



## **Raw Pet Food and HPAI**

Raw pet foods and treats contain protein from an animal, like chicken and beef, and have not been cooked or heated to a high enough temperature to kill pathogens which can cause illness to humans and animals.

Some common ingredients in raw pet food include – uncooked muscle meat (like thigh and breast meat), uncooked organ meat (like liver and kidney), uncooked bones, uncooked eggs, and unpasteurized milk.

Raw pet food comes in many forms – Raw refrigerated, raw frozen, freeze-dried, or dehydrated.

The easiest way to identify a raw pet food product is to look for the word “raw” on the packaging. You can also check with the pet store or pet food company.

HPAI can be transmitted to animals by the animals eating contaminated raw foods. As of 3/18/2025, two nationwide recalls of raw pet food products have been initiated after reports that several housecats in multiple states have contracted HPAI after consuming raw pet food.

Symptoms of HPAI in cats include fever, lethargy, low appetite, reddened or inflamed eyes, discharge from the eyes and nose, difficulty breathing, and neurological signs like tremors, stiff body movements, seizure, lack of coordination, or blindness. People with cats exhibiting these signs after feeding them raw pet food should immediately contact their veterinarian.

No human infections have been identified among people handling raw pet food products nor has there been a case of HPAI in humans in New York State; the [CDC](#) assesses the current risk to the general U.S. population is low. However, individuals interacting with potentially infected animals or contaminated surfaces or fluids are at a higher risk, and it is prudent to take measures to protect public health.

People who handled the recalled products should watch for symptoms of bird flu, including eye redness or irritation (conjunctivitis), cough, sore throat, sneezing, runny/stuffy nose, muscle/body aches, headaches, fatigue, fever, trouble breathing, seizures, rash, diarrhea, nausea, and/or vomiting. People exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare provider and local health department. ([Savage Pet Recalls Savage Cat Food Chicken - Potential HPAI Contamination](#))

**More Information regarding animal food recalls and raw pet food can be found at the links below:**

Animal Food Recalls can be found here: [Recalls & Withdrawals | FDA](#)

[Raw Pet Food - What is raw pet food](#)

[Get the Facts! Raw Pet Food Diets can be Dangerous to You and Your Pet | FDA](#)

[FDA Outlines Ways to Reduce Risk of HPAI in Cats | FDA](#)