

BY EMAIL

May 10, 2024

Message of interest from the MAPAQ concerning raw meat pet food

Subject: Salmonella outbreak linked to raw meat pet food

Dear Sir or Madam,

Over the past few months, the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAPAQ) and public health authorities in Quebec and Canada have been investigating an outbreak of ultra-resistant salmonella. In Quebec, the outbreak has affected more than 20 people to date and resulted in the death of two puppies. Approximately half of the human cases involve children aged five or under. Exposure to raw meat pet food or dogs fed raw meat has been identified as the source of several cases.

The MAPAQ shares the concerns of public health authorities about the current outbreak and the need to better inform consumers. The quality of raw pet diets has major repercussions on human and animal health. This type of food always carries an element of risk, both for the pets fed with it and for the humans around them, as bacteria such as salmonella, normally eliminated by cooking, can cause illness.

The MAPAQ is currently sending out messages to Quebec manufacturers of raw meat products for pets. We would like to take this opportunity to ask for your collaboration in raising awareness among pet owners.

We encourage you to review the recommendations issued to pet owners on our website (<https://www.quebec.ca/en/agriculture-environment-and-natural-resources/animal-health/pets/meeting-pets-needs/raw-feeding-guide>) and some of the key messages in the attachment.

Thank you for your valuable contribution to the protection of animal and public health. Yours sincerely,

Nathalie Canac-Marquis
Interim General Manager

Attachment: 1