



**221 S. WHEELING ROAD
WHEELING, IL 60090**

**PHONE: 847-537-0102
FAX: 847-537-0179**

www.evangersdogfood.com

February 21, 2017

To our loyal pet parents,

One recall in 82 years is one too many, but we can promise that through this learning experience, we will have the safest pet food on the market, and never have another recall.

In our commitment to transparency and safety, Evanger's will begin testing all inbound beef materials for pentobarbital before it is released for use in our products.

Evanger's has learned through this avoidable episode that although in the past we've relied on regulators to make sure we're receiving raw materials that are free from adulterants, in the future, Evanger's must take a proactive and vocal lead in a national campaign to insure that new regulations are created. There should have been a zero tolerance policy for pentobarbital when the FDA discovered it in pet foods in 1998, and there should be a zero tolerance policy in place now.

We hope that other pet food manufacturers will join us in our efforts to make the pet food industry safer by greatly reducing the chances that any manufacturer will be unexpectedly hit as hard as Evanger's has been over these last three weeks.

82 years ago, Fred Evanger started manufacturing his own pet foods for his Great Danes, which he bred, exhibited, and championed. After doing business with the company for 20 years, the Sher family took over the operations of Evanger's, continuing the principles of using fresh and locally sourced meats. About 15 years ago, the Sher family introduced a forward-thinking concept of pet food in which whole, unground beef muscle meats and chicken drumsticks were placed into the can by hand, instead of by machine, to serve your pets the highest quality pet food available on the market.

In 82 years, pets have happily enjoyed over one billion Evanger's meals.

Earlier this year we learned of a complaint through social media with Hunk of Beef, one of our most popular products. Evanger's manufactures one million cans of Hunk of Beef annually. Once Evanger's learned of the possible presence of pentobarbital, we issued a recall immediately. After issuing the recall, our investigation did not stop. We wanted to know why our top quality pet food ingredients contained pentobarbital. We contracted with our supplier to provide only hand-deboned beef of the highest quality, the quality you've come to expect from Evangers. We found that although cows can be euthanized, it is not common practice, so



we sent our own recalled product, without FDA knowledge, to a lab for genetic species identification.

We let the FDA know our suspicions, and they reported; "Testing by USDA-FSIS of Evanger's Hunk of Beef confirmed that the meat used in the product was bovine (beef)." Nevertheless, we continued with our own testing, and contrary to FDA's findings, we were dismayed by the results which showed positive for equine DNA and beef DNA. We are extraordinarily angered that we were deceived by our long-standing supplier; but this was the missing puzzle piece we were looking for to complete our investigation.

Evanger's wanted to be the first to let you know of our findings, and continue our openness and transparency with our loyal customers, as we have been doing.

For this reason, Evanger's has made an overcautious decision. Based on its distrust of the supplier and its loyalty to pet food safety, and its long-standing reputation for pure, high-quality products, Evanger's has decided to voluntarily recall all of its Hunk of Beef, Braised Beef Chunks with Gravy, and Against the Grain Pulled Beef cans. The official announcement will come this week, but we wanted to let our loyal customers know first. We know this may be an unnecessary step, but we are so disappointed in the supplier that we feel this is the only way we can assure you, our customers, of our commitment to product safety and quality. This affects none of our other 100 products, as this supplier's meat was purchased exclusively for use in our hand packed beef products. We have also done random tests of other loaf-style beef products, all of which have tested negative for pentobarbital.

Evanger's is proud to be the oldest family-owned and operated pet food cannery in the country, and proud to be your food of choice. My parents, Holly and Joel, myself, and my twin brother Brett truly light up when we hear your testimonials about how our products have improved your dog or cat's quality of life.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Sher

