



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DOH WARNS CONSUMERS ABOUT RISK OF BOTULISM POISONING
FROM CERTAIN CASTLEBERRY'S FOOD PRODUCTS AND DOG FOOD**

HONOLULU - The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is warning consumers about canned meat products produced by Castleberry's Food Company of Augusta, Georgia, due to the risk of botulinum toxin (botulism poisoning). The voluntary product recall list includes 88 canned meat products under various brand names, and four varieties of canned dog food under the Natural Balance Eatables brand. A complete list of recalled products can be found on the Castleberry's website at www.castleberrys.com

The DOH has received no reports of botulism poisoning in Hawaii related to these products, but as a precaution consumers are warned not to open or eat the products identified. Consumers should not use these products even if they do not look or smell spoiled. Consumers who have any of these products or any foods made with these products should throw them away immediately. Double bag the cans in plastic bags that are tightly closed then place in a trash receptacle for non-recyclable trash outside of the home. Additional instructions for safe disposal can be found at www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism_faq.htm

Exposure to botulinum toxin can be fatal. Symptoms of botulism poisoning in humans can begin from 6 hours to 10 days after eating food that contains the toxin. Symptoms may include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, and muscle weakness that moves progressively down the body, affecting the shoulders first then descending to the upper arms, lower arms, thighs, calves, etc. Botulism poisoning can also

cause paralysis of the breathing muscles. Individuals who show these symptoms and who may have recently eaten one of the Castleberry's products currently under recall should seek immediate medical attention.

There have been no reported illnesses linked to the Natural Balance Eatables canned dog food, but Castleberry's recommends these products be discarded. The disease has only been seen occasionally in dogs and has not been reported in cats. The incubation period can be 2 hours to 10 days; in most cases, the symptoms appear after 12 to 24 hours. Typical signs of illness may include generalized weakness that can progress into muscle paralysis, difficulty breathing, chewing, swallowing and vision problems. Pet owners who have used these products and whose pets have these symptoms should contact their veterinarian immediately.

Castleberry's is working with the FDA, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in investigating the cause of the contamination. Consumers with any questions or concerns about this recall should go to Castleberry's website (www.castleberrys.com) or call Castleberry's consumer hotline at 1-800-203-4412 or 1-888-203-8446.

Consumers can also call FDA at 1-888-SAFEFOOD or visit the FDA website for current updates and information at: <http://www.fda.gov>

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