

1 LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.  
2 REBECCA A. PETERSON (241858)  
3 100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 2200  
4 Minneapolis, MN 55401  
5 Telephone: (612) 339-6900  
6 Facsimile: (612) 339-0981  
7 E-mail: rapeterson@locklaw.com

8 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

9 [Additional Counsel on Signature Page]

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
11 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 MARTIN E. GROSSMAN, and  
13 RICHARD DAVID CLASSICK, JR.  
14 Individually and on Behalf of All Others  
15 Similarly Situated,

16 Plaintiffs,

17 v.

18 SCHELL & KAMPETER, INC. d/b/a  
19 DIAMOND PET FOODS, and DIAMOND  
20 PET FOODS INC.,

21 Defendants.

Case No.: 2:18-cv-02344-JAM-AC

**SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION  
COMPLAINT FOR:**

- (1) NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION;  
(2) VIOLATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA  
CONSUMER LEGAL REMEDIES ACT;  
(3) VIOLATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA  
FALSE ADVERTISING LAW;  
(4) VIOLATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA  
UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW;  
(5) BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY;  
AND  
(6) BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**



1           6. Defendants' Contaminated Dog Foods do not have a disclaimer regarding the  
2 presence of Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA or that these toxins can  
3 accumulate over time in the dog's body to the point where poisoning, injury, and/or disease can  
4 occur.

5           7. Consumers lack the scientific knowledge necessary to determine whether the  
6 Products do in fact contain Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA and to know or to  
7 ascertain the true ingredients and quality of the Products.

8           8. No reasonable consumer seeing Defendants' Marketing would expect that the  
9 Products contain Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA.

10          9. Reasonable consumers must and do rely on Defendants to report honestly what  
11 the Products contain.

12          10. Further, reasonable consumers, like Plaintiffs, would consider the mere inclusion  
13 of Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods a material  
14 fact when considering what pet food to purchase.

15          11. Defendants knew or should have been aware that a consumer would be feeding  
16 the Contaminated Dog Foods to his or her dog multiple times each day, making it the main, if not  
17 only, source of food. This leads to repeated exposure of the Heavy Metals, pesticides,  
18 acrylamide, and/or BPA to the dog.

19          12. Defendants intended for consumers to rely on their Marketing, and reasonable  
20 consumers did in fact so rely.

21          13. Consequently, Defendants continue to wrongfully induce consumers to purchase  
22 their Contaminated Dog Foods that are not as advertised.

23          14. Defendants' wrongful Marketing, which includes misleading, deceptive, unfair,  
24 and false Marketing and omissions, allowed it to capitalize on, and reap enormous profits from,  
25 consumers who paid the purchase price or a premium for the Products that were not sold as  
26 advertised.

27          15. Plaintiffs bring this proposed consumer class action individually and on behalf of  
28 all other members of the Class (as defined herein), who, from the applicable limitations period

1 up to and including the present, purchased for use and not resale any of Defendants'  
2 Contaminated Dog Foods.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 16. This Court has original jurisdiction over all causes of action asserted herein under  
5 the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2), because the matter in controversy exceeds  
6 the sum or value of \$5,000,000 exclusive of interest and costs and more than two-thirds of the  
7 Class reside in states other than the states in which Defendants are citizens and in which this case  
8 is filed, and therefore any exemptions to jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1332(d) do not apply.

9 17. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391, because Plaintiffs  
10 suffered injury as a result of Defendants' acts in this district, many of the acts and transactions  
11 giving rise to this action occurred in this district, Defendants conduct substantial business in this  
12 district by manufacturing the Contaminated Dog Foods here. Defendants have intentionally  
13 availed themselves of the laws and markets of this district, and Defendants are subject to  
14 personal jurisdiction in this district.

15 **THE PARTIES**

16 18. Plaintiff Grossman is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a citizen of the  
17 state of Pennsylvania. Plaintiff Grossman purchased the Contaminated Dog Food line of Taste  
18 of the Wild® Grain Free Pacific Stream Canine Formula Smoked Salmon Dry Dog Food, and  
19 other Contaminated Foods, from Chewy.com and Braxton's Dog Works between 2012 and 2015  
20 for his two golden retrievers, Lilly and Clara. He typically purchased 30-lb bags of food and  
21 paid approximately \$50 per bag. Prior to purchasing the Contaminated Dog Foods, Plaintiff  
22 Grossman saw the nutritional claims and labels on the packaging and on the Chewy.com website,  
23 which he relied on in deciding to purchase the Contaminated Dog Foods. During the time  
24 Grossman purchased and fed the Contaminated Dog Foods, due to the false and misleading  
25 claims, warranties, representations, advertisements and other marketing by Defendants, Plaintiff  
26 Grossman was unaware that the Contaminated Dog Foods contained any level of heavy metals,  
27 BPA, pesticides, or acrylamide, and would not have purchased the food if that was fully  
28 disclosed.

1           19. As a result of Defendants' negligent, reckless, and/or knowingly deceptive  
2 conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff Grossman was injured when he paid the purchase price  
3 and/or a price premium for the Contaminated Dog Foods that did not deliver what Defendants  
4 promised. Plaintiff Grossman paid the above sum in reliance that the labeling of the  
5 Contaminated Dog Foods was accurate, that there were no material omissions, and that it was  
6 healthy, clean, and safe for dogs to ingest, as well as natural and pure. Plaintiff Grossman would  
7 not have purchased the Contaminated Dog Foods had he known it contained Heavy Metals,  
8 BPA, pesticides, or acrylamide. Damages can be calculated through expert testimony at trial.  
9 Further, should Plaintiff Grossman encounter the Contaminated Dog Foods in the future, he  
10 could not rely on the truthfulness of the packaging, absent corrective changes to the packaging  
11 and advertising of the Contaminated Dog Foods.

12           20. Plaintiff Classick Jr. is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a citizen of the  
13 state of California. Plaintiff Classick Jr. purchased the Contaminated Dog Food line of Taste of  
14 the Taste of the Wild® Grain Free High Prairie Canine Formula Roasted Bison and Roasted  
15 Venison Dry Dog Food primarily from Amazon.com between approximately 2017 and 2018 for  
16 three and half year Blue Nose American Pitbull, Otis. He was on an automatic 30-day  
17 subscription for the 33lb bag and received his last shipment on August 1, 2018. Plaintiff  
18 Classick Jr. paid approximately \$48.99 per bag. Prior to purchasing the Contaminated Dog  
19 Foods, Plaintiff Classick Jr. saw the nutritional claims and labels on the packaging and on the  
20 Amazon.com website, which he relied on in deciding to purchase the Contaminated Dog Foods.  
21 Plaintiff Classick Jr. believed he was feeding Otis a premium dog food that was healthy and  
22 nutritious. During the time Classick Jr. purchased and fed the Contaminated Dog Foods, due to  
23 the false and misleading claims, warranties, representations, advertisements and other marketing  
24 by Defendants, Plaintiff Classick Jr. was unaware that the Contaminated Dog Foods contained  
25 any level of heavy metals, BPA, pesticides, or acrylamide, and would not have purchased the  
26 food if that was fully disclosed.

27           21. As a result of Defendants' negligent, reckless, and/or knowingly deceptive  
28 conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff Classick Jr. was injured when he paid the purchase price

1 and/or a price premium for the Contaminated Dog Foods that did not deliver what Defendants  
2 promised. Plaintiff Classick Jr. paid the above sum in reliance that the labeling of the  
3 Contaminated Dog Foods was accurate, that there were no material omissions, and that it was  
4 healthy, clean, and safe for dogs to ingest, as well as natural and pure. Plaintiff Classick Jr.  
5 would not have purchased the Contaminated Dog Foods had he known it contained Heavy  
6 Metals, BPA, pesticides, or acrylamide. Damages can be calculated through expert testimony at  
7 trial. Further, should Plaintiff Classick Jr. encounter the Contaminated Dog Foods in the future,  
8 he could not rely on the truthfulness of the packaging, absent corrective changes to the packaging  
9 and advertising of the Contaminated Dog Foods.

