

From: "Office of the Governor (imailagent)" <REDACTED >
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 4:15 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: Raw Milk Concerns (Intranet Quorum IMA00334105)

Thank you for contacting Governor Larry Hogan regarding the Maryland Department of Agriculture's proposed regulations on pet food. The Governor received your correspondence and asked me, as Secretary of Maryland Department of Agriculture, to respond on his behalf.

As you are aware, the Department has submitted regulations governing the distribution, labeling, nutritional adequacy and caloric intake of pet food. The safety and well-being of pets is a top priority of our Department, as is consumer protection. These regulations will greatly enhance our ability to ensure pets and consumer are protected by allowing the Department to have more oversight of the pet food industry in Maryland.

There are several provisions of the proposed regulations that address raw milk being distributed as pet food. The first is a requirement that it be packaged in containers that do not resemble those used for packaging milk for human consumption. The second is that it cannot be stored at retail locations with or in the vicinity of milk or milk products intended for human consumption. Thirdly, the Department will require a production date, "best by" date, or a unique lot code which will help identify and trace the source of product if there is a health or safety concern. There are no provisions regarding dye being added to the milk. **Please note that it is still illegal to sell raw milk for human consumption in the State of Maryland.**

The draft regulations will be available online at www.dsd.state.md.us/MDR/mdregister.html. Should you have any concerns after reviewing them, public comment will be accepted.

If you have any further questions or comments, you should also feel free to contact Tom Phillips, Program Manager of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's State Chemist Section at 410-841-2721 or via email at tom.phillips@maryland.gov. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call me at 410-841-5880 or via email at Joe.Bartenfelder@maryland.gov

Sincerely,



Joseph Bartenfelder
Secretary