

# Dutch recall 11 tonnes of French horsemeat

January 14 2014

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Dutch authorities said Tuesday they have recalled 11 tonnes of horsemeat that was trafficked from France last year.

The meat was correctly labelled as horse but was unfit for [human consumption](#) as some of it came from animals used by scientists to help produce anti-rabies and other serums.

Police in December made a score of arrests in southern France following a tip-off that 200 horses, including 60 owned by pharmaceutical giant Sanofi, had ended up in abattoirs after their veterinary certificates had been falsified.

Around 11 tonnes of horsemeat that could contain the suspect meat were delivered to five Dutch companies between January and October 2013, the NVWA food safety authority said in a statement.

The meat was then sold on to restaurants as horsemeat, but also turned into [pet food](#), the NVWA said.

"Of the 11,000 kilos, we have found around 1,000 kilos," NVWA spokesman Brenno Bruggink told AFP.

"It's almost 100 percent certain the rest has been eaten."

Dutch junior [public health](#) minister Sharon Dijksma said in a letter to parliament that the risk to public health was "very limited or non-existent" because the animals were slaughtered in EU-approved

abattoirs.

The case follows a Europe-wide health scare last year when horsemeat was found in millions of ready meals labelled as containing only beef.

Sanofi, which has been cleared of any wrongdoing, has said the horses were used to provide blood for the manufacture of serums against tetanus and rabies and stressed they had not been used for drugs testing.

Eating horsemeat is regarded as taboo in some European countries, notably Britain, but is still widespread in Belgium, France, Spain and Italy, although consumption is in decline.

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