10 22. Defendant Schell & Kampeter, Inc. d/b/a Diamond Pet Foods is incorporated in  
11 Missouri with its headquarters located at 103 North Olive Street, Meta, Missouri.

12 23. Defendant Diamond Pet Foods Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant  
13 Schell & Kampeter, Inc. d/b/a Diamond Pet Foods and is also headquartered at 103 North Olive  
14 Street, Meta, Missouri.

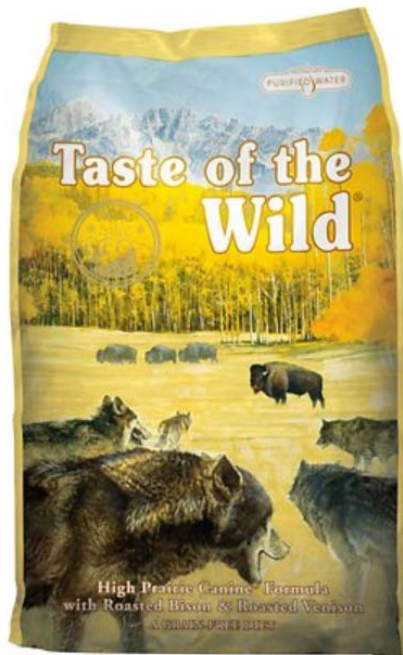
15 24. Defendants produce the Contaminated Dog Foods at four facilities across the  
16 United States: Meta, Missouri; Gaston, South Carolina; Lathrop, California; and Ripon,  
17 California. California is the only state where Defendants operate and own two manufacturing  
18 facilities. Defendants employ over one hundred employees in the state of California. These  
19 California plants produce significant amounts of pet food. The Ripon facility sits on 150 acres  
20 that includes a farm, mill tower, and pet food ingredient storage and Defendants are currently  
21 seeking approval for expansion of this manufacturing facility.

22 25. Defendants formulate, develop, manufacture, label, distribute, market, advertise,  
23 and sell the Contaminated Dog Foods under the Taste of the Wild® brand name throughout the  
24 United States. The advertising, labeling, and packaging for the Contaminated Dog Foods, relied  
25 upon by Plaintiffs, was prepared, reviewed, and/or approved by Defendants and their agents, and  
26 was disseminated by Defendants and their agents through marketing, advertising, packaging, and  
27 labeling that contained the misrepresentations alleged herein. The marketing, advertising,  
28 packaging and labeling for the Contaminated Dog Foods was designed to encourage consumers

1 to purchase the Contaminated Dog Foods and reasonably misled the reasonable consumer, i.e.,  
2 Plaintiffs and the Class, into purchasing the Contaminated Dog Foods. Defendants own,  
3 manufacture, and distribute the Contaminated Dog Foods, and created, allowed, negligently  
4 oversaw, and/or authorized the unlawful, fraudulent, unfair, misleading, and/or deceptive  
5 labeling and advertising for the Contaminated Dog Foods.

6 26. The Contaminated Dog Foods at a minimum, include: <sup>3</sup>

7 (a) Taste of the Wild® Grain Free High Prairie Canine Formula Roasted  
8 Bison and Roasted Venison Dry Dog Food:

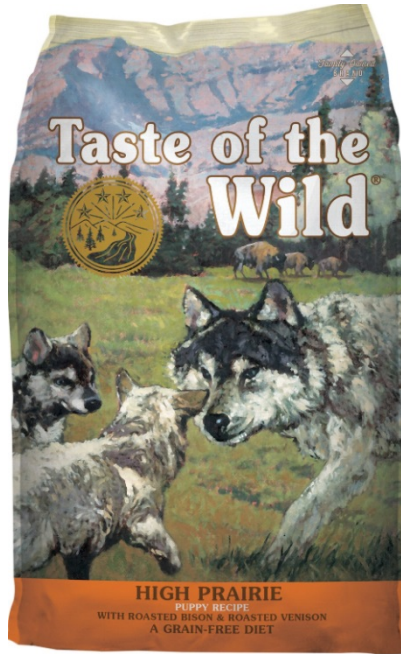


26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>3</sup> Discovery may reveal additional Products that also contain unsafe levels of Heavy Metals,  
28 pesticides, acrylamide, or BPA and Plaintiff reserves his right to include any such Products in  
this action.

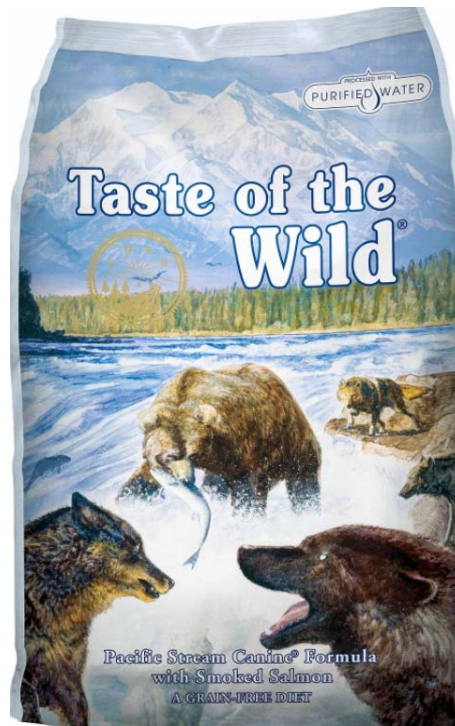


1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

(b) Taste of the Wild® Prairie Puppy Formula Grain-Free:



(c) Taste of the Wild® Grain Free Pacific Stream Canine Formula Smoked Salmon Dry Dog Food:





**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

**I. Defendants' Marketing of Their Contaminated Dog Foods**

27. Defendants' package, label, market, advertise, formulate, manufacture, distribute, and sell their Contaminated Dog Foods throughout the United States, including California.

28. As stated by Defendants, they are "one of the fastest growing pet food manufacturers in the country." The Contaminated Dog Foods are available at numerous retail and online outlets and are widely advertised.

29. Defendants' Marketing represents that that their "premium" dog food is made of "the highest quality ingredients and products" for "nutrition-conscious pet owners."

30. Defendants' business model is premised upon the purported belief that "every pet, from purebred show animal to shelter puppy or kitten, is worthy of the best nutrition."

31. Defendants state that they "strive to provide honest and accurate information about the ingredients used in Taste of the Wild formulas."

32. Defendants also repeatedly tout that the Contaminated Dog Foods are natural in that they are as "nature intended."

33. As shown below, Defendants explain on their website (all while depicting animals in the wild), the brand name of the Contaminated Dog Foods (Taste of the Wild®) is meant to reflect and imply that the Products are natural, akin to what "nature intended" pets to eat in the "Wild," and are formulated "based on your pet's ancestral diet":



1 34. Moreover, the Contaminated Dog Foods packaging depicts the same  
2 misrepresentations, displays images of wild animals in natural settings, and emphasizes the  
3 Products' makeup as being akin to that found in nature and "the Wild":



