

1 **WEXLER TORISEVA WALLACE LLP**
 2 **MARK J. TAMBLYN** (State Bar No. 179272)
 3 Email: mjt@wtwlaw.us
 4 1610 Arden Way, Suite 290
 Sacramento, California 95815
 Telephone: (916) 568-1100
 Facsimile: (916) 568-7890

5 **KERSHAW, CUTTER, & RATINOFF, LLP**
 6 **STUART C. TALLEY** (State Bar No. 180374)
 7 E-mail: stalley@kcrlegal.com
 8 980 9th Street, 19th Floor
 Sacramento, California 95814
 Telephone: (916) 448-9800
 Facsimile: (916) 669-4499

9 [Additional Counsel Listed on Signature Page]
 10 Attorneys for *Plaintiff*

FILED
 2007 MAR 26 AM 11:16
 CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIF.
 LOS ANGELES

12 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 13 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Case No. **CV07-01958-BHK (ARW)**

14 **SHIRLEY SEXTON**, on behalf of
 15 herself and all others similarly
 16 situated,

17 **Plaintiff,**

18 v.

19 **MENU FOODS INCOME FUND,**
 20 **MENU FOODS, INC.**, a New
 Jersey corporation, and **MENU**
 21 **FOODS MIDWEST**
CORPORATION, a Delaware
 corporation,

22 **Defendants.**

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff Shirley Sexton ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others
2 similarly situated, alleges by and through her attorneys, upon information and
3 belief, as follows:

4 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

5 1. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of herself and a class of
6 consumers and entities who purchased brands of pet food manufactured by
7 Defendants that caused pets to suffer severe illness or death. Pet owners, believing
8 Defendants' products to be safe for pet consumption, incurred substantial expenses
9 relating to the purchase of the pet food and to the veterinary monitoring and
10 treatment that became necessary after their pets consumed Defendants' pet food.
11 Such expenses were even more extreme for those pet owners whose pets became
12 terminally ill after consuming Defendants' pet food products. Such costs arose and
13 were exacerbated by the undue amount of time taken by Defendants to announce
14 the dangers associated with its dog and cat foods. Although Defendants knew that
15 pet illnesses and deaths could be related to their pet foods, Defendants waited for
16 nearly a month before telling the public and the Food and Drug Administration
17 (FDA) that it was recalling its products. Defendants' lethal products, and the
18 companies' excessive delay in warning consumers and regulatory agencies as to its
19 dangers, resulted in significant financial loss to thousands of pet owners.

20 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 2. The Court has original jurisdiction over this class action pursuant to 28
22 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).

23 3. Venue in this judicial district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(1)
24 because Plaintiff resides in this judicial district. Venue is also proper pursuant to
25 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving
26 rise to the claim occurred in this judicial district.

27 4. The members of the putative Class have suffered aggregate damages
28 exceeding \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

1 **PARTIES**

2 5. Plaintiff Shirley Sexton is a resident of Los Angeles County, California.

3 6. Defendant Menu Foods Income Fund is a Canadian company with its
4 principal executive offices located at 8 Falconer Drive, Streetsville, Ontario,
5 Canada L5N 1B1.

6 7. Defendant Menu Foods, Inc. is a New Jersey corporation with its
7 principal executive offices located at 9130 Griffith Morgan Lane, Pennsauken, New
8 Jersey 08110.

9 8. Defendant Menu Foods Midwest Corporation is a Delaware corporation
10 with its principal executive offices located at P.O. Box 1046, 1400 East Logan
11 Avenue, Emporia, Kansas 66801. Menu Foods Midwest Corporation is a wholly-
12 owned subsidiary of Menu Foods, Inc.

13 9. Unless otherwise stated, Defendants Menu Foods Income Fund, Menu
14 Foods, Inc., and Menu Foods Midwest Corporation are collectively referenced as
15 "Defendants."

16 10. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were the agents, principals,
17 employees, servants, partners, joint venturers, and representatives of each other. In
18 doing the acts hereinafter alleged, they each were acting within the scope and
19 course of their authority as such agents, principals, employees, servants, partners,
20 joint venturers, and representatives, and were acting with the permission and
21 consent of the other Defendant.

