

**Patricia D. Hastings**

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**To:** "NJinPAS Network" <NJinPASNetwork@AESOP.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2004 11:55 AM  
**Subject:** Counterfeit Pesticide Products For Dogs and Cats Found - Retailers Ordered to Stop Sales

Press Release Excerpted from EPA Pesticide Program Updates from EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs  
03/05/04

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**Counterfeit Pesticide Products For Dogs and Cats Found – Retailers Ordered to Stop Sales**

EPA is acting to disrupt an effort to distribute counterfeit pet pesticides. The Agency has ordered pesticide distributors and retailers in a number of states to stop selling **counterfeit pet pesticide products which falsely contain EPA Registration numbers and labeling for the "Advantage" and "Frontline" brands of pesticides**. "Advantage" and "Frontline" are trade names of widely available pesticides for control of fleas and ticks on cats and dogs.

The counterfeit pesticides appear to have been unlawfully imported and packaged in retail cartons which are designed to look similar to legitimately registered pesticides sold in the U.S. EPA's investigation indicates that the counterfeit products have been sold to distributors and retailers throughout the country. The counterfeit products have outer retail cartons that are made to resemble EPA registered pesticides. Inside the cartons are applicators labeled and packaged for overseas markets. In some cases, the pesticide applicators may not have the proper child-resistant packaging or the accompanying instructional leaflet required by the Agency is missing. In addition, the consumer cannot be assured that the pesticide dosage is correct for the animal pictured on the retail carton.

The counterfeit products may be different from legitimate Advantage and Frontline products in several ways. EPA has posted detailed information, including photos of legitimate products, at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/petproduct.htm> .

Counterfeit products should be disposed of according to accepted procedures for other household chemicals. Many communities and municipalities have local resources to dispose of household chemicals, and consumers are encouraged to contact their local solid waste authority for more information on disposal programs for chemicals. Pet owners who are concerned their pet may be affected by counterfeit products should contact their veterinarian.

EPA regulates all pesticides used in the U.S. Before a pesticide can be marketed in this country the Agency performs a rigorous scientific review to ensure that use of the product is not likely to cause harmful effects on people, pets or the environment. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA requires pesticide products to contain instructions for proper use, safety precautions to follow and directions for proper disposal of unused product and their containers. **Legitimate Advantage and Frontline products that have been through EPA's comprehensive review process are registered for use in the United States, and are not affected by this action.** Because the counterfeit pesticides do not conform with established safeguards, the Agency has issued "Stop Sale" orders on the counterfeit products in question. Extensive additional information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/petproduct.htm> .

**Background:** At this weblink, EPA provides:

"For individual consumers, there is no penalty for purchasing a counterfeit product. **Penalties only apply to persons who distribute or sell counterfeit products.** However, purchasing a counterfeit pesticide may place you and your family at risk. For example, first-aid treatment directions may not be immediately available in case of an emergency. Further, a child may be harmed if he or she is able to open a package that is not child-resistant. Thus, EPA is recommending that consumers dispose of product that has been discovered to be counterfeit.

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