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/s/Perry A. Craft Perry A. Craft, BPR # 6057 Craft & Sheppard, PLC The Shiloh Building 214 Centerview Drive Suite 233 Brentwood, Tennessee 37027 (615) 309-1707 (615) 309-1717 (fax)

/s/Nichole Bass Nicole Bass, BPR # 021383 905 Locust Street Knoxville, Tennessee 37902 (865) 310-6804

Cost Bond

We are sureties for costs not to exceed \$1,000.

/s/ A. James Andrews

Exhibit C

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WESTERN DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT ARKANSAS

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MAR 2 1 2007

CHAIS R. JOHNSON, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT '
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
FAYETTEVILLE DIVISION

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DEPUTY OF ERK

CHARLES RAY SIMS and PAMELA SIMS, individually and on behalf of all others aimitarly situated,

Plaintiffs.

VERSUS

MENU FOODS INCOME FUND, MENU FOODS MIDWEST CORPORATION, MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA INC., MENU FOODS, INC., MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC.,

Defendants.

5 CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-5053

# CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, come Plaintiffs, CHARLES RAY SIMS and PAMELA SIMS (hereinafter collectively "Plaintiff," "Plaintiffs", or "SIMS"), major residents in the State of Arkansas, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, who file this Class Action Complaint pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3), seeking monetary relief for themselves and the class they seek to represent. This suit is brought against MENU FOODS INCOME FUND, MENU FOODS MIDWEST CORPORATION, MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA INC., MENU FOODS, INC., and MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC., representing as follows:

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## GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- This is an action for damages relating to Defendants' design, manufacture, 1. sale, testing, marketing, advertising, promotion and/or distribution of unsafe canned and foil pouched dog and cat food.
- This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Defendants in this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiffs and Defendants and the matter in controversy involves a request that the Court certify a class action.
- Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a 3. substantial part of the acts, conduct and damages complained of occurred in this district as Plaintiffs' residency is in Benton County, Arkansas, within the geographical boundaries of this Court.

### PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- Defendant MENU FOODS INCOME FUND is an unincorporated company 4. with its principal place of business in Ontario, Canada. It is doing business in the State of Arkansas. Jurisdiction is appropriate pursuant to the Arkansas Long Arm Statute, Sec. 16-4-101, and service may be effected through the Hague Convention on service abroad of judicial and extrajudicial documents and civil or commercial matters (The Hague Convention) at 8 Falconer Drive, Streetsville, Ontario, Canada L5N 1B1.
- 5. MENU FOODS MIDWEST CORPORATION Is a Delaware corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service. The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

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- Defendent MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA INC. is a Delaware corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service, The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware.
- Defendant MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC. Is a Delaware corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service, The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware.
- 8. Defendant MENU FOODS, INC. is a New Jersey corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service, Corporation Trust Company, 820 Bear Tayern Road, West Trenton, New Jersey.
- 9. Defendants MENU FOODS INCOME FUND, MENU FOODS MIDWEST CORPORATION, MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA INC., MENU FOODS, INC., and MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC. are hereinafter referred to collectively as "Defendants" or "MENU."
- ORPORATION, MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA INC., MENU FOODS, INC., and MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC. are wholly owned subsidiaries of MENU FOODS INCOME FUND, a business entity registered in and headquartered in Ontario, Canada. MENU provides principal development, exporting, financing, holding company, marketing, production, research and servicing for MENU animal food products in the United States, including canned and foil pouched dog and cat food. MENU FOODS INCOME FUND is one of the largest animal food producing companies in the world, and MENU operates as one of the largest animal food companies in the United States,

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whether measured by number of products produced and sold, revenues, or market capitalization.

- 11. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were engaged in the business of the manufacturing, packaging, marketing, distribution, promotion, and sale of dog and cat canned and foil pouched food products (hereinafter the "Product"), and at all times herein relevant, were engaged in the promotion and marketing of animal food products, including canned and foil pouched dog and cat food.
- Plaintiff CHARLES RAY SIMS resides at 2705 W. Dogwood, Rogers, 12. Arkansas. At all times material to this complaint, he was a resident of Rogers, in the State of Arkansas.
- Plaintiff PAMELA SIMS resides at 2705 W. Dogwood, Rogers, Arkansas. 13. At all times material to this complaint, she was a resident of Rogers, in the State of Arkanses.
- 14. Plaintiffs CHARLES RAY SIMS and PAMELA SIMS were the owners of a family dog ("ABBY") at all times material to this complaint.
- This Court has diversity jurisdiction and jurisdiction pursuant to the Class 15. Action Fairness Act of 2005.

#### CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

16. Defendant MENU manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold canned and foil pouched dog and cat food to consumers in the United States. These consumers compose the putative class in this action and have rights that are substantially the same.

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- Defendant MENU has issued a recall for over 90 brands of dog and cat 17. canned and foil pouched food in the United States since March 16, 2007, translating to in excess of sixty million cans and pouches of dog and cat food recalled throughout the United States.
- 18. The consumers composing the putative class in this action consist of: (1) all persons or entities who purchased Menu Food brands at any time and disposed of or will not use the products based on publicity surrounding the safety and recall of the products; (2) all persons or entities who purchased Menu Foods products and fed products to their pets on or since December 6, 2006; and (3) all persons or entities who purchased Menu Food products from wholesale distributors on or since December 6, 2006 to the present.
- The consumers composing the putative class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; the questions of law or fact are common to all members of the class; the claims and defenses of Plaintiff SIMS are typical of the claims or defenses of the class; and Plaintiff SIMS will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.
- While the exact number and identities of the members of the class are 20 unknown at this time, it is asserted that the class consists of thousands of persons. Upon further identification of the recipient class, class members may be notified of the pendency of this action by published class notice and/or by other means deemed. appropriate by the Court.
- The sheer number of consumers composing the putative class are so 21. numerous as to make separate actions by each consumer impractical and unfair and a

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class action certification represents the superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy in question.

