

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. 3141

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative Harry L. Roque Jr.

AN ACT
INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT ADDITIVES IN PET FOOD
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The pet food one purchases is composed of many extra ingredients, or additives, as well as the basic nutritional components needed to sustain our pets. Additives perform many functions ranging from preserving the freshness and nutritional value of the food to improving its taste, appearance and smell. You will find it essential to investigate the formulation of your pet food if your ferret develops allergies, skin problems, gastrointestinal problems or chronic flea infestations. Some experts suspect that these can be associated with food additives or with nutritional deficiencies.

Propylene glycol is normally used as a de-icing fluid for airplanes. It is put into pet foods to maintain moisture and texture. It is added to prevent bacterial growth but also inhibits the growth of friendly bacteria within the intestines. Propylene glycol decreases the amount of moisture in the digestive tract leading to constipation and cancer.

Ethoxyquin was originally designed as a rubber stabilizer and herbicide but before its approval, it was considered a poison. At the outset, it was to be used as a grain preservative in feed for animals not expected to live for more than two years before they are slaughtered. It has

been reported to cause liver cancer in dogs and malformations or even death in newborn puppies. BHT and BHA have been very poorly tested. It is reported to cause liver damage, metabolic stress, fetal abnormalities and serum cholesterol increases. It is added to preserve already rancid fats in the food. Fats in this form are very difficult to digest and can lead to a host of health problems including diarrhea, gas, bad breath and vomiting. Sodium Nitrate converts in the body to nitrosamines, which are very carcinogenic. They are added to retain the red colour to make the meat look fresh.

Heavy metal toxicity is another problem. Since meat is high on the food chain, contamination with heavy metals such as lead and mercury is very much a concern. Spot checks on cat food have revealed lead levels ranging from .9 ppm to 7.0 ppm and dog food anywhere from 1.0 to 5.6 ppm. It should never be over .5ppm. Thimerosal is a mercury containing preservative used in vaccines. Mercury is a known neurotoxin. There is a vast amount of research/discussions going on globally at this point in time relating to mercury in dental amalgams, vaccinations and the environment in general. Many researchers are linking mercury to the tremendous increase in autism in children.

This bill seeks to inform the public about the additives in the pet food that they give their pets and the possible hazards that they may cause.¹



HARRY L. ROQUE JR.

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, Third Regular Session, and subsequently refiled by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago during the Sixteenth Congress, Third Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. **3141**

Introduced by Representative Harry L. Roque Jr.

AN ACT
INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT ADDITIVES IN PET FOOD

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.*— This Act shall be known as the "Pet Food Additive
2 Information Act."

3 SECTION 2. *Requirements for labeling of pet food products.*— The following information
4 shall be included in the packaging of pet food products:

5 (A) Ingredients and all additives included in the pet food; and

6 (B) A warning if the additive is a proven carcinogen or is proven to cause detrimental
7 side effects based on standards to be set by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

8 SECTION 3. *Duty of the Bureau of Food and Drugs.* — The BFAD shall provide an
9 appropriate and cost-effective method of verification of the accuracy of the information
10 contained in pet food packaging. It shall also create a database of toxic and harmful additives in
11 pet food according to the following standards:

12 (A) For general recognition, there must be an expert consensus that the substance is safe
13 for use as a component of food; and

1 (B) This expert consensus of safety must be based on either (a) generally available data
2 and information to show common use of the substance in animal feed; or (b) scientific procedures,
3 which require the same quantity and quality of scientific data needed for BFAD approval of the
4 substance as a food additive.

5 In addition, this information must be published in the scientific literature.

6 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*—If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
7 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions
8 hereof.

9 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions
10 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or
11 modified accordingly.

12 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.*—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,