

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

9 SEP 22 2:37

SENATE  
S. B. No. **3456**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The pet food one purchases is composed of many extra ingredients, or additives, as well as the basic nutritional components needed to sustain our pets. Additives perform many functions ranging from preserving the freshness and nutritional value of the food to improving its taste, appearance and smell. You will find it essential to investigate the formulation of your pet food if your ferret develops allergies, skin problems, gastrointestinal problems or chronic flea infestations. Some experts suspect that these can be associated with food additives or with nutritional deficiencies.

Propylene glycol is normally used as a de-icing fluid for airplanes. It is put into pet foods to maintain moisture and texture. It is added to prevent bacterial growth but also inhibits the growth of friendly bacteria within the intestines. Propylene glycol decreases the amount of moisture in the digestive tract leading to constipation and cancer.

Ethoxyquin was originally designed as a rubber stabilizer and herbicide but before its approval, it was considered a poison. At the outset, it was to be used as a grain preservative in feed for animals not expected to live for more than two years before they are slaughtered. It has been reported to cause liver cancer in dogs and malformations or even death in newborn puppies. BHT and BHA have been very poorly tested. It is reported to cause liver damage, metabolic stress, fetal abnormalities and serum cholesterol increases. It is added to preserve already rancid fats in the food. Fats in this form are very difficult to digest and can lead to a host of health problems including

diarrhea, gas, bad breath and vomiting. Sodium Nitrate converts in the body to nitrosamines, which are very carcinogenic. They are added to retain the red colour to make the meat look fresh.

Heavy metal toxicity is another problem. Since meat is high on the food chain, contamination with heavy metals such as lead and mercury is very much a concern. Spot checks on cat food have revealed lead levels ranging from .9 ppm to 7.0 ppm and dog food anywhere from 1.0 to 5.6 ppm. It should never be over .5ppm. Thimerosal is a mercury containing preservative used in vaccines. Mercury is a known neurotoxin. There is a vast amount of research/discussions going on globally at this point in time relating to mercury in dental amalgams, vaccinations and the environment in general. Many researchers are linking mercury to the tremendous increase in autism in children.

This bill seeks to inform the public about the additives in the pet food that they give their pets and the possible hazards that they may cause.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT  
2 TO INFORM THE PUBLIC  
3 ABOUT ADDITIVES IN PET FOOD

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Pet Food Additive  
5 Information Act of 2009.”

6 SECTION 2. *Requirements for labeling of pet food products.* – The following  
7 information shall be included in the packaging of pet food products:

8 (A) Ingredients and all additives included in the pet food;

9 (B) A warning if the additive is a proven carcinogen or is proven to cause  
10 detrimental side effects based on standards to be set by the Bureau of Food  
11 and Drugs.

12 SECTION 3. *Duty of the Bureau of Food and Drugs.* – The BFAD shall provide an  
13 appropriate and cost-effective method of verification of the accuracy of the information  
14 contained in pet food packaging. It shall also create a database of toxic and harmful additives in  
15 pet food according to the following standards:

16 (A) For general recognition, there must be an expert consensus that the substance is safe for  
17 use as a component of food, and;

1 (B) This expert consensus of safety must be based on either (a) generally available data and  
2 information to show common use of the substance in animal feed; or (b) scientific  
3 procedures, which require the same quantity and quality of scientific data needed for  
4 BFAD approval of the substance as a food additive. In addition, this information must be  
5 published in the scientific literature.

6 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or  
7 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
8 valid and subsisting.

9 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
10 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
11 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

12 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
13 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,