

~~~~~LINCS/HAN  
Communication~~~~~  
Local Information Network Communication System  
Bergen County Department of Health Services  
One Bergen County Plaza Hackensack, NJ 07601  
Phone: 201-634-2860 Fax: 201-336-6088  
<http://www.bergenhealth.org>  
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NJLINCS Health Alert Network
Public Health Advisory

Distributed by the New Jersey Department of Health

The NJDOH Public Health and Food Protection Program (PHFPP) has recently investigated and verified the sale of raw milk in several pet supply stores. The products typically contain raw goat milk and are sold frozen, but are thawed for consumption by both people and pets. The brand names discovered in this investigation include "Primal Pet Foods", "OC Raw Dog", and "Answers Pet Food", but other brand names may exist. Although these products are often labeled "Not For Human Consumption," by statute (N.J.S.A. 24:10-57-17 and N.J.S.A. 24:10-57-18), the sale or distribution of raw milk is prohibited in New Jersey, regardless whether they are labeled for animal consumption only. Please note that the definition of food in N.J.S.A. 24:1-1 includes articles used for food for humans and animals alike. Because raw milk may contain harmful pathogens, NJDOH is concerned that both animals and humans, who consume these products, are at high risk of foodborne illnesses, including recent *Brucella abortus* RB51 infections in New Jersey and New York.

As such, the PHFPP is recommending local health departments to investigate establishments where pet foods are sold, to determine whether raw milk is offered for sale or distribution, and take enforcement actions as necessary. PHFPP will also contact known distributors of these products, ordering them to cease distribution into this State.