16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

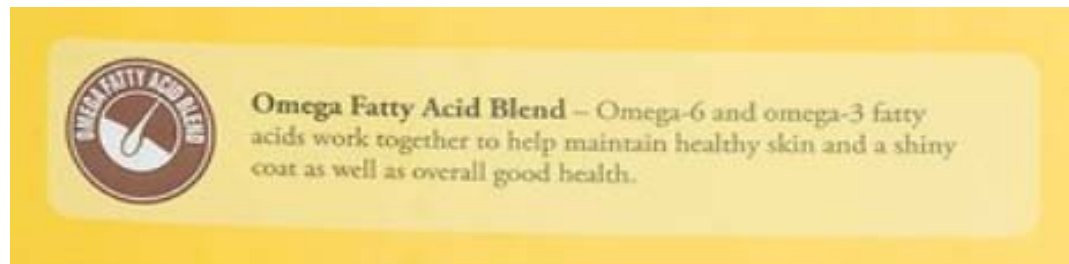
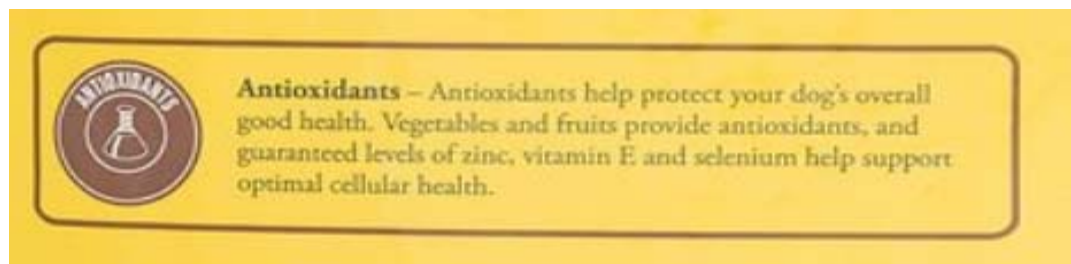
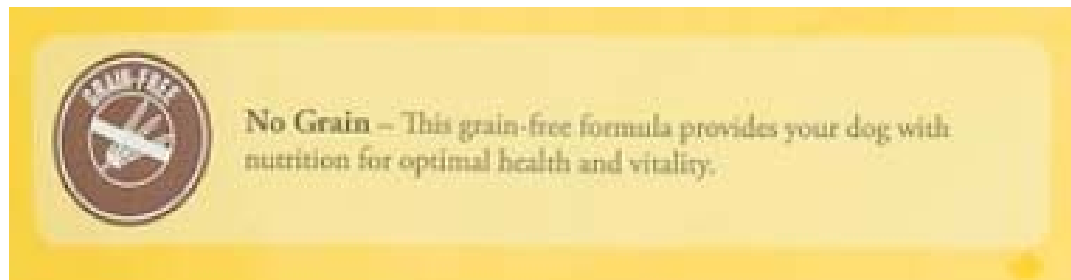
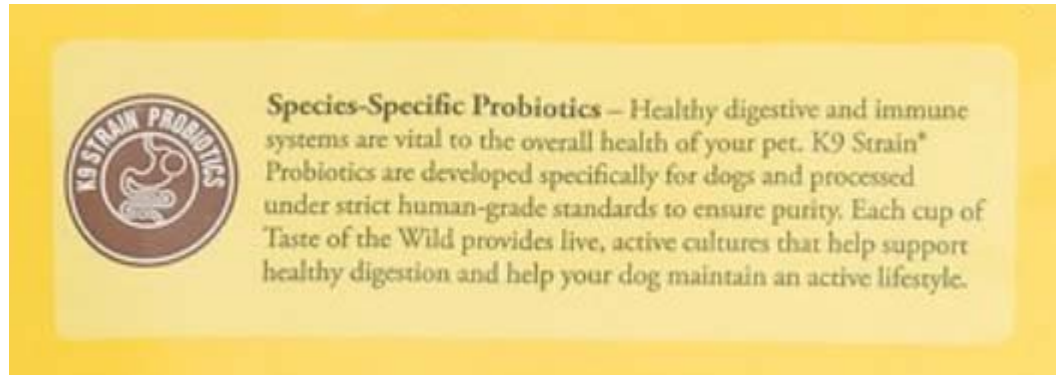
**High Prairie Canine® Formula**  
**with Roasted Bison & Roasted Venison**  
A GRAIN-FREE DIET

**The balanced diet that nature intended\***

23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

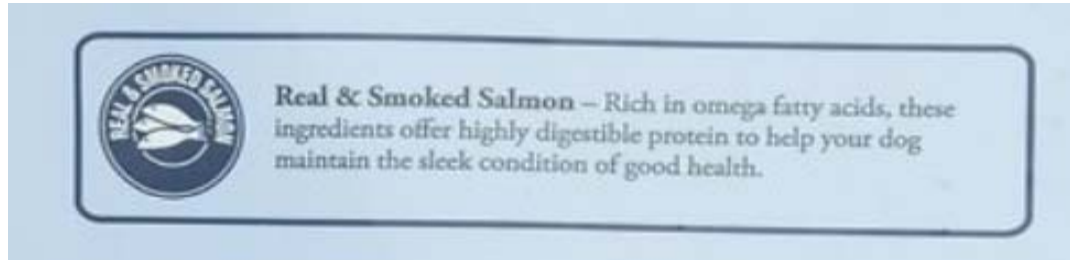
*Modern science proves that your dog shares the DNA of the wolf. Years of domestication and excellent care have turned your dog from a short-lived potential foe to a long-lived best friend. Although his DNA remains the same and his tastes demand something of the wild, his diet should provide him with all the best nutrition available today.*

1  
2 35. Additionally, the packaging describes the ingredients in the Contaminated Dog  
3 Foods as "processed under strict human-grade standards to ensure purity," providing "optimal  
4 health and vitality," supporting "optimal cellular health" and "overall good health," and helpful  
5 in maintaining "the sleek condition of good health":





1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28



36. Defendants' packaging and advertising also touts its food as "natural" and as providing "the best nutrition available today":



37. Taste of the Wild's motto is "Taste of the Wild Pet Food: Based on your Pet's Ancestral Diet":

**Taste of the Wild Pet Food: Based on your Pet's Ancestral Diet**

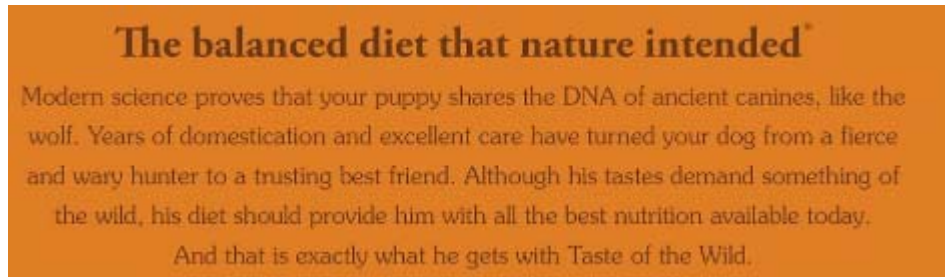
<https://www.tasteofthewildpetfood.com/> ▼

Modern science proves that your dog or cat still shares the DNA of the ancient canine or wild feline. Although their tastes demand something of the wild, your pet's diet should provide them with all the best nutrition available today. And that is precisely what they get with **Taste of the Wild**: premium, complete, grain-free pet ...

[Taste of the Wild - Taste of the ...](#) · [Our Company](#) · [Prey](#) · [Contact](#)

1 38. The foregoing Marketing reveals the great lengths Defendants have undertaken to  
2 portray their Contaminated Dog Foods as possessing certain qualities and characteristics  
3 concerning their composition and quality.

4 39. The packaging and advertising of the Contaminated Dog Foods does not disclose  
5 that they contain any level of Heavy Metals, BPA, pesticides, or acrylamide:



6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11 **II. Defendants' Testing of Their Contaminated Dog Foods**

12 40. Defendants' Marketing also prominently emphasizes their rigorous testing of their  
13 Products.

14 41. For example, Defendants state:

15 We understand that it matters what you feed your pet, which is why we  
16 work to ensure that all of our formulas are produced to adhere to strict  
17 quality and safety standards. As such, we maintain close relationships  
18 with our suppliers to continually test our ingredients, production  
19 environment, production process and finished products to ensure quality  
20 and safety. By implementing the latest scientific and technological  
21 advancements, we have developed a comprehensive food safety system  
22 that ensures your pet's food is always safe and nutritious.

23 42. Defendants also provide:

24 **Stringent Purification**

25 Processed under strict quality and safety standards, our K9 Strain and  
26 Viables probiotics are guaranteed to be free of harmful pathogens or other  
27 contaminants.

28 43. Defendants further assure that food safety is a top priority and that they are  
dedicated to quality assurance:

**Do you have a food safety program?**

Absolutely! Food safety is our top priority, which is why our facilities  
adhere to stringent quality protocols, have a dedicated quality assurance

1 and safety staff and follow "Good Manufacturing Processes" protocols.  
2 To learn more about our food safety program, you can visit our website at  
3 <https://diamondpetcompany.com/how-we-ensure-every-pet-is-getting-the-very-best/nutritional-integrity/>.

