



Otonabee Animal Hospital

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July 2017 Newsletter

Veterinary Med Counterfeiting

The following is taken from an article which was published April 6th 2017 at securingindustry.com under pharmaceutical packaging.

We wanted to share this information with you as we feel it is of the utmost importance that as many people as possible be aware that this goes on – especially bearing in mind that this is only one proven incident of such counterfeiting.....

Packaging firm CEO pleads guilty to veterinary med counterfeiting

Phil Taylor, 04-Apr-2017

The chief executive of a packaging contractor in the US has admitted selling counterfeit animal health product labels and packaging in a federal court.

48-year-old California resident Paul S. Rodriguez Jr – who was in charge of Santa Ana, California-based company Action Packing and Design – pleaded guilty to intentionally trafficking in counterfeit labels and packaging for anti-parasite products and veterinary medicines between July 2015 and December 2016.

His operation produced counterfeit artwork for flea control products Frontline and Frontline Plus sold by Merial, an animal health company located in Duluth, Georgia, as well as **other Merial veterinary products**. The Department of Justice also notes that Rodriguez trafficked in counterfeit trademarked Rimadyl labels, a veterinary painkiller marketed by Zoetis, a pharma company based in Florham Park, New Jersey.

Sentencing is currently set for October 2 before US District Judge Nancy Atlas, at which time Rodriguez faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a possible \$2m fine, says the DoJ.

Although Frontline is not licensed here, that does not prevent the online sale of it and other products to consumers in Canada. The best we can hope for is that those unfortunate pets who were exposed to unknown substances/incorrect doses were at worst unprotected while using these counterfeit products. However, the risk of dangerous, expired or otherwise inappropriate products is very real and will not have stopped with the guilty plea of one man and his disgraceful counterfeiting company.