FY 2022 CONGRESSIONAL HEARING FACT SHEET
SERESTO PET COLLAR INCIDENTS

BACKGROUND:

- Seresto is a dog and cat collar designed to kill fleas, ticks and lice and contains two active ingredients, flumethrin and imidacloprid.
- It was first registered in 2012 with the company Bayer. It is now owned by Elanco.
- The collar is also used on Arizona tribal lands and has successfully reduced the number of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever infections in local tribal communities.
- Since its registration in 2012, there have been over 86,000 incidents reported on the collar.
- Seresto is registered in the EU; however, the Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) declined to register the collar during their review.
- Recently there have been numerous press inquiries on the Seresto pet incidents as well as congressional inquiries from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform's Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy and Senator Bernard Sanders.

KEY POINTS:

- Registrants of pesticide products, including pet care products, are required to report incidents to EPA under the adverse effects' provisions of FIFRA 6(a)(2).
- The Seresto collar incidents reported to EPA range in severity from small rashes to pet death. Incidents are rated for plausibility from unlikely that the collar caused the incident to probable.
- While the volume of incidents reported is concerning, they need to be analyzed in the context of sales, severity and likelihood that the report was caused by the collar, in comparison with other products.
- Analyzing incident reported can be challenging. Many of the reports are anecdotal, with no indication of whether the user followed label use instructions or used a product appropriate for the pet type and size.
- OCSPP is working across the federal agency community to ensure the best analyses of these products are possible.

TALKING POINTS:

- The safety of all pesticide products is of highest priority to the agency. We work every day to ensure that products in the marketplace are safe.
- The agency is actively Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) with Elanco to further understand the full context on the Seresto incidents. Within FIFRA authority, we will be issuing a directive to the company to provide additional information to better characterize the nature and scale of the incident reports. This reporting is more extensive than standard reporting practices.
- Our analysis of the incidents is actively underway and we will take appropriate action after we have completed our assessment of the incidents. We plan to collaborate with experts from other regulatory authorities in our analyses of the incident data.
- EPA encourages pet owners to discuss with their veterinarian whether flea and tick control is needed for their pets, which type of control product they should use, to read the entire label before using the recommended pesticide product, and to follow all directions carefully, including monitoring the pet after application. If side effects develop, the label tells the consumer to consult the pet's veterinarian immediately. With all pesticide products, consumers should notify the manufacturer, their state's regulatory authority, and/or the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) of any adverse effects that may arise.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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I believe we are trying to get this letter issued before the first budget hearing. If so, this sentence will need to be updated.

Approver: Darlene Dinkins, 703-305-5214 April 5, 2021