

FDA CAUTIONS DOG OWNERS ABOUT CHICKEN JERKY PRODUCTS

The Food and Drug Association (FDA) is cautioning consumers that chicken jerky products for dogs (also sold as chicken tenders, strips and treats) may be associated with illness in dogs. In the last 12 months, FDA has seen an increase in the number of complaints it has received of dog illnesses associated with the consumption of chicken jerky products imported from China. These complaints have been reported to FDA by dog owners and veterinarians.

Chicken jerky products should not be substituted for a balanced diet and are intended to be fed occasionally in small quantities. FDA is advising consumers who choose to feed their dogs chicken jerky products to watch their dogs closely for any or all the following signs that may occur within hours to days of feeding the products: decreased appetite, decreased activity, vomiting, diarrhea (sometimes with blood), increased water consumption and/or increased urination. If the dog shows any of these signs, stop feeding the chicken jerky product and consult your veterinarian if signs are severe or persist for more than 24 hours.

FDA is currently working with several U.S. animal health diagnostic laboratories to determine why these products are associated with illness in dogs. For additional information or to lodge a complaint go to www.fda.gov/petfoodcomplaints.