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“Even 1 Recall in 82 Years is 1 too many!”

Dear Pet Parents:

You’ve undoubtedly heard about the many voluntary pet food recalls that have occurred during this past week from *Wellpet, Blue Buffalo, Companion Dog, and Great Choice*, as well as from our company. You may have even purchased some of the recalled foods yourself in your desire to feed your 4-legged children only the healthiest, safest, and most nutritious food possible. We are very aware that these recalls have rightfully caused a great deal of justified concern, mistrust, and anger among both pet owners and pet food retailers alike.

The Evanger’s family, like many families, is, also, incredibly angry and upset by the recalls of the past week. However, it’s not for the reason you may think.

We’re angry because we let you and your pets down.

Whether you’re one of the hundreds of thousands of loyal customers who have trusted us for over 82 years to make only the safest, most palatable, and nutritious dog food that you can buy; or if you’re one of the thousands of retailers who proudly sell our products to customers whose trust and loyalty you work so hard to earn 7 days a week - we let all of you down.

In early January, we were profoundly saddened when we learned, through a posting on social media, that 5 dogs (all from the same household) became ill and one of them later was put down after eating our *Hunk of Beef* canned dog food. Our initial response was to conduct all appropriate testing for pathogens and processing, all of which came up negative. After a plethora of specialized tests, it was determined that the *Hunk of Beef* dog food, of which the dogs shared a can, contained pentobarbital which is the drug that veterinarians use to euthanize companion animals and horses, and an anti-seizure and insomnia medication for humans. Because “Hunk of Beef” contains only 1 ingredient, 100 percent Beef Roast, we immediately suspected that the pentobarbital had somehow gotten into the meat supply.

Although we hadn’t heard of any other instances of dogs getting sick, and while our investigation continued, we took it upon ourselves to immediately issue a voluntary recall of 60,000 cans of *Hunk of Beef* that were produced at the same time as the can containing the pentobarbital was made. The report of the 5 pugs getting ill are 5 dogs too many. Our investigation continued after issuing the recall. We had to determine how pentobarbital made its way into the meat that is used in our top selling product; a product that is intended to



actually enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of our companion animals through its unique minimally processed hand packing process.

The guilty party has turned out to be one of our most trusted meat suppliers. A USDA-APHIS inspected supplier who we had done business with for over 40 years, and whose plant we had visited numerous times over the years.

We found that cows can be euthanized, but that it is not common practice, so we sent a can of the recalled product to a lab for genetic species identification. We purchased hand deboned beef from this previously trusted supplier, but we suspect that the results will put the missing pieces of the puzzles together, and may confirm how pentobarbital entered the supplier's meats.

Needless to say, we immediately fired that supplier and have undertaken legal steps to address this matter on behalf of our customers and retailers.

We will continue to keep you updated as to the status of our recall and pending litigation. Most importantly, we will continue to work hard every day to re-earn our trust. We have taken it upon ourselves to take the lead in a campaign to force the FDA to put an end to allowing drugs like pentobarbital to enter the raw material stream and contaminate our pets' food and endanger their lives.

Sincerely,
The Sher Family, Proud Owners of Evanger's Dog Food