22. There is no plain, speedy or adequate remedy other than by maintenance of this class action because Plaintiffs SIMS are Informed and believe that the economic damage to each member of the class makes it economically unfeasible to pursue remedies other than through a class action. There would be a failure of justice but for the maintenance of this class action.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 23. Plaintiff's dog, ABBY, died as a direct result of the ingestion of canned and/or foil pouched dog food manufactured and distributed in the United States by Defendants.
- 24. Defendants distributed their "Cuts and Gravy" canned and foil pouched dog and cat food product by misleading users about the product and by failing to adequately warn the users of the potential serious dangers, which Defendants knew or should have known, might result from animals consuming its product. Defendants widely and successfully marketed Defendants' canned and foil pouched dog and cat food products throughout the United States by, among other things, conducting promotional campaigns that misrepresented the safety of Defendants' products in order to induce widespread use and consumption.
- 25. As a result of claims made by Defendants regarding the safety and effectiveness of Defendants' canned and foil pouched dog and cat food products, Plaintiff SIMS fed their dog, ABBY, canned dog food distributed under the format "Culs and Gravy", said product being manufactured and distributed by Defendants.

- As a result of Plaintiffs SIMS feeding their dog, ABBY, the Product 26. manufactured and distributed by Defendants, their dog developed severa health problems; including but not limited to anorexia, lethargy, diarrhea and vomiting.
- Plaintiffs SIMS took their dog, ABBY, to Dr. Eric P. Steinlage, at All Dogs 27. Clinic, Rogers, Arkansas, who performed tests and surgery on the dog.
- Dr. Eric P. Steinlage determined that Defendants' Product was the cause of the dog's kidney failure and the dog died on March 16, 2007.
- Had Plaintiff SIMS known the risks and dangers associated with 29. Defendants' canned and foil pouched dog food product sold under the format "Cuts and Gravy", or had Defendants disclosed such information to Plaintiff, he would not have fed Defendants' product to their dog, ABBY, and the dog would not have suffered subsequent health complications and ultimately died before the age of two.
- Upon information and belief, as a result of the manufacturing and marketing of Defendants' canned and foil pouched dog and cat food products, Defendants have reaped huge profits; while conceating from the public, knowledge of the potential hazard associated with the ingestion of Defendants' canned and foil pouched dog and cat food products.
- Defendants failed to perform adequate testing in that the adequate testing 31. would have shown that Defendants' canned and foil pouched dog and cat food products produced serious side effects with respect to which Defendants should have taken appropriate measures to ensure that its defectively designed product would not be placed into the stream of commerce and/or should have provided full and proper

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warnings accurately and fully reflecting the scope and severity of symptoms of those side effects should have been made.

- Defendants' had notice and knowledge as early as February 20, 2007, 32. that their Product presented substantial and unreasonable risks, and possible death, to animals consuming the Product. As such, sald consumers' dogs and cats, including Plaintiff's dog, ABBY, were unreasonably subjected to the risk of illness or death from the consumption of Defendants' Product.
- 33. Despite such knowledge, Defendants, through their officers, directors, partners and managing agents for the purpose of increasing sales and enhancing its profits, knowingly and deliberately failed to remedy the known defects of Defendants' Product in a timely manner, failed to conduct testing in a timely manner, and failed to warn the public in a timely manner, including Plaintiff, of the serious risk of illness and death occasioned by the defects inherent in Defendants' Product.
- 34. Defendants and their officers, agents, partners and managers intentionally proceeded with the manufacturing, distribution, sale and marketing of Defendants' Product, knowing that the dogs and cats ingesting the Defendants' Product would be exposed to serious potential danger, in order to advance their own pecuniary interests.
- 35. Defendants' conduct was wanton and willful, and displayed a conscious disregard for the safety of the Product and particularly of the damage it would cause pet owners like the SIMS, entitling these Plaintiffs to exemplary damages.
- Defendants acted with conscious and wanton disregard of the health and safety of Plaintiff's dog, ABBY, and Plaintiff requests an award of additional damages for the sake of example and for the purpose of punishing such entities for their conduct,

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in an amount sufficiently large to be an example to others, and to deter Defendants and others from engaging in similar conduct in the future. The above-described wrongful conduct was done with knowledge, authorization, and ratification of officers, directors, partners and managing agents of Defendants.

As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence as described herein, Plaintiff SIMS sustained damages in the loss of their family pet.

### AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION SOUNDING IN STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY - FAILURE TO WARN

- 38. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference each and every paragraph of this complaint as though set forth in full in this cause of action.
- 39. Defendants manufactured, marketed, distributed, and beildgua Defendants' Product to distribution centers throughout the United States. As such, Defendants had a duty to warn the public, including Plaintiff, of the health risks and possible death associated with using Defendants' Product.
- 40. Defendants' Product was under the exclusive control of Defendants, and was sold without adequate warnings regarding the risk of serious injury and other risks associated with its use.
- As a direct and proximate result of the defective condition of Defendants' Product as manufactured and/or supplied by Defendants, and as a direct and proximate result of hagligence, gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, or other wrongdoing and actions of Defendants described herein, Plaintiff suffered damages.
- Upon information and belief, Defendants knew of the defective nature of 42. Defendants' Product but continued to design, manufacture, market, and sell it so as to maximize sales and profits at the expense of animal health and safety, in knowing,