

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Freshpet, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

20-1884894
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

400 Plaza Drive, 1st Floor
Secaucus, New Jersey 07094
(201) 520-4000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Richard Kassar
Chief Financial Officer
400 Plaza Drive, 1st Floor
Secaucus, New Jersey 07094
(201) 520-4000

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Christian O. Nagler
David A. Curtiss
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
601 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 446-4800

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	7,878,773	\$35.53	\$279,932,804.69	\$34,851.63

- (1) In accordance with Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this registration statement shall be deemed to cover any additional shares to be offered or issued from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions with respect to the shares being registered.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act, based on the average of the high and low prices of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market on August 29, 2018. The proposed maximum offering price per share of common stock will be determined from time to time by the selling stockholders named herein, or such additional selling stockholders as may be named in one or more prospectus supplements, in connection with, and at the time of, the sale by such selling stockholders of the shares of common stock registered hereunder.

PROSPECTUS



Freshpet, Inc.

Common Stock

The selling stockholders of Freshpet, Inc. (“Freshpet,” the “Company,” “we” or “us”) named in this prospectus or as may be named in one or more prospectus supplements (the “Selling Stockholders”) may offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time in amounts, at prices and on terms that will be determined at the time of the offering. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of our common stock offered by the Selling Stockholders.

The Selling Stockholders may offer and sell shares of our common stock, to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these shares of common stock. The specific terms of any shares to be offered will be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. Our registration of the securities covered by this prospectus does not mean that the Selling Stockholders will offer or sell any shares of our common stock.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market (“NASDAQ”) under the symbol “FRPT.” On September 5, 2018, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$37.55 per share.

Investing in our shares involves a number of risks. See “[Risk Factors](#)” on page 2 to read about factors you should consider before investing in our common stock.

This prospectus may not be used to offer and sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) nor any state securities commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is September 6, 2018.

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Neither we nor the Selling Stockholders have authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus or any associated “free writing prospectus.” In this prospectus, any reference to an applicable prospectus supplement may refer to a “free writing prospectus,” unless the context otherwise requires. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement. This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC as a “well-known-seasoned issuer” as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), using a “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf registration process, the Selling Stockholders may, from time to time, offer and sell shares of our common stock in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the shares of our common stock that the Selling Stockholders may offer. Each time the Selling Stockholders sell shares of our common stock, we will, to the extent required by law, provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of that offering. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of our common stock unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate as of the date on its respective cover, and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, unless we indicate otherwise. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

If the description of the offering varies between any prospectus supplement and this prospectus, you should rely on the information in the applicable prospectus supplement. Any statement made in this prospectus or in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus will be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not, except as so modified or superseded, constitute a part of this prospectus. Before making an investment in our common stock, you should carefully read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus, together with the information incorporated and deemed to be incorporated by reference herein as described under “Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference” and the additional information described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

Except where the context otherwise requires or where otherwise indicated, references in this prospectus to the “Company,” “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to Freshpet, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference may contain and refer to certain statements that are not historical facts that contain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). These forward-looking statements represent our goals, beliefs, plans and expectations about our prospects for the future and other future events. Such statements involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Forward-looking statements include all statements that are not historical fact and can be identified by terms such as “may,” “intend,” “might,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “believe,” “estimate,” “plan,” “project,” “predict,” “potential” or the negative of these terms. Although these forward-looking statements reflect our good-faith belief and reasonable judgment based on current information, these statements are qualified by important factors, many of which are beyond our control, that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to:

- our ability to successfully implement our growth;
- our ability to generate sufficient cash flow or raise capital on acceptable terms;
- the loss of key members of our senior management team;
- allegations that our products cause injury or illness or fail to comply with government regulations;
- the loss of a significant customer;
- the effectiveness of our marketing and trade spending programs;
- our ability to introduce new products and improve existing products;
- our limited manufacturing capacity;
- the impact of government regulation, scrutiny, warning and public perception;
- the effect of false marketing claims;
- adverse weather conditions, natural disasters, pestilences and other natural conditions affecting our operations;
- our ability to develop and maintain our brand;
- the effect of potential price increases and shortages on the inputs, commodities and ingredients that we require;
- our ability to manage our supply chain effectively;
- volatility in the price of our common stock; and
- other factors described from time to time in our reports filed or furnished with the SEC, and in particular those factors set forth in the section entitled “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report and Quarterly Reports.

While we believe that our assumptions are reasonable, we caution that it is very difficult to predict the impact of known factors, and it is impossible for us to anticipate all factors that could affect our actual results. All forward-looking statements are expressly qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements. We caution you that the important factors referenced above may not contain all of the factors that are important to you. In addition, we cannot assure you that we will realize the results or developments we expect or anticipate or, even if substantially realized, that they will result in the consequences we anticipate or affect us or our operations in the way we expect.

All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. Factors or events that could cause our actual results to differ may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of them.