22 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

23 11. Defendants manufacture and sell pet food internationally and are the
24 biggest supplier of pet food in North America.

25 12. Defendants sell pet food under nearly 100 different brand names, some
26 of which are the most popular brands of dog and cat food in the industry – e.g.,
27 Iams, Eukanuba, Science Diet, among others.

28 13. Defendants sell their brands internationally and in some of the largest

1 major retail chains in the United States, such as Wal-Mart, Safeway, Kroger,
2 PetSmart and Meijer.

3 14. On March 16, 2007, Defendants, in conjunction with the Food and Drug
4 Administration (FDA), announced a massive immediate recall of approximately 60
5 million containers of "cuts and gravy" pet food (pet food consisting of pieces of
6 meat in gravy) throughout the United States based on widespread reports of pet
7 illness and death, mostly related to kidney failure. The recall covers all "cuts and
8 gravy" we pet food produced and distributed by Defendants, including over ninety
9 different brands of dog and cat food. Some of the brands recalled include, Iams,
10 Eukanuba, Best Choice, Paws, and Nutro Max. Defendants' recall is the largest pet
11 food recall in United States history.

12 15. However, Defendants waited an excessive period of time before deciding
13 to recall its harmful and lethal products. Defendants first started receiving
14 complaints of pet illnesses and deaths as early as late-February, almost a full month
15 before deciding to recall its products. *See, e.g., CBSNews.com, Pet Food Co.*
16 *Knew of Problem Last Month*, March 20, 2007, at
17 <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/03/20/national/main2587087.shtml> (last
18 viewed March 22, 2007). Rather than announcing its products could be harmful to
19 pets as soon as it learned of pet illnesses and deaths, Defendants decided to conduct
20 its own testing. Defendants conducted tests involving over 50 animals to observe
21 reactions to its pet foods. Approximately one in six of the animals tested died. Yet,
22 Defendants again waited until as many as seven test subjects died after eating its pet
23 food before finally submitting its findings to the FDA and deciding that a recall and
24 announcement to the public would be necessary.

25 16. Due in no small part to this unnecessary and protracted delay, as of
26 March 21, 2007 there have been at least seventy-two reported pet deaths from
27 kidney failure nationwide and additional deaths continue to be reported by the hour.
28 One source indicated that 1,715 dogs and cats were either sick or dead as a result of

1 the recalled food products. See <http://www.petconnection.com/blog/> (last viewed
2 March 22, 2007).

3 17. Pet owners purchased Defendants' products believing them to be safe for
4 pet consumption and beneficial to their pets. However, the "cuts and gravy" style
5 pet food that pet owners across the nation have fed their pets has proved to be toxic,
6 causing renal failure in cats and dogs as well as physical disorders such as
7 dehydration, diarrhea, loss of appetite, increased thirst, lethargy, and vomiting.

8 18. Pet owners have incurred substantial expenses relating both to the
9 purchase of Defendants' pet food and from the medical costs associated with
10 monitoring and treating pets who have consumed, or were thought to have
11 consumed, Defendants' contaminated food products. Indeed, several pet owners
12 have accrued veterinary bills that have climbed into the several thousands of
13 dollars. Furthermore, for those pet owners whose pets became terminally ill, they
14 were forced to incur additional costs relating to their pets death, such as euthanizing
15 and, for some, burying or cremating their pet.

16 19. Currently, Defendants still have not identified the cause of the food
17 toxicity. However, aminopterin, a substance found in rat poisons, was recently
18 discovered in the recalled foods.

19 20. In addition, pet owners who have become increasingly concerned about
20 their pet's health after learning of the recall have received little to no relief from
21 Defendants. Defendants have failed to manage the high volume of incoming
22 complaints. Since instituting the recall, pet owners have been largely unable to
23 reach Defendants' customer service representatives, often encountering busy
24 signals or voicemail messages. See, e.g., *Thejournalnews.com, Pet Owners*
25 *Growling over Food Recall*, March 20, 2007, at
26 <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070320/BUSINESS>
27 [01/703200345/1066](http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070320/BUSINESS) (last viewed March 22, 2007). To be sure, Defendants have
28 been criticized for not being cooperative with customers, for not getting helpful

