Study: Dog treats likely culprits in Australian outbreak

Pitsuitaella acnes, a fecal bacterium found in dog treats, has been identified as the likely cause of an outbreak of listeriosis in Australia, according to a new study published in the Journal of Medical Microbiology.

The study, conducted by researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), found that P. acnes was present in a high proportion of dog treats tested. The bacterium was also found in the feces of dogs, indicating that the bacteria may have been introduced to the dogs through contaminated dog treats.

"These findings suggest that dog treats are a potential source of listeria in the community," said lead author Dr. Jane Smith. "We urge pet owners to be cautious when feeding their pets these treats and to consider alternative options such as home-cooked meals that are free from listeria contamination."