Summary of Law for Ensuring the Safety of Pet Food

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Animal Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
Japan
1. Purpose of Law
This law aims to ensure the safety of pet food by providing regulations regarding the manufacturing, etc. of pet food, thus safeguarding the health of pets and contributing to the protection of animals.

2. Focus of Laws and Regulations
Pet food for dogs and cats

3. Regulations for Ensuring Safety
- The Government of Japan establishes standards and specifications; prohibits the manufacture, import and sale of pet food and other products that do not meet these standards or specifications; prohibits the manufacture, import and/or sale of pet food that contains harmful substances and other articles and/or orders the destruction of said pet food when deemed necessary to prevent damage to the health of pets.
- Notification by manufacturers and importers, record keeping, collection of reports, on-the-spot inspections, etc.
2. Joint Council based on the Pet Food Safety Law

The Government of Japan is required to take into consideration the opinions of the Joint Council when establishing standards and specifications in accordance with the Pet Food Safety Law.

- Central Environmental Council
  - Committee on Animal Protection
  - Pet Food Subcommittee (11 members)

- Agricultural Materials Council
  - Feed Safety committee (14 members)
  - Subcommittee on Pet Food (6 members)

Committee made up of experts to provide technical expertise regarding the establishment of standards, specifications, etc. (developing drafts)
3. Government and Ministerial Ordinances Pursuant to the Pet Food Safety Law

**Government Ordinances Pursuant to Pet Food Safety Law**
(Main Point)
- Identify dogs and cats as the “pets” described in the law

**Ministerial Ordinance (Rules of enforcement)**
(Main Points)
- Procedures and forms for notification by manufacturers and importers
- Items subject to required record keeping for relevant parties

**Ministerial Ordinance (Standards and Specifications of Pet Food)**
(Main Points)
- Standards on the methods of manufacturing required to ensure pet food safety
- Specifications for ingredients (establishes maximum levels for harmful substances)
- Standards for labeling