



Keep pet food away from kids to prevent salmonella.



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## Kibble concerns

You know you need to be vigilant about preventing salmonella when handling raw chicken, but you might not be aware that pet food, treats and vitamins also pose serious contamination dangers.

The Food and Drug Administration recalled 13 pet products from 2006 to 2008 due to possible salmonella contamination, according to Casey Barton Behravesh, veterinary epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One manufacturer might make as many as 20 different brands of pet food, so contamination scares can be widespread and involve multiple products.

Kids are at greater risk, Behravesh says, because small children often grab and put pet food in their mouths if they have access to it, and their less-developed immune systems make them more susceptible than adults to getting sick from salmonella-tainted pet food.

To keep your family safe from salmonella, be aware of potential hazards of multitasking, such as preparing your baby's bottle right after dumping food in Fido's bowl, and always wash your hands after feeding pets. Feed pets in a room away from where your food is prepared, and clean their bowls outside if possible. Never use the same sponges on animal bowls that you use for your own, and always disinfect your kitchen sink after washing them.

**Ruff love** Do you coo soothingly when your dog starts barking or sharply tell him or her to stop? Either way, you could be teaching your dog that barking begets attention from you, say Dawn Sylvia-Stasiewicz and Larry Kay, authors of *The Love That Dog Training Method* (Workman).

Redirect your dog's focus to a task, such as sitting or making eye contact with you. And make sure you're giving him attention at other times, not just during spurts of annoying barking.



### DIY pet-icures Save your cash—and your furniture

Holistic veterinarian Cheryl Cross, D.V.M., of Knoxville, Tenn., offers these claw-clipping tips:

1. Have some of your kitty's favorite treats handy, and rest him or her comfortably on your lap or on a table.
2. Hold a paw in one hand and gently press a toe pad to extend the claw. Some cats are uncomfortable having their

feet handled, so you might need to build trust doing just this step before any clipping.

3. When the claw is extended, you'll see the pink tissue (the quick) on the inside of the claw. Beyond the quick is the more transparent nail that you'll be trimming (use trimming scissors for cat nails or regular human nail clippers). The quick

contains blood vessels and nerves, so cutting into it can cause mild pain and bleeding.

4. To remove the sharp tip below the quick (away from the toe), trim about halfway between the end of the quick and the tip of claw. (Cut conservatively until you get the hang of it.) If you clip the quick, dab cornstarch on the nail tip.