1 information out to the public sooner and for failing to “get control of the crisis . . .
2 employ[ing] a bunker mentality in times of trouble.” Joseph R. Perone, *The Star-*
3 *Ledger, Menu Foods Fails Test in Crisis Management*, March 21, 2007, available
4 at [http://www.nj.com/starledger/stories/index.ssf?/base/business-](http://www.nj.com/starledger/stories/index.ssf?/base/business-6/117445554784980.xml&coll=1)
5 [6/117445554784980.xml&coll=1](http://www.nj.com/starledger/stories/index.ssf?/base/business-6/117445554784980.xml&coll=1) (last viewed March 23, 2007).

6 21. Since the recall, Defendants have received scores of complaints and
7 questions from consumers who have purchased its contaminated pet food products
8 and from those whose pets have become ill or died after consuming those products.

9 22. The complaints found throughout the Internet and in many of the news
10 stories mentioned above each contain the same common theme of consumers who
11 unwittingly purchased Defendants’ food products and who were forced to take their
12 pets to veterinarians for medical treatment after their pets became extremely, and
13 sometimes terminally ill.

14 23. Plaintiff Shirley Sexton regularly purchased *Special Kitty* brand wet pet
15 food from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. before the recall was announced.

16 24. Four cats lived in Ms. Sexton’s household. Two of Ms. Sexton’s three
17 cats, Red and Kelso, ate the *Special Kitty* pet food every day. Spike, a cat
18 belonging to Ms. Sexton’s daughter, also ate *Special Kitty* pet food on a daily basis.

19 25. On or March 16 and March 17, 2007, Shirley noticed that both Red and
20 Kelso were ill. She took Red and her two other cats in to the veterinarian. Two of
21 the three cats, including Kelso, were initially found to be healthy. However, the
22 veterinarian discovered Red had kidney failure and decided to keep Red overnight.
23 On March 20, 2007, the veterinarian determined that Red’s condition had
24 significantly worsened and Ms. Sexton, in order to spare her pet from suffering any
25 further, made the decision to have Red euthanized that same day.

26 26. After her experience with Red, Ms. Sexton also brought her daughter’s
27 cat, Spike, to the veterinarian for testing. The veterinarian determined that Spike –
28 who also ate Wal-Mart’s *Special Kitty* brand food – was suffering from kidney

1 failure. As of the date of this complaint, Spike remains in the veterinary hospital.

2 27. To date, Ms. Sexton has incurred at least \$1,100 in veterinary bills.

3 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

4 28. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of
5 Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b) on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated
6 as members of the following class (the "Class"): All persons and entities that
7 purchased "cuts and gravy" style dog or cat food manufactured, distributed,
8 marketed and/or sold by Defendants.

9 29. Subject to additional information obtained through further investigation
10 and discovery, the Class definition may be expanded or narrowed by amendment or
11 amended complaint. Specifically excluded from the proposed Class are business
12 entities for purposes of Plaintiff's claim for relief under the California Consumers
13 Legal Remedies Act, Civil Code § 1750, *et seq.* Also specifically excluded are
14 Defendants, their officers, directors, agents, trustees, parents, children,
15 corporations, trusts, representatives, employees, principals, servants, partners, joint
16 venturers, or entities controlled by Defendants, and their heirs, successors, assigns,
17 or other persons or entities related to or affiliated with Defendants and/or their
18 officers and/or directors, or any of them; the Judge assigned to this action, and any
19 member of the Judge's immediate family.

20 30. **Numerosity.** The members of the Class are so numerous that their
21 individual joinder is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that
22 basis alleges, that the proposed class contains tens of thousands of members. The
23 precise number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff. The true number of
24 Class members are known by Defendants, however, and thus, may be notified of
25 the pendency of this action by first class mail, electronic mail, and by published
26 notice.

