

## Pet owners allege fraud

*by UPI*

CHICAGO - Chicago-area plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit against the pet food company linked to the deaths of dogs and cats accused the company of fraud.

Plaintiff Ben DeLong, of Wadsworth, Ill., told CNN one of his three cats died and another became ill after eating the foods recalled by Menu Foods.

DeLong claimed Menu Foods "knew something was wrong and they didn't come forward as quickly as they should have."

"Basically, my wife and I, we poisoned our cats without even knowing it," he told CNN.

"We believe Menu Foods made a decision to put short-term corporate interests ahead of the interests of its consumers and because of that we have thousands of families mourning the loss of their pets and that shouldn't have happened," attorney Jay Edelson, who represents the plaintiffs, told CNN.

The 200 plaintiffs are seeking punitive damages for emotional distress, Edelson said.

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