Legal Notice From The United States District Court For The Eastern District Of Tennessee At Knoxville

# If you bought certain recalled Diamond Pet Food Products in 2005, you may be entitled to a payment from a legal settlement.

A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit about certain Diamond Pet Food products. The settlement provides for an amount of up to \$3.1 million to pay consumers who purchased recalled Diamond Pet Food products, and to compensate dog owners whose dogs were injured by eating Diamond Pet Food products.

### WHO'S INCLUDED?

You are a Class Member if you bought recalled Diamond Brand or Country Value Brand Pet Food product in 2005, and did not return the food for a refund. You are additionally a class member if your dog was injured or if you incurred a veterinary bill as a result of your dog eating Diamond Brand Dog Food.

# WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

The lawsuit has alleged that Diamond Pet Foods initiated a recall of certain products in December of 2005, and that certain consumers have not received a refund for recalled food. The lawsuit also alleges that certain dog food manufactured by Diamond contained aflatoxin and that dogs were injured and/or their owners incurred veterinary bills because of the food.

Diamond denies that the plaintiff is entitled to the relief sought. The settlement is neither an admission of wrongdoing nor an indication that Diamond violated any laws. A court has not made any findings as to which side is right in the case. The settlement is designed to resolve the case.

## WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

Diamond has agreed to create a settlement fund of up to \$3.1 million to pay for valid claims and for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses as may be established by the court. The settlement agreement, available at the website, describes the details of the settlement

The settlement provides that consumers who purchased recalled dog food and did not already return it for a refund may receive money, provided the class member establishes that he or she purchased recalled Diamond Dog Food and did not return it. Additionally, the settlement fund

provides that class members who submit a valid claim showing that their dog was injured or that they incurred a veterinary bill as a result of Diamond Dog Food will be entitled to a payment for veterinary expenses. The settlement also provides that Diamond will pay attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses incurred in this lawsuit.

### HOW DO YOU ASK FOR A PAYMENT?

Call the number listed below or go to the website to obtain a claim form, or send a request to the address below and a notice and claim form will be sent to you. If you believe you are a class member, fill out the claim form and mail it to the address below. All claims must be postmarked by April 15, 2008.

# WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER OPTIONS?

If you don't want to be legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself by March 16, 2008 or you will not be able to sue Diamond about these claims ever again. If you exclude yourself, you will not get any money from the settlement. To exclude yourself, you must send a letter by mail stating that you want to be excluded. You must include your name, address, telephone number and signature. You must mail your request to: Diamond Pet Food Settlement, c/o The Garden City Group, Inc., P.O. Box 9214, Dublin, OH 43017-4614. If you stay in this settlement class, and you wish to object to the settlement, you must notify the court of your intent to object by February 26, 2008. The website explains how to exclude yourself or how to object to the settlement.

The court will hold a fairness hearing on March 26,2008 at 1:30 p.m. to consider whether to approve the settlement and a request for attorneys' fees by the lawyers representing the class members. The lawyers representing class members are requesting a fee of \$465,000.00, and expenses of \$10,735.00 from the settlement fund. This is only a summary of the settlement agreement. To learn more about the settlement, call toll free 1-800-960-6651, go to the website, and/or write to Diamond Pet Food Settlement, c/o The Garden City Group, Inc., P.O. Box 9214, Dublin, OH 43017-4614.

1-800-960-6651

www.RecalledPetFoodSettlement.com