

## **Pet Food Alert!**

*Although you won't find it on any pet-food label, many brands of pet food contain dog and cat remains. Each year, millions of dead dogs and cats are processed along with billions of pounds of other animal materials by companies known as renderers. The finished products - tallow and meat meals serve as raw material for thousands of items that include cosmetics and pet food.*

The National Animal Control Association estimates that U.S. animal shelters annually kill 13 million household pets. It's statistics show that 30% of these pets are buried, 30% are cremated and 40% - or about 5.2 million - are sent to rendering factories."

When you read pet-food labels and it says meat or bone meal, that's what it is - cooked and converted animals, including some dogs and cats," said Eileen Layne, of the California Veterinary Medical Association."

"Thousands and thousands of pounds of dogs and cats are picked up and brought here everyday," said one employee of Sacramento Rendering. "The small animals are a big part of the company," confirmed an ex-employee. The two estimated that the company rendered somewhere between 10,000 and 30,000 pounds of dogs and cats a day out of a total 250,000 to 500,000 pounds of cattle, poultry, butcher scrap and other materials."

"California law states that rendered dogs and cats must be labeled as "dry rendered tankage," but is often sold out of state labeled as "meat and bone meal." "For years we sold Ralston Purina meat meal and they had dogs and cats in their product for years and didn't know it until somebody squawked," said a rendering plant executive. Ralston Purina apparently tried to avoid using dog and cat meat thereafter, but, said the executive, "I don't recall any other pet food manufacturer saying they wouldn't buy it."