27 31. **Existence and Predominance of Common Questions of Law and**
28 **Fact.** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and

- 1 predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. These
2 common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 3 a. Whether Defendants intentionally, recklessly or negligently authorized
4 injurious pet food to enter the market;
 - 5 b. Whether Defendants failed to properly test their “cuts and gravy” style
6 dog and cat food before market entry of such food;
 - 7 c. Whether Defendants intentionally, recklessly or negligently delayed in
8 instituting a recall of its “cuts and gravy” style dog and cat food;
 - 9 d. Whether Defendants’ recall is adequate and properly notifies
10 potentially affected consumers;
 - 11 e. Whether Defendants’ conduct constituted unlawful, unfair, or
12 fraudulent business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
13 §§ 17200, et seq., as alleged herein;
 - 14 f. Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of their
15 conduct, as alleged herein;
 - 16 g. Whether Plaintiff and members of the Class have sustained damages as
17 a result of Defendants’ conduct, and, if so, what is the appropriate
18 measure of damages; and
 - 19 h. Whether Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to punitive
20 damages, and, if so, in what amount.

21 32. **Typicality.** Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the members
22 of the Class in that Plaintiff and each member of the Class purchased “cuts and
23 gravy” style dog or cat food manufactured, distributed, marketed and/or sold by
24 Defendants.

25 33. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately
26 protect the interests of the members of the Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel
27 experienced in complex consumer class action litigation, and Plaintiff intends to
28 prosecute this action vigorously. Plaintiff has no adverse or antagonistic interests

1 to those of the Class.

2 34. Superiority. A class action is superior to all other available means for
3 the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The damages or other
4 financial detriment suffered by individual Class members is relatively small
5 compared to the burden and expense that would be entailed by individual litigation
6 of their claims against the Defendants. It would thus be virtually impossible for
7 Class, on an individual basis, to obtain effective redress for the wrongs done to
8 them. Furthermore, even if Class members could afford such individualized
9 litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation would create the
10 danger of inconsistent or contradictory judgments arising from the same set of facts.
11 Individualized litigation would also increase the delay and expense to all parties
12 and the court system from the issues raised by this action. By contrast, the class
13 action device provides the benefits of adjudication of these issues in a single
14 proceeding, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court,
15 and presents no unusual management difficulties under the circumstances here.

16 35. In the alternative, the Class may be certified because:

- 17 a. the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members
18 would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudication with respect
19 to individual Class members that would establish incompatible
20 standards of conduct for the Defendants;
- 21 b. the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would
22 create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a
23 practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class members
24 not parties to the adjudications, or substantially impair or impede their
25 ability to protect their interests; and/or
- 26 c. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally
27 applicable to the Class thereby making appropriate final and injunctive
28 relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

1 36. Adequate notice can be given to Class members directly using
2 information maintained in Defendants' records, or through publication notice.

3 37. Defendants benefited from the sale of its "cuts and gravy" style dog and
4 cat food to Plaintiff and the Class. The benefit to Defendants can be identified from
5 the sale of such pet food to Plaintiff and the Class and that such monies can be
6 restored to Plaintiff and the Class. Such monies are the property of the Plaintiff and
7 the Class. All or a portion of this benefit retained by Defendants is money in which
8 Plaintiff and the Class have an ownership interest. Plaintiff and the Class were
9 injured and lost money as a result of Defendants' unfair, unlawful and fraudulent
10 business practices described herein.

11 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

12 **[Violation of Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, et seq.]**

13 38. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding
14 allegations as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each
15 and every Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

16 39. Defendants are each a "person" as defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(c).

17 40. Plaintiff and the proposed Class members are "consumers" within the
18 meaning of Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d).

19 41. Plaintiff's purchase of dog and cat food manufactured, distributed,
20 marketed and sold by Defendants constitute "transactions" within the meaning of
21 Civil Code section 1761(e) and 1770.

22 42. Defendants' conduct violated and continues to violate the CLRA in at
23 least the following respects:

- 24 a. In violation of Section 1770(a)(1) of the CLRA, Defendants
25 misrepresented the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of
26 goods or services; and
27
28

1 b. In violation of Section 1770(a)(5) of the CLRA, Defendants
2 represented that its goods or services sponsorship, approval,
3 characteristics, uses or benefits which they do not have.

4 43. Defendants engaged in these unfair or deceptive acts and practices with
5 the intent that they result, and which did result, in the sale of dog and cat food to
6 Plaintiff and the Class.