4 \* \* \*

5 At Taste of the Wild, we believe every pet deserves excellent nutrition that  
6 tastes great. Every ingredient is carefully selected from trusted sources,  
7 each recipe is designed by our veterinarians and nutritionists to meet  
8 specific nutritional requirements and every product is tested for quality  
9 and safety before leaving our facilities.

10 44. To this end, the Marketing contained on Defendants' website further states that  
11 their Products, including Taste of the Wild®, are manufactured and sourced in such a way that  
12 would prevent any contamination by Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA:

13 **NUTRITIONAL *INTEGRITY***

14 **THE *HIGHEST QUALITY* INGREDIENTS**

15 When we made the conscious decision to only make pet food you'd be  
16 proud to feed your own pet, *we didn't skimp on quality*. That's why *we*  
17 *source the finest ingredients* and establish solid relationships with our  
18 trusted suppliers to *ensure we're always getting the very best*. All of our  
19 formulas are unique, based on your pet's needs and life stage, but here are  
20 just a few of the quality ingredients you'll find in our products.

21 Real chicken, lamb, salmon, turkey, fowl, bison and venison Vegetables  
22 like carrots, peas, sweet potatoes and spinach Fruits like apples,  
23 blueberries and cranberries Whole grains such as brown rice, barley and  
24 oatmeal Prebiotics and probiotics for healthier digestion.

25 **SUPPLIER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

26 *Our ingredients suppliers are approved through a rigorous process*  
27 *intended to validate commitments to food safety and ingredient quality*,  
28 and also to ensure financial viability. Our method is to work with fewer  
suppliers under longer-term arrangements, rather than engage with a host  
of suppliers participating in a continual bid process. This approach fosters  
trust, collaboration and continual improvement, and works to encourage  
vendor-partners to make investments in quality control, food safety  
training and laboratory testing equipment.

**SCIENTIFIC FORMULATIONS**

Our pet food formulas are based on the latest animal nutrition research and  
are carefully designed to meet your pet's specific life stage. No matter

which formula you choose, *you can rest assured you're getting the very best nutrition for a long and healthy life.*

**III. Defendants Misled Consumers Through Their Deceptive, Misleading, Unfair, and False Marketing and Omissions**

45. The Defendants' Marketing wrongfully conveys to consumers that Defendants' Contaminated Dog Foods have certain superior qualities and characteristics that they do not actually possess.

46. For instance, although Defendants misleadingly lead consumers to believe their Contaminated Dog Foods do not contain Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, or BPA through their Marketing and omissions, Defendants' Products do in fact contain undisclosed Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA, which are material to reasonable consumers.

47. For example, the specific product types purchased by Plaintiffs were tested and found to contain undisclosed Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA (material to a reasonable consumer) at the following levels:

Product Name	arsenic ug per kg	bpa ug per kg	cadmium ug per kg	mercury ug per kg	lead ug per kg	pesticides ug per kg	acrylamide ug per kg
Taste of the Wild Grain Free Pacific Stream Canine Formula Smoked Salmon Dry Dog Food	255.40	258.00	54.20	30.90	399.20	38.92	172.90
Taste of the Wild Grain Free High Prairie Canine Formula Roasted Bison and Roasted Venison Dry Dog Food	155.80	276.00	59.70	16.70	394.50	460.00	86.50
Taste of the Wild Prairie Puppy Formula Grain-Free	161		99.6	<9.8	476		



1           48. Defendants' Marketing wrongfully fails to disclose to consumers the presence of  
2 Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA in Defendants' Contaminated Dog Foods.

3           49. Based on Defendants' Marketing, a reasonable consumer would not suspect the  
4 presence of Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA nor would a reasonable consumer  
5 be able to detect the presence of Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA in the  
6 Contaminated Dog Foods without conducting his or her own scientific tests, or reviewing  
7 scientific testing conducted on the Products.

8           50. Reasonable consumers must and do rely on Defendants to report honestly what  
9 the Products contain.

10           51. In light of Defendants' Marketing, including their supposed stringent quality  
11 controls and assurances, Defendants knew or should have known the Contaminated Dog Foods  
12 possessed Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA.

13           52. Defendants intended for consumers to rely on their representations, and  
14 reasonable consumers did in fact so rely.

15           53. Further, the Association of American Feed Control Officials ("AAFCO")  
16 provides guidelines concerning the proper labeling and packaging of pet food. In relevant part,  
17 AAFCO provides that all claims made for a product must be truthful and must not be misleading  
18 to the consumer.

19           54. For example, AAFCO states that individual ingredients must not be over-  
20 emphasized to the exclusion of other ingredients. AAFCO also provides that a vignette, graphic,  
21 or pictorial representation on a pet food or specialty pet food label shall not misrepresent the  
22 contents of the package.

23           55. Yet, Defendants' Contaminated Dog Foods displays images of wild animals in  
24 natural settings that emphasize the Products' makeup as being akin to that found in nature and  
25 "the Wild," and have text and symbols highlighting the protein and vegetables each product  
26 contains. On the other hand, Defendants' Contaminated Dog Foods do not disclose the presence  
27 of Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA.

28

1 56. Thus, the images and Claims utilized by Defendants, in the context of the whole  
2 label or packaging of the Contaminated Dog Foods, is misleading, deceptive, and false.

3 57. Defendants had a duty to ensure the Contaminated Dog Foods were as  
4 represented and not deceptively, misleadingly, unfairly, and falsely marketed.

5 58. Pursuant to the foregoing, Defendants' Marketing is deceptive, misleading,  
6 unfair, and false to Plaintiffs and other consumers, including under the consumer protection laws  
7 of California.

8 59. Defendants acted negligently, recklessly, unfairly, and/or intentionally with  
9 their deceptive, misleading, unfair, and false Marketing and omissions.

10 **IV. The Pet Food Industry, Including Defendants, Knows that the Average**  
11 **Consumer Cares and Considers What He or She Is Feeding Their Pet**

12 60. Consumers are becoming increasingly concerned with what they feed their pets.

13 61. The Pet Food industry has been reporting on the humanization of both pets and  
14 pet food for years.

15 62. A recent survey done by a pet food giant showed that "95 percent [of pet owners]  
16 agreed they saw their canine as part of the family." And 73% of them responded they would  
17 make sure their "pet gets food before they do."<sup>4</sup>

18 63. But this is nothing new, as in 2017, a survey had reported the same results: "In  
19 the US, 95% of pet owners consider their pets to be part of the family—up 7 points from 2007,  
20 according to a survey by Harris Poll."<sup>5</sup>

21 64. Indeed, based on this, it was reported that "there isn't much people won't do for  
22 their pets, and this sentiment has only strengthened over the past few years, especially for pet  
23

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>4</sup> Kelli Bender, *Study Shows Half of Women Would Rather Spend Friday Night with Their Dog*  
26 *than Their Partner*, People (Jul 19, 2018) <https://people.com/pets/study-women-prefer-dogs-to-partner/>.

27 <sup>5</sup> *Report: 95% Say Pets Are Part of the Family*, PetfoodIndustry.com (Mar. 9, 2016)  
28 <https://www.petfoodindustry.com/articles/5695-report---say-pets-are-part-of-the-family>.

1 food. Pet food accounts for 76% of the pet care category, representing a significant opportunity  
2 for pet companies."<sup>6</sup>

3 65. And, pet owners want "pet food options that address the same health concerns  
4 currently influencing human food production, such as unnatural preservatives and genetically  
5 modified ingredients—and they're serious about these preferences."<sup>7</sup>

6 66. "Treating pets like one of the family continues to be a popular trend among pet  
7 owners; however, today, their purchases are more and more functionally driven as health  
8 becomes a top priority."<sup>8</sup>

9 67. Thus, consumers are willing to pay a premium for their pet food if their pet food  
10 is of superior quality.

11 **V. The Inclusion of Heavy Metals, Pesticides, Acrylamide, and/or BPA Is**  
12 **Material to a Reasonable Consumer Based on the Inherent and Known Risks**  
**of Consumption and/or Exposure**

13 68. Whether a pet food contains Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, or BPA is  
14 material to a reasonable consumer when making purchasing decisions.

15 69. Consumption and/or exposure to Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and BPA  
16 carry known risks.

