handling contaminated pet products. People handling contaminated pet food can become infected with *Salmonella*, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the product or any surfaces exposed to these products.

Healthy people infected with *Salmonella* can develop some or all of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever. Rarely, *Salmonella* can result in more serious ailments, including arterial infections, endocarditis, arthritis, muscle pain, eye irritation, and urinary tract symptoms. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

The frozen reptile feed was distributed in all states except Hawaii, through pet stores and by mail order and direct delivery. Frozen reptile feed was shipped in plastic bags with the following product codes: M-SP100, M-P100, M-PF100, M-F100, M-H100, M-W50, M-A50, M-JA25, R-P100, R-F50, R-PUP50, R-W50, R-S50, R-M20, R-L10, R-J5, R-C5, R-M3 followed by E9, F9, G9, H9, I9, J9, K9, L9 or A10, B10, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10 and whole frozen chicks in 25 count bags.

Products shipped after 07/24/2010 will be irradiated in a similar manner as raw food for human consumption in order to address the *Salmonella* issue associated with these products.

Consumers who purchased reptile feed from MiceDirect are urged to contact MiceDirect by telephone at 888-747-0736 from 9:00a.m-5:00p.m EST Monday-Friday or by e-mail at [sales@micedirect.com](mailto:sales@micedirect.com) for instructions concerning this recall and for credits towards replacement of unused product.

Distributed by the Zoonotic, Influenza and Vector Borne Disease Unit

Sally Slavinski DVM, MPH; Asha Abdool MPH; Brooke Bregman MPH  
Bureau of Communicable Disease  
212-788-9830