7 44. In engaging in unfair or deceptive conduct in violation of the CLRA,
8 Defendants actively concealed and intentionally failed to disclose material facts
9 about the characteristics of their dog and cat food, and further represented that such
10 food was suitable for pet consumption.

11 45. As a result of Defendants' acts and practices as alleged in this
12 Complaint, Plaintiff seeks an Order enjoining Defendants from continuing to
13 engage in unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices, and any other act
14 prohibited by law. Plaintiff has contemporaneous with this filing provided notice to
15 Defendants, and will amend to add claims for damages under the CLRA if
16 Defendants do not take appropriate corrective action.

17 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
18 **[Negligence]**

19 46. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding
20 allegations as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each
21 and every Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

22 47. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff and the Class to provide pet food
23 safe and suitable for pet consumption.

24 48. Through their failure to exercise due care, Defendants were negligent in
25 manufacturing, distributing, marketing and selling pet food to Plaintiff and the
26 Class.

27 49. Defendants failed to implement adequate quality control and adequate
28 testing of its pet food that they introduced into the stream of commerce for sale to
Plaintiff and the Class and for consumption by their pets.

1 50. Defendants knew, or should have known, that their pet food, as
2 described above, presents an unreasonable and unacceptable risk of injury or death
3 to pets, and would result in foreseeable and avoidable damage.

4 51. The losses and damages described herein were foreseeable and
5 avoidable.

6 52. Defendants' negligence proximately caused the losses and damages to
7 Plaintiff and the Class.

8 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
9 **[Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law,**
10 **Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*]**

11 53. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding
12 allegations as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each
13 and every Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

14 54. Defendants' acts and practices, described herein, constitute unlawful,
15 unfair or fraudulent business practices in violation of the Unfair Competition Law,
16 Business & Professions Code sections 17200 et seq ("UCL").

17 55. The utility of Defendants' manufacturing, distribution, marketing and/or
18 sale of contaminated dog and cat food is significantly outweighed by the gravity of
19 the harm they impose on Plaintiff and the Class. Defendants' acts and practices are
20 oppressive, unscrupulous or substantially injurious to consumers.

21 56. The above-described unfair, unlawful and fraudulent business practices
22 conducted by Defendants present a threat and likelihood of harm and deception to
23 members of the Class in that Defendants have systematically perpetrated and
24 continue to perpetrate the unfair, unlawful and fraudulent conduct upon members of
25 the public by engaging in the conduct described herein.

26 57. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered harm as a proximate result of the
27 wrongful conduct of the Defendants alleged herein, and therefore bring this claim
28 for relief for restitution and disgorgement. Plaintiff is a person who has suffered

1 injury in fact and has lost money and property as a result of such unfair
2 competition.

3 58. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17200 and 17203,
4 Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks an order of this Court: enjoining
5 Defendants from continued manufacture, distribution, marketing and sale of "cuts
6 and gravy" style dog and cat food in an unfair, unlawful and fraudulent manner, and
7 an order enjoining Defendants from collecting money from the Class from the sale
8 of pet food. Plaintiff further requests an order awarding Plaintiff and the Class
9 restitution and disgorgement of profits acquired by Defendants by means of such
10 unlawful acts and practices, so as to deter Defendants and to rectify Defendants'
11 unfair and unlawful practices and to restore any and all monies to Plaintiff and the
12 Class, which are still retained by Defendants, plus interest and attorneys' fees and
13 costs pursuant to, *inter alia*, Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

14 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
15 **[For Unjust Enrichment]**

16 59. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs
17 previously alleged herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each and every
18 Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

19 60. Defendants have received, and continue to receive, a benefit at the
20 expense of Plaintiff and members of the Class. Defendants have knowledge of this
21 benefit.

22 61. Defendants have charged and collected from consumers, including
23 Plaintiff and members of the Class, money for dog and cat food that endangers the
24 lives of their pets. Defendants thus have received benefits that they have unjustly
25 retained at the expense of Plaintiff and members of the Class.

26 62. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful acts and
27 conduct, Plaintiff and members of the Class were deprived of the use of their
28 monies that was unlawfully charged and collected by Defendants, and are therefore

1 entitled to restoration of their monies.