17 70. For instance, based on the risks associated with exposure to higher levels of  
18 arsenic, both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and U.S. Food and Drug  
19 Administration ("FDA") have set limits concerning the allowable limit of arsenic at 10 parts per  
20 billion ("ppb") for human consumption in apple juice (regulated by the FDA) and drinking water  
21 (regulating by the EPA). Moreover, the FDA is considering limiting the action level for arsenic  
22 in rice cereal for infants to 100 ppb.

23 \_\_\_\_\_

24 <sup>6</sup> *Id.*  
25 <sup>7</sup> *The Humanization of Pet Food*, Nielsen.com (Mar. 2016),  
<http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/reports/2016/the-humanization-of-pet-food.html>.

26 <sup>8</sup> *US Pet Food Market Report Reveals Pet Humanization Trend*, Petfoodindustry.com (Sept. 24,  
27 2017), <https://www.petfoodindustry.com/articles/6694-us-pet-food-market-report-reveals-pet-humanization-trend>

28

1           71.       Additionally, drinking water with levels greater than 250 ppb is considered  
2 potentially toxic, especially to large animals.

3           72.       Arsenic poisoning can be caused by acute and/or repeated exposure to the toxin  
4 over a long period of time. Arsenic toxicity can affect the gastrointestinal and cardiovascular  
5 systems, as well as lead to circulatory collapse.

6           73.       Lead is another carcinogen and toxin known to cause health problems. Exposure  
7 to lead in food can build up over time and has been scientifically demonstrated to lead to the  
8 development of chronic poisoning, cancer, developmental disorders, and affect normal cell  
9 metabolism as well as cause serious injuries to the central nervous and gastrointestinal systems.

10          74.       Mercury can cause damage to the kidneys and neurological, cardiovascular, and  
11 nervous systems in dogs. Exposure to mercury can also interfere with metabolic activity, leading  
12 to tissue necrosis and degeneration. Continued exposure to mercury can also injure the inner  
13 surfaces of the digestive tract and abdominal cavity.

14          75.       Cadmium is extremely toxic and has toxic biological effects at concentrations  
15 smaller than almost any commonly found mineral. Exposure to cadmium has been observed to  
16 cause anemia, liver disease, and nerve or brain damage in animals eating or drinking it. The U.S.  
17 Department of Health and Human Services has determined that cadmium and cadmium  
18 compounds are known human carcinogens and the EPA has likewise determined that cadmium is  
19 a probable human carcinogen.

20          76.       As used herein, the term "pesticides" refers to a class of chemical or organic  
21 substances used to control pests and weeds on cultivated plants. When pesticides are applied to  
22 crops, the residue can remain until it has been harvested for consumption or processing. The  
23 EPA regulates the amount of pesticides allowed in food, and the tolerance varies depending on  
24 the substance at issue. Pesticides have been linked to numerous health problems with animals,  
25 such as vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, and death. Moreover, long-term exposure to pesticides has  
26 been connected to birth defects, nerve damage, and various cancers.

27          77.       Acrylamide is a colorless, odorless chemical substance with numerous industrial  
28 applications, including treating waste water discharge and the production of paper and other

1 textiles. Acrylamide is found in tobacco smoke and can occur when food is cooked or processed  
2 at high temperatures, such as baking, frying, and roasting. The EPA has set limits on the  
3 acceptable amount of acrylamide in drinking water. Furthermore, several organizations,  
4 including the Department of Health and Human Services, the International Agency for Research  
5 on Cancer, and the EPA have concluded that acrylamide is likely to be carcinogenic to humans.  
6 Most importantly, acrylamide is known to be carcinogenic in animals.

7 78. Finally, BPA, an industrial chemical that is an endocrine disruptor, has been  
8 linked to various health issues, including reproductive disorders, heart disease, diabetes, cancer,  
9 and neurological problems. The dangers of BPA in human food are recognized by the FDA, as  
10 well as by the state of California. For instance, manufacturers and wholesalers are prohibited  
11 from selling any children's products that contain BPA and any infant formula, baby food, or  
12 toddler food stored in containers with intentionally-added BPA.

13 79. Based on the foregoing, reasonable consumers, like Plaintiffs, would consider the  
14 inclusion of Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods a  
15 material fact when considering what pet food to purchase.

16 80. Despite the known risks of exposure to Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide,  
17 and BPA, Defendants negligently, recklessly, and/or knowingly sold the Contaminated Dog  
18 Foods without disclosing they contain Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA.

19 81. In fact, Defendants expressly admit knowledge that Heavy Metals are  
20 "potentially dangerous chemicals" "that can cause vomiting, a painful abdomen, bloody diarrhea,  
21 even seizures and kidney or liver failure if eaten," and that these are substances "toxic to  
22 animals."<sup>9</sup>

23

24

25

26 <sup>9</sup> TasteoftheWildPetFood.com (June 30, 2016) available at (  
27 <https://www.tasteofthewildpetfood.com/pop-pop-kaboom-managing-pets-fireworks-fear/>; (Aug.  
28 4, 2015) available at <https://www.tasteofthewildpetfood.com/what-you-need-to-know-to-get-puppies-through-their-first-summer/>).

1           82.       Therefore, Defendants knew or should have known that the presence of Heavy  
2 Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA in their Contaminated Dog Foods was material to  
3 consumers of the Products.

4           83.       Additionally, Defendants knew or should have been aware that a consumer  
5 would be feeding the Contaminated Dog Foods multiple times each day to his or her dog making  
6 it the main, if not only, source of food for the dog. This leads to repeated exposure of the Heavy  
7 Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA to the dog.

8           84.       Defendants have wrongfully and misleadingly advertised and sold the  
9 Contaminated Dog Foods without any label or warning indicating to consumers that the Products  
10 contain Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA, or that these toxins can over time  
11 accumulate in the dog's body to the point where poisoning, injury, and/or disease can occur.

12           85.       Defendants' omissions are material, deceptive, misleading, unfair, false, and  
13 reasonably likely to deceive the public.

14           86.       This is true especially in light of Defendants' long-standing Marketing campaign  
15 representing the Contaminated Dog Foods as possessing certain qualities pertaining to their  
16 composition and quality in order to induce consumers, such as Plaintiffs, to purchase the  
17 Products.

18           87.       The use of such representations, descriptions, and promises makes Defendants'  
19 Marketing campaign deceptive based on the presence of Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide,  
20 and/or BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods.

21           88.       Defendants' above-referenced statements, representations, partial disclosures, and  
22 omissions are false, misleading, and crafted to deceive the public as they create an image that the  
23 Contaminated Dog Foods are healthy, safe, high quality, undergo rigorous testing, and are free of  
24 Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA.

25           89.       Moreover, a reasonable consumer, such as Plaintiffs and other members of the  
26 Class, would have no reason to not believe Defendants' statements regarding the quality of the  
27 Contaminated Dog Foods. Defendants' nondisclosure and/or concealment of the toxins in the  
28 Contaminated Dog Foods coupled with the misrepresentations alleged herein that were intended

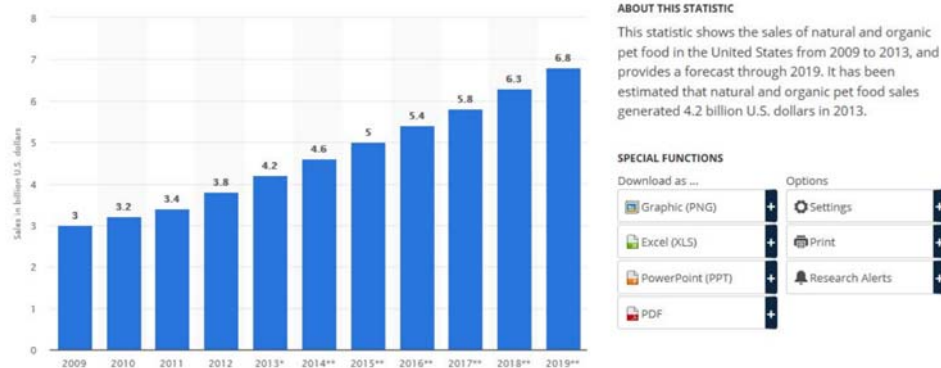
1 to and do, in fact, cause consumers, like Plaintiffs and the members of the Class, to purchase a  
2 product they would not have bought if the true quality and ingredients were disclosed or pay a  
3 premium for such dog food.

