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## **More pet food firms sued**

**Chow sold under different brand names**

By [SHARON LEM](#), SUN MEDIA

The \$100 million national class-action lawsuit against Menu Foods is expanding to include more companies that sold products on the recall list under their own brand name.

The lawyer representing families whose pets died or got sick due to tainted pet food, says he's in the process of filing claims against additional companies who sold products on the Menu Food recall list under their own brand name, such as IAMS and Nutro Products Inc.

"You have to appreciate Menu Foods doesn't sell any products under the Menu Food name, most are sold under pet food companies under their own names," Toronto lawyer Ted Charney said yesterday.

Several dogs and cats died of kidney failure or got sick after it was discovered that some Mississauga-based Menu Food products were tainted with rat poison.

The number of people whose pets have been affected is growing, Charney said.

"Since Friday there has been a number of pet owners who have come forth and also a number of cases whose pets have experienced kidney problems, but have survived. We've had about 30 calls so far from people who have experienced problems with their pets," Charney said.

Elizabeth de Bruin's cat Whiskey was her best friend and constant companion.

"Whiskey was my best buddy and went with me everywhere," sobbed de Bruin, of Newmarket.

"Whiskey's staple is dry food, but I gave him President's Choice turkey and giblets as a treat and 10 hours after he ate it, he was screaming in pain," de Bruin said, adding that the cat died of complete kidney failure.

Maria Modopoulos is offering to paint portraits of pets who died from tainted food.

"As a pet mom and a real animal lover, I know how devastated the families must be. I have a 13-year-old cocker spaniel. I can't even imagine what these people are going through," said Modopoulos, who studied at the Ontario College of Art and paints animal portraits as a hobby.

### COMPENSATE PET OWNERS

Menu Foods says it will compensate pet owners.

"If someone suspects their pet is ill, they should get to a vet immediately and keep the bills and packaging from the pet food eaten to demonstrate their pets ate the food on the recall list," said Menu Food spokesman Sam Bornstein.

Menu's web site is [menufoods.com/recall](http://menufoods.com/recall) or call 1-866-895-2708.