2

3

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
[Breach Of Express Warranty]

4

5

6

63. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs previously alleged herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each and every Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

7

8

64. Defendants expressly warranted that their “cuts and gravy” style pet food was suitable and safe for pet consumption.

9

10

11

65. Defendants also expressly warranted that “it manufacturer[s] the private-label wet pet-food industry’s most comprehensive product program with the highest standards of quality.”

12

13

14

15

66. Plaintiff and the Class were induced by Defendants’ marketing, advertising, promotion and labeling of the pet food as suitable “food” to rely upon such express warranty, and, in fact, relied upon the untrue warranty in purchasing the recalled pet food and feeding it to their pets.

16

17

67. Plaintiff and the Class were damaged as a proximate result of Defendants’ breach of their express warranty.

18

19

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
[Breach Of Implied Warranty]

20

21

22

68. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs previously alleged herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each and every Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

23

24

69. Defendants are merchants under section 2-104 and 2-314 of the Uniform Commercial Code.

25

26

27

28

70. Through their marketing, advertising, promotion and labeling of their “cuts and gravy” style pet food, Defendants impliedly warranted that such pet food was fit for the ordinary purpose for which it was intended, including to safely nourish pets with risk of illness or death, pursuant to section 2-314 of the Uniform

1 Commercial Code.

2 71. Through their marketing, advertising, promotion and labeling,
3 Defendants knew that Plaintiff and the Class would purchase their pet food for the
4 ordinary purpose of providing nourishment to their pets.

5 72. Defendants manufactured, distributed, marketed, advertised, promoted
6 and sole their pet food for the ordinary purpose for which it was purchased by
7 Plaintiff and the Class.

8 73. Plaintiff and the Class relied upon Defendants' representations and
9 warranties, and purchased and used Defendants' pet food for the ordinary purpose
10 for which it was sold.

11 74. Defendants' pet food purchased by Plaintiff and the Class were unfit for
12 their ordinary purpose when sold. Such food was sold while presenting a risk of
13 risk of illness or death to pets. Defendants have accordingly breached the implied
14 warranty of merchantability by selling such unfit pet food.

15 75. Plaintiff and the Class were damaged as a proximate result of
16 Defendants' breach of warranty.

17 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

18 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly
19 situated, prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 20 1. For an order certifying the Class under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of
21 Civil Procedure and appointing Plaintiff and her counsel of record to
22 represent the Class;
- 23 2. For restitution, disgorgement and/or other equitable relief as the Court
24 deems proper;
- 25 3. That pursuant to sections 17203 and 17204 of the Business and
26 Professions Code, Defendants be permanently enjoined from
27 performing or proposing to perform any of the aforementioned acts of
28 unfair, unlawful and fraudulent business practices;

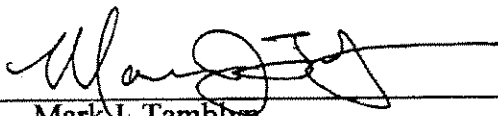
- 1 4. For compensatory damages sustained by Plaintiff and all others
- 2 similarly situated as a result of Defendants' unlawful acts and conduct;
- 3 5. For punitive damages pursuant to Civil Code § 1780(a)(4);
- 4 7. For a permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants from engaging in
- 5 the conduct and practices complained of herein;
- 6 8. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- 7 9. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert
- 8 witness fees; and
- 9 10. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and
- 10 proper.

JURY DEMAND

To the full extent available, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

13 Dated: March 26, 2007

WEXLER TORISEVA WALLACE LLP

15 By 
 16 _____
 17 Mark J. Tamblyn

18 1610 Arden Way, Suite 290
 19 Sacramento, California 95815
 Telephone: (916) 568-1100
 Facsimile: (916) 568-7890

20 Kenneth A. Wexler
 21 **WEXLER TORISEVA WALLACE LLP**
 22 One North LaSalle St., Suite 2000
 Chicago, Illinois 60602
 Telephone: (312) 346-2222
 Facsimile: (312) 346-0022

24 Stuart C. Talley
 25 **KERSHAW, CUTTER, & RATINOFF, LLP**
 26 980 9th Street, 19th Floor
 Sacramento, California 95814
 Telephone: (916) 448-9800
 Facsimile: (916) 669-4499

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class