4 90. As a result of Defendants' wrongful Marketing, which includes misleading,  
5 deceptive, unfair, and false statements and omissions, Defendants have generated substantial  
6 sales of the Contaminated Dog Foods.

7 91. Defendants' wrongful Marketing, which includes misleading, deceptive, unfair,  
8 and false representations and omissions, allowed it to capitalize on, and reap enormous profits  
9 from, consumers who paid the purchase price or a premium for the Products that were not as  
10 advertised.

11 92. This is not surprising given that, for example, natural pet food sales represent  
12 over \$5.5 billion in the United States and have consistently risen over the years:

13  
14 **Natural and organic pet food sales in the United States from 2009 to 2019 (in billion  
U.S. dollars)**



15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22 **DEFENDANTS' STATEMENTS**  
23 **AND OMISSIONS VIOLATE CALIFORNIA LAWS**

24 93. California law is designed to ensure that a company's claims about its products  
25 are truthful and accurate.



1 94. Defendants violated California law by incorrectly claiming through their  
2 Marketing and omissions that the Contaminated Dog Foods possessed superior qualities when  
3 they did not, based on the presence of Heavy Metals, pesticide, acrylamide, and/or BPA.

4 95. Defendants' Marketing and advertising campaign has been sufficiently lengthy in  
5 duration, and widespread in dissemination, that it would be unrealistic to require Plaintiffs to  
6 plead relying upon each advertised misrepresentation.

7 96. Defendants have engaged in this long-term advertising campaign to convince  
8 potential customers that the Contaminated Dog Foods were pure, healthy, safe for consumption,  
9 and did not contain harmful ingredients, such as arsenic and lead. Likewise, Defendants have  
10 engaged in this long-term advertising campaign to convince potential customers that the  
11 Contaminated Dog Foods were natural, pure, and safe despite the presence of BPA in the food.

12 **PLAINTIFFS' RELIANCE WAS**  
13 **REASONABLE AND FORESEEN BY DEFENDANTS**

14 97. Defendants engaged in this long-term advertising campaign to convince potential  
15 customers that the Contaminated Dog Foods possessed certain qualities.

16 98. Defendants' Marketing and advertising campaign has been sufficiently lengthy in  
17 duration, and widespread in dissemination, that it would be unrealistic to require Plaintiffs to  
18 plead relying upon each advertised misrepresentation.

19 99. When making purchasing decisions, Plaintiffs reasonably relied on Defendants'  
20 misleading, deceptive, unfair, and false Marketing.

21 100. A reasonable consumer would consider the Marketing of a product when  
22 deciding whether to purchase.

23 101. Plaintiffs would not have paid the price premium, or would not have purchased at  
24 all, Defendants' Contaminated Dog Foods had they been aware of the true nature of Defendants'  
25 Products.

1                   **DEFENDANTS' KNOWLEDGE AND NOTICE OF THEIR BREACHES**  
2                   **OF THEIR EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

3                   102. Defendants had sufficient notice of their breaches of express and implied  
4 warranties. Defendants have, and had, exclusive knowledge of the physical and chemical make-  
5 up of the Contaminated Dog Foods. Moreover, Defendants were put on notice by the Clean  
6 Label Project about the inclusion of Heavy Metals, BPA, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or other  
7 contaminants in the Products.

8                   **PRIVITY EXISTS WITH PLAINTIFFS AND THE PROPOSED CLASS**

9                   103. Defendants knew that consumers such as Plaintiffs and the proposed Class would  
10 be the end purchasers of the Contaminated Dog Foods and the target of their Marketing.

11                   104. Defendants intended their Marketing to be considered by the end purchasers of  
12 the Contaminated Dog Foods, including Plaintiffs and the proposed Class.

13                   105. Defendants directly marketed to Plaintiffs and the proposed Class through  
14 statements on their website, labeling, advertising, and packaging.

15                   106. Plaintiffs and the proposed Class are the intended beneficiaries of the expressed  
16 and implied warranties.

17                   **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

18                   107. Plaintiffs bring this action individually and on behalf of the following Class  
19 pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(2) and (3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

20                             All persons who are citizens of the United States who, from May 1,  
21                             2013 to the present, purchased the Contaminated Dog Foods for  
22                             household or business use, and not for resale (the "Class").

23                   108. Excluded from the Class are the Defendants, any parent companies, subsidiaries,  
24 and/or affiliates, officers, directors, legal representatives, employees, coconspirators, all  
25 governmental entities, and any judge, justice, or judicial officer presiding over this matter.

26                   109. This action is brought and may be properly maintained as a class action. There is  
27 a well-defined community of interests in this litigation and the members of the Class are easily  
28 ascertainable.

1           110. The members in the proposed Class are so numerous that individual joinder of all  
2 members is impracticable, and the disposition of the claims of the members of all Class members  
3 in a single action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and Court.

4           111. Questions of law and fact common to Plaintiffs and the Class include, but are not  
5 limited to, the following:

6                   (a) whether Defendants owed a duty of care to Plaintiffs and members of the  
7 Class;

8                   (b) whether Defendants knew or should have known that the Contaminated  
9 Dog Foods contained Heavy Metals;

10                   (c) whether Defendants knew or should have known that the Contaminated  
11 Dog Foods contained BPA;

12                   (d) whether Defendants knew or should have known that the Contaminated  
13 Dog Foods contained pesticides;

14                   (e) whether Defendants knew or should have known that the Contaminated  
15 Dog Foods contained acrylamide;

16                   (f) whether Defendants wrongfully failed to state that the Contaminated Dog  
17 Foods contained Heavy Metals;

18                   (g) whether Defendants wrongfully failed to state that the Contaminated Dog  
19 Foods contained BPA;

20                   (h) whether Defendants wrongfully failed to state that the Contaminated Dog  
21 Foods contained pesticides;

22                   (i) whether Defendants wrongfully failed to state that the Contaminated Dog  
23 Foods contained acrylamide;

24                   (j) whether any of Defendants' Marketing is deceptive, misleading, unfair,  
25 and/or false individually or as a whole;

26                   (k) whether Defendants' Marketing is likely to deceive a reasonable  
27 consumer;

28

1 (l) whether a reasonable consumer would consider the presence of Heavy  
2 Metals as a material fact in purchasing pet food;

3 (m) whether a reasonable consumer would consider the presence of acrylamide  
4 as a material fact in purchasing pet food

5 (n) whether a reasonable consumer would consider the presence of pesticides  
6 as a material fact in purchasing pet food;

7 (o) whether a reasonable consumer would consider the presence of BPA as a  
8 material fact in purchasing pet food;

9 (p) whether Defendants knew or should have known their Marketing is  
10 deceptive, misleading, unfair, and/or false;

11 (q) whether Defendants continue to disseminate their Marketing despite their  
12 knowledge that their Marketing is deceptive, misleading, unfair, and/or false;

13 (r) whether Defendants' wrongful conduct alleged herein was negligent,  
14 reckless, and/or intentional;

15 (s) whether a representation that a product does not contain Heavy Metals is  
16 material to a reasonable consumer;

17 (t) whether a representation that a product does not contain acrylamide is  
18 material to a reasonable consumer;

19 (u) whether a representation that a product does not contain pesticides is  
20 material to a reasonable consumer;

21 (v) whether a representations that a product does not contain BPA is material  
22 to a reasonable consumer;

23 (w) whether Defendants violated California law;

24 (x) whether Defendants breached their express warranties;

25 (y) whether Defendants breached their implied warranties;

26 (z) whether Defendants engaged in unfair trade practices;

27 (aa) whether Defendants engaged in false advertising;

28

1 (bb) whether Defendants made negligent, reckless, and false misrepresentations  
2 and omissions;

3 (cc) whether Plaintiffs and the members of the Class are entitled to actual,  
4 statutory, and punitive damages; and

5 (dd) whether Plaintiffs and members of the Class are entitled to declaratory and  
6 injunctive relief.

7 112. Defendants engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal rights  
8 sought to be enforced by Plaintiffs individually and on behalf of the other members of the Class.  
9 Identical statutory violations and business practices and harms are involved. Individual  
10 questions, if any, are not prevalent in comparison to the numerous common questions that  
11 dominate this action.

12 113. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of those of the members of the Class in that they are  
13 based on the same underlying facts, events, and circumstances relating to Defendants' conduct.

14 114. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the  
15 Class, have no interests incompatible with the interests of the Class, and have retained counsel  
16 competent and experienced in class action, consumer protection, and false advertising litigation.

17 115. Class treatment is superior to other options for resolution of the controversy  
18 because the relief sought for each member of the Class is small such that, absent representative  
19 litigation, it would be infeasible for members of the Class to redress the wrongs done to them.

20 116. Questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any questions  
21 affecting only individual members of the Class.

22 117. As a result of the foregoing, class treatment is appropriate.

23 **COUNT I**

24 **(Negligent Misrepresentation Against Defendants on Behalf of the Class)**

25 118. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and realleges each and every allegation  
26 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

27

28



1 127. Plaintiffs and each proposed Class member is a "consumer," as that term is  
2 defined in California Civil Code section 1761(d).

3 128. The Contaminated Dog Foods are "goods," as that term is defined in California  
4 Civil Code section 1761(a).

5 129. Defendants are each a "person" as that term is defined in California Civil Code  
6 section 1761(c).

7 130. Plaintiffs and each proposed Class member's purchase of Defendants' Products  
8 constituted a "transaction," as that term is defined in California Civil Code section 1761(e).

9 131. Defendants' conduct alleged herein violates the following provisions of  
10 California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act (the "CLRA"):

11 (a) California Civil Code section 1770(a)(5), by negligently, recklessly,  
12 and/or intentionally representing that the Contaminated Dog Foods are healthy and safe for  
13 consumption and by failing to make any mention of Heavy Metals, pesticides, or acrylamide in  
14 the Contaminated Dog Foods;

15 (b) California Civil Code section 1770(a)(5), by negligently, recklessly,  
16 and/or intentionally representing that the Contaminated Dog Foods are natural, pure, and safe  
17 and by failing to make any mention of BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods;

18 (c) California Civil Code section 1770(a)(7), by negligently, recklessly,  
19 and/or intentionally representing that the Contaminated Dog Foods were of a particular standard,  
20 quality, or grade, when they were of another;

21 (d) California Civil Code section 1770(a)(9), by negligently, recklessly,  
22 and/or intentionally advertising the Contaminated Dog Foods with intent not to sell them as  
23 advertised; and

24 (e) California Civil Code section 1770(a)(16), by representing that the  
25 Contaminated Dog Foods have been supplied in accordance with previous representations when  
26 they have not.

27 132. As a direct and proximate result of these violations, Plaintiffs and the Class have  
28 been harmed, and that harm will continue unless Defendants are enjoined from using the



1 misleading Marketing described herein in any manner in connection with the advertising and sale  
2 of the Contaminated Dog Foods.

3 133. On September 18, 2018, counsel for Plaintiffs and the Class sent Defendants  
4 written notice (via U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested) that its conduct is in violation of  
5 the CLRA concerning the BPA, pesticide, acrylamide, and Heavy Metals omissions.

6 134. Defendants failed to provide appropriate relief for its violations of CLRA  
7 sections 1770(a)(5), (7), (9), and (16) within thirty days of receipt of Plaintiffs' September 18,  
8 2018, notification. In accordance with CLRA section 1782(b), Plaintiffs and the Class are  
9 entitled, under CLRA section 1780, to recover and obtain the following relief for Defendants'  
10 violations of CLRA sections 1770(a)(5), (7), (9), and (16):

- 11 (a) actual damages under CLRA section 1780(a)(1);
- 12 (b) restitution of property under CLRA section 1780(a)(3);
- 13 (c) punitive damages under CLRA section 1780(a)(4); and
- 14 (d) any other relief the Court deems proper under CLRA section 1780(a)(5).

15 135. Plaintiffs seek an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to, inter alia, California Civil  
16 Code section 1780(e) and California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

17 **COUNT III**

18 **(Violations of the California False Advertising Law, California Business**  
19 **& Professions Code Sections 17500, *Et Seq.*, Against Defendants on Behalf of the Class)**

20 136. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and realleges each and every allegation  
21 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

22 137. California's False Advertising Law prohibits any statement in connection with the  
23 sale of goods "which is untrue or misleading." Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §17500.

24 138. As set forth herein, Defendants' Claims that, among other representations, the  
25 Contaminated Dog Foods are healthy and safe for consumption are literally false and likely to  
26 deceive the public. Likewise, Defendants' statements and images that depict that the  
27 Contaminated Dog Foods are natural, pure, and safe are false and likely to deceive the public.

28

1 139. Defendants' Claims that, among other representations, the Contaminated Dog  
2 Foods are healthy and safe for consumption are untrue or misleading, as is failing to make any  
3 mention of Heavy Metals or acrylamide in the Contaminated Dog Foods. Likewise, Defendants'  
4 statements that, among other representations, the Contaminated Dog Foods are natural, pure, and  
5 safe are untrue or misleading, as failing to disclose the presence of BPA or pesticides in the dog  
6 food.

7 140. Defendants knew, or reasonably should have known, that all these Claims were  
8 untrue or misleading.

9 141. Defendants' conduct is ongoing and continuing, such that prospective injunctive  
10 relief is necessary, especially given Plaintiffs' desire to purchase the Products in the future if  
11 they can be assured that, so long as the Contaminated Dog Foods are, as advertised, healthy and  
12 safe for consumption and do not contain Heavy Metals, BPA, pesticides, and/or acrylamide.

13 142. Plaintiffs and members of the Class are entitled to injunctive and equitable relief,  
14 and restitution in the amount they spent on the Contaminated Dog Foods.

15 **COUNT IV**

16 **(Violations of the California Unfair Competition Law, California Business**  
17 **& Professions Code §§17200, *Et Seq.*, Against Defendants on**  
18 **Behalf of the Class)**

19 143. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and realleges each and every allegation  
20 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

21 144. The Unfair Competition Law prohibits any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent  
22 business act or practice." Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §17200.

23 **I. Fraudulent**

24 145. Defendants' statements that, among other representations, the Contaminated Dog  
25 Foods are pure, natural, and healthy, and safe for consumption are literally false and likely to  
26 deceive the public, as is Defendants' failing to make any mention of Heavy Metals, pesticides,  
27 acrylamide, and/or BPA in the Contaminated Dog Foods.

1           **II. Unlawful**

2           146. As alleged herein, Defendants have advertised the Contaminated Dog Foods with  
3 false or misleading Claims, such that Defendants' actions as alleged herein violate at least the  
4 following laws:

- 5           • The CLRA, California Business & Professions Code sections 1750, *et seq.*; and  
6           • The False Advertising Law, California Business & Professions Code sections  
7 17500, *et seq.*

8           **III. Unfair**

9           147. Defendants' conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,  
10 marketing, and sale of the Contaminated Dog Foods is unfair because Defendants' conduct was  
11 immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to consumers and the utility of their  
12 conduct, if any, does not outweigh the gravity of the harm to their victims.

13           148. Defendants' conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,  
14 marketing, and sale of the Contaminated Dog Foods is also unfair because it violates public  
15 policy as declared by specific constitutional, statutory, or regulatory provisions, including, but  
16 not limited to, the False Advertising Law and the CLRA.

17           149. Defendants' conduct with respect to the labeling, packaging, advertising,  
18 marketing, and sale of the Contaminated Dog Foods is also unfair because the consumer injury is  
19 substantial, not outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition, and not one consumers,  
20 themselves, can reasonably avoid.

21           150. In accordance with California Business & Professions Code section 17203,  
22 Plaintiffs seek an order enjoining Defendants from continuing to conduct business through  
23 fraudulent or unlawful acts and practices and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.  
24 Defendants' conduct is ongoing and continuing, such that prospective injunctive relief is  
25 necessary.

