

JERRY McNERNEY  
11TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0511**

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE  
1210 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-1947

STOCKTON DISTRICT OFFICE  
2222 GRAND CANAL BOULEVARD, #7  
STOCKTON, CA 95207  
(209) 476-8552

PLEASANTON DISTRICT OFFICE  
5776 STONERIDGE MALL ROAD, #175  
PLEASANTON, CA 94588  
(925) 737-0727

July 26, 2012

The Honorable Margaret H. Hamburg, M.D.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hamburg:

I was disappointed to learn that numerous family dogs have been stricken with illness or death after eating certain chicken jerky dog treats made in China. Even more worrisome is that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) knew about this issue as early as 2007, and to this day, it has not been resolved. Having to wait five years or longer to resolve this problem is unacceptable, especially as pets continue to be harmed by a problem that can be prevented.

Pets are important parts of families, and their owners should not have to worry about food safety. Although the FDA issued cautionary warnings about chicken jerky treats, more needs to be done. Consumers should not have to worry that their pets have consumed contaminated products that are supposed to be safe.

I am aware that the FDA continues to investigate incidents involving chicken jerky, but this problem has persisted for far too long. I strongly urge the FDA to further investigate the origin of these dog treats and why they are toxic. Until the FDA is able to determine what is causing these adverse reactions in pets, the agency should make additional efforts to inform consumers about the potential dangers of these products. Depending on safety assessments, the FDA should strongly consider removing any potentially tainted products from store shelves.

There are many steps that the FDA can take to prevent harmful dog food products from reaching consumers, and I urge you to take immediate actions within your purview to enhance animal safety. I know the FDA works hard to protect American consumers and their pets, and I look forward to working with you to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress