

# Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Dry Dog Food



## Pet Food Safety Alert

Posted January 10, 2024

**This outbreak investigation is over, but the recalled pet foods have long shelf lives. Check your home for the recalled pet food and don't feed it to pets.**

### Fast Facts

- Illnesses: 7
- Hospitalizations: 1
- Deaths: 0
- [States](#): 7
- Recall: Yes
- Investigation status: Closed (first posted on November 9, 2023)

### Recalled Pet Food

#### Mid America Pet Food

- All dog and cat food
- Best by dates before 10/31/2024
- Brands include: Victor Super Premium Dog Foods, Wayne Feeds Dog Food, Eagle Mountain Pet food, Member's Mark
- Multiple bag sizes including: 5 pound, 15 pound, 16 pound, 30 pound, 40 pound, and 50 pound
- See [recall](#) for more details

#### Victor brand Hi-Pro Plus dog food

- 5-pound bags with lot code 1000016385
- Best-by date 4/30/2024
- See [recall](#) for more details

## Victor brand Super Premium Dog Food, Select Beef Meal & Brown Rice Formula

- 5 pound, 15 pound, and 40 pound bags
- Best-by date 6/12/2024
- Lot numbers 1000016890, 1000016891, 1000016892
- See [recall](#) for more details

### What Pet Owners Should Do

- **Throw away recalled pet food** in a sealed trash bag and place it in a sealed trash can so that wildlife cannot get to it.
  - Don't let children touch the recalled pet food.
  - Don't feed recalled pet food to pets or other animals.
  - Don't donate recalled pet food.
- **Clean surfaces and items, including pet items like bowls**, that might have touched the recalled pet food.
  - See [ways to clean and disinfect pet items](#).
- **[Take steps](#) to handle pet food safely every day.**

Learn more about how to [stay safe](#) while feeding pets.

### What Businesses Should Do

- **Do not sell, use, or donate recalled pet food.**
- **Wash and sanitize items and surfaces** that may have come in contact with recalled pet food.
- **Check regularly for recalls on FDA's website.**

### Symptoms of *Salmonella*

#### Symptoms in People

- Most people infected with *Salmonella* experience diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps.
  - Symptoms usually start 6 hours to 6 days after swallowing the bacteria.
  - Most people recover without treatment after 4 to 7 days.
- Some people—especially children younger than 5 years, adults 65 years and older, and people with weakened immune systems—may experience more severe illnesses that require medical treatment or hospitalization.

- For more information about *Salmonella*, see [the \*Salmonella\* Questions and Answers page](#).

### Symptoms in Pets

- Most pets don't get sick from *Salmonella* and show no symptoms. However, they can spread the germ through their poop and saliva.
- Pets with health problems and puppies or kittens are more likely to get sick from *Salmonella*. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea (may be bloody), fever, loss of appetite, and decreased activity level.
- For more information, see [FDA's Salmonellosis in Dogs and Cats page](#).

## Investigation Details

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**This outbreak investigation is over, but the recalled pet foods have long shelf lives. Check your home for the recalled pet food and don't feed it to pets.**

January 10, 2024

CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA CVM) collected [different types of data](#) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Kambu infections in people.

Epidemiologic and laboratory data showed that a specific lot of Victor brand Hi-Pro Plus dry dog food was contaminated with *Salmonella* and made people sick. The manufacturer, Mid America Pet Food, recalled this and all other brands of pet food they make. See recalls for more details.

Epidemiologic Data

A total of seven people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* were reported from seven states (see [map](#)). Illnesses started on dates ranging from January 14, 2023, to August 19, 2023 (see [timeline](#)). One person was hospitalized, and no deaths were reported.

The true number of sick people in this outbreak was likely much higher than the number reported, and the outbreak may not have been limited to the states with known illnesses. This is because many people recover without medical care and are not tested for *Salmonella*. In addition, recent illnesses may not have been reported as it usually takes [3 to 4 weeks](#) to determine if a sick person is part of an outbreak.

Public health officials collect many different types of information from sick people or their family members, including the sick person’s age, race, ethnicity, other demographics, and food they ate and any animals or pet food they came into contact with the week before they got sick. This information provides clues to help investigators identify the source of the outbreak.

The table below has information about sick people in this outbreak (“n” is the number of people with information available for each demographic).

Table of demographic information (n is the number of people with information available)

| Demographics              | Information                                                                |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Age</b><br>(n=7)       | 86% 1 year of age or younger<br>14% 65 years and older                     |
| <b>Sex</b><br>(n=7)       | 57% female<br>43% male                                                     |
| <b>Race</b><br>(n=5)      | 60% White<br>20% African American/Black<br>20% reported more than one race |
| <b>Ethnicity</b><br>(n=5) | 100% non-Hispanic                                                          |

State and local public health officials interviewed people or their family about pets or pet food that the sick person may have come into contact with before they got sick. Of the five people interviewed, all (100%) reported contact with a dog or having a dog in the household, and three (60%) fed their dogs Victor brand dog food. One person reported feeding the Hi-Pro Plus product, and

the other two did not remember the specific type of Victor brand product they fed their dogs.

#### Laboratory Data

Public health investigators used the [PulseNet](#) system to identify illnesses that may have been part of this outbreak. CDC PulseNet manages a national database of DNA fingerprints of bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses. DNA fingerprinting is performed on bacteria using a method called [whole genome sequencing \(WGS\)](#).

WGS showed that bacteria from sick people's samples were closely related genetically. This suggested that people in this outbreak got sick from the same product.

Victor brand Hi-Pro Plus dog food with a lot code of 1000016385 was collected from retail for routine testing by the South Carolina State Department of Agriculture, and *Salmonella* was identified through analysis by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. WGS showed that the *Salmonella* in this dog food was closely related to bacteria from sick people. This means that people likely got sick from swallowing germs after touching this dog food, touching things like dog bowls that contained this dog food, or touching the poop or saliva of dogs that were fed this dog food. There have been no leftover Victor brand products from sick people's homes available for testing for *Salmonella*.

[WGS analysis](#) of bacteria from seven people's samples and one pet food sample did not predict resistance to any antibiotics. More information is available at the [National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System \(NARMS\)](#) site.

#### Public Health Actions

On September 4, one lot of Victor brand Hi-Pro Plus dog food was [recalled](#).

On October 30, three lots of Victor Super Premium Dog Food, Select Beef Meal & Brown Rice Formula were [recalled](#).

On November 9, Mid America Pet Food [recalled](#) all brands of pet food they make.

CDC advises pet owners to throw away any recalled pet food. CDC also advises businesses to not sell, use, or donate recalled pet food.