26           151. On behalf of himself and the Class, Plaintiffs also seek an order for the restitution  
27 of all monies from the sale the Contaminated Dog Foods, which were unjustly acquired through  
28 acts of fraudulent, unfair, or unlawful competition.

**COUNT V**

**(Breach of Express Warranty Against Defendants on Behalf of the Class)**

152. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

153. As set forth herein, Defendants made express representations to Plaintiffs and the Class that, among other representations, the Contaminated Dog Foods are as "nature intended" and formulated "based on your pet's ancestral diet."

154. Defendants also made express representations to Plaintiffs and the Class that the Contaminated Dog Foods were pure, healthy, and safe for consumption.

155. Defendants likewise made express representations to Plaintiffs and the Class that the Contaminated Dog Foods are natural, pure, and safe.

156. These promises became part of the basis of the bargain between the parties and thus constituted express warranties.

157. There was a sale of goods from Defendants to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

158. On the basis of these express warranties, Defendants sold the Contaminated Dog Foods to Plaintiffs and the Class.

159. Defendants knowingly breached the express warranties by including Heavy Metals, BPA, pesticides, and/or acrylamide in the Contaminated Dog Foods.

160. Defendants were on notice of this breach as they were aware of the included Heavy Metals, BPA, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or other contaminants in the Contaminated Dog Foods, and based on the public investigation by the Clean Label Project that showed the Products as unhealthy.

161. Privity exists because Defendants expressly warranted to Plaintiffs and the Class that the Contaminated Dog Foods were healthy, safe, natural, and/or pure.

162. Plaintiffs and the Class reasonably relied on the express warranties by Defendants.

1 163. As a result of Defendants' breaches of their express warranties, Plaintiffs and the  
2 Class sustained damages as they paid money for the Contaminated Dog Foods that were not what  
3 Defendants represented.

4 164. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Class, seek actual damages for  
5 Defendants' breach of express warranty.

6 **COUNT VI**

7 **(Breach of Implied Warranty Against Defendants on Behalf of the Class)**

8 165. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and realleges each and every allegation  
9 contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

10 166. As set forth herein, Defendants made affirmations of fact on the Contaminated  
11 Dog Foods' labels to the Class that, among other representations, the Contaminated Dog Foods  
12 are as "nature intended" and formulated "based on your pet's ancestral diet."

13 167. Defendants also made affirmations of fact on the Contaminated Dog Foods'  
14 labels to Plaintiffs and the Class that, among other representations, the Contaminated Dog Foods  
15 were pure, healthy, and safe for consumption and did not contain Heavy Metals or acrylamide.

16 168. The Contaminated Dog Foods did not conform to these affirmations and  
17 promises as they contained Heavy Metals and/or acrylamide at alarming and unsafe levels.

18 169. Defendants also made affirmations of fact on the Contaminated Dog Foods'  
19 labels to Plaintiffs and the Class that Contaminated Dog Foods were natural dog food and did not  
20 contain BPA or pesticides.

21 170. The Contaminated Dog Foods did not conform to these affirmations and  
22 promises as they contain BPA and/or pesticides.

23 171. These promises became part of the basis of the bargain between the parties and  
24 thus constituted implied warranties.

25 172. Defendants are merchants engaging in the sale of goods to Plaintiffs and the  
26 members of the Class.

27 173. There was a sale of goods from Defendants to Plaintiffs and the members of the  
28 Class.

1 174. Defendants breached the implied warranties by selling the Contaminated Dog  
2 Foods that failed to conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the container or  
3 label as each product contained Heavy Metals, BPA, pesticides, and/or acrylamide.

4 175. Defendants were on notice of this breach as they were aware of the Heavy  
5 Metals, BPA, pesticides, and/or acrylamide included in the Contaminated Dog Foods, and based  
6 on the public investigation by the Clean Label Project that showed the Products as unhealthy.

7 176. Privity exists because Defendants impliedly warranted to Plaintiffs and the Class  
8 through the warranting, packaging, advertising, marketing, and labeling that the Contaminated  
9 Dog Foods were pure, healthy, natural, and safe and by failing to make any mention of the  
10 Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA.

11 177. As a result of Defendants' breaches of their implied warranties of  
12 merchantability, Plaintiffs and the Class sustained damages as they paid money for the  
13 Contaminated Dog Foods that were not what Defendants represented.

14 178. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Class, seek actual damages for  
15 Defendants' breach of implied warranty.

16 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  
18 prays for judgment against the Defendants as to each and every Count, including:

19 A. An order declaring this action to be a proper class action, appointing Plaintiffs and  
20 their counsel to represent the Class, and requiring Defendants to bear the costs of class notice;

21 B. An order enjoining Defendants from selling the Contaminated Dog Foods until  
22 the higher and/or unsafe Heavy Metals, pesticides, acrylamide, and/or BPA are removed;

23 C. An order enjoining Defendants from selling the Contaminated Dog Foods in any  
24 manner suggesting or implying that they are healthy, natural, and safe for consumption;

25 D. An order requiring Defendants to engage in a corrective advertising campaign and  
26 engage in any further necessary affirmative injunctive relief, such as recalling existing Products;

27

28

1 E. An order awarding declaratory relief, and any further retrospective or prospective  
2 injunctive relief permitted by law or equity, including enjoining Defendants from continuing the  
3 unlawful practices alleged herein, and injunctive relief to remedy Defendants' past conduct;

4 F. An order requiring Defendants to pay restitution to restore all funds acquired by  
5 means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be an unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent  
6 business act or practice, untrue or misleading advertising, or a violation of the Unfair  
7 Competition Law, False Advertising Law, or CLRA, plus pre- and post-judgment interest  
8 thereon;

9 G. An order requiring Defendants to disgorge or return all monies, revenues, and  
10 profits obtained by means of any wrongful or unlawful act or practice;

11 H. An order requiring Defendants to pay all actual and statutory damages permitted  
12 under the Count alleged herein, including under CLRA section 1780(a)(1), in an amount to be  
13 determined by this Court but at least \$5,000,000;

14 I. An order requiring Defendants to pay punitive damages on any cause of action so  
15 allowable, including under CLRA section 1780(a)(4);

16 J. An order awarding attorneys' fees and costs to Plaintiffs, and the Class; and

17 K. An order providing for all other such equitable relief as may be just and proper,  
18 including under CLRA section 1780(a)(5).

19 **JURY DEMAND**

20 Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

Dated: October 18, 2018

LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.  
Robert K. Shelquist  
Rebecca A. Peterson (241858)

BY: s/ Rebecca A. Peterson

---

Rebecca A. Peterson, #392663  
100 South Washington Ave., Suite 2200  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Telephone: 612-339-6900  
Facsimile: 612-339-0981  
E-mail: rkshelquist@locklaw.com  
rapeterson@locklaw.com

LITE DEPALMA GREENBERG, LLC  
Joseph DePalma  
Steven J. Greenfogel  
Susana Cruz-Hodge  
570 Broad Street, Suite 1201  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Telephone: (973) 623-3000  
E-mail: jdepalma@litedepalma.com  
sgreenfogel@litedepalma.com  
scruzhodge@litedepalma.com

GUSTAFSON GLUEK PLLC  
Daniel E. Gustafson,  
Karla M. Gluek  
Raina C. Borrelli  
Canadian Pacific Plaza  
120 South 6th Street, Suite 2600  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Telephone: (612) 333-8844  
Facsimile: (612) 339-6622  
E-mail: dgustafson@gustafsongluek.com  
kgluek@gustafsongluek.com  
rborrelli@gustafsongluek.com



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

ROBBINS ARROYO LLP  
Kevin A. Seely  
Steven M. McKany  
600 B Street, Suite 1900  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Telephone: (619) 525-3990  
Facsimile: (619) 525-3991  
E-mail: kseely@robbinsarroyo.com  
smckany@robbinsarroyo.com

CUNEO GILBERT & LADUCA, LLP  
Charles Laduca  
Katherine Van Dyck  
4725 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20016  
Telephone: (202) 789-3960  
Facsimile: (202) 789-1813  
E-mail: charles@cuneolaw.com  
kvandyck@cuneolaw.com

**Attorneys for Plaintiffs**