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We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise. If we do update one or more forward-looking statements, there should be no inference that we will make additional updates with respect to those or other forward-looking statements.

THE COMPANY

We started Freshpet with a single-minded mission to bring the power of real, fresh food to our dogs and cats. We were inspired by the rapidly growing view among pet owners that their dogs and cats are a part of their family, leading them to demand healthier pet food choices. Since inception of the Company in 2006, we have created a comprehensive business model to deliver wholesome pet food that pet parents can trust, and in the process we believe we have become one of the fastest growing pet food companies in North America. Our business model is difficult for others to replicate and we see significant opportunity for future growth by leveraging the unique elements of our business, including our brand, our product know-how, our Freshpet Kitchens, our refrigerated distribution, our Freshpet Fridge and our culture.

Corporate Information

We were incorporated in Delaware in November 2004 and currently exist as a Delaware corporation. Our principal executive offices are located at 400 Plaza Drive, 1st Floor, Secaucus, New Jersey 07094. Our telephone number is (201) 520-4000. Our website can be found at www.freshpet.com. The information contained on our website or that can be accessed through our website is not part of this prospectus and you should not rely on that information when making a decision whether to invest in our common stock.

Our common stock is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol "FRPT."

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described under the caption “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report and Quarterly Reports, which are incorporated by reference herein. You should also consider any “Risk Factors” contained in any applicable prospectus supplement, and in any document that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus that is incorporated by reference herein. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The market or trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. Please note that additional risks not presently foreseen by us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business and operations.

USE OF PROCEEDS

All shares of common stock sold in this offering will be sold by the Selling Stockholders. We will not receive any of the proceeds from such sales.

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

This prospectus relates to the possible resale by the Selling Stockholders of up to 7,878,773 shares of our common stock. The Selling Stockholders may from time to time offer and sell any or all of the shares of common stock set forth below pursuant to this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. When we refer to the “Selling Stockholders” in this prospectus, we mean the entities listed in the table below, and the pledgees, donees, transferees, assignees, successors and others who later come to hold any of the Selling Stockholders’ interest in shares of our common stock other than through a public sale.

The following table sets forth, as of the date of this prospectus, the names of the Selling Stockholders and the aggregate amount of shares of common stock that the Selling Stockholders may offer pursuant to this prospectus. The percentage of common stock owned by the Selling Stockholders, both prior to and following the offering of any shares of common stock pursuant to this prospectus, is based on 35,461,656 shares of common stock outstanding as of September 4, 2018. Information with respect to beneficial ownership is based on information obtained from such Selling Stockholder and publicly available information. Information with respect to shares beneficially owned after the offering assumes the sale of all the shares offered and no other purchases or sales of common stock. Information about other Selling Stockholders, including their identities, the common stock to be registered on their behalf and the amounts to be sold by them, will be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

The shares of common stock covered by this registration statement are being registered pursuant to provisions of a stockholders agreement between us and the Selling Stockholders, among others. We have agreed, subject to certain customary exceptions, to maintain the effectiveness of this registration statement until the shares covered hereby are sold and to pay certain expenses related to the offering of such securities.

Jonathan S. Marlow, who serves as a Managing Director of MidOcean, is a member of our Board of Directors. Charles A. Norris is the chairman of our Board of Directors.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner:	Before the Offering		Number of Shares Being Offered	After the Offering	
	Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares		Number of Shares	Percentage of Shares
MidOcean(1)	7,294,653	20.6%	7,294,653	—	—
Charles A. Norris(2)	584,120	1.6%	584,120	—	—

(1) Includes 4,503,859 shares of common stock held by MidOcean Partners III, L.P., 2,394,425 shares of common stock held by MidOcean Partners III-A, L.P., 384,036 shares of common stock held by MidOcean Partners III-D, L.P. (collectively, the “MidOcean Entities”), and 12,333 shares of common stock held by MidOcean US Advisor, L.P. (“US Advisor”), which also provides investment advisory services to each of the MidOcean Entities and Associates (as defined below). MidOcean Associates, SPC (“Associates”), by and on behalf of its Segregated Portfolio, MidOcean Partners Segregated Portfolio III, is the General Partner of each of the MidOcean Entities. J. Edward Virtue indirectly controls the shares of common stock held by the MidOcean Entities. Accordingly, Associates, US Advisor and Mr. Virtue may be deemed to have beneficial ownership of the shares of common stock held by the MidOcean Entities and Mr. Virtue may be deemed to have beneficial ownership of the shares of common stock held by US Advisor. Each of Associates, US Advisor and Mr. Virtue disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares owned of record by any other person or entity except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein. The address for each of the MidOcean Entities, Associates, US Advisor and Mr. Virtue is 320 Park Avenue, Suite 1600, New York, New York 10022.

(2) Includes 20,552 shares of common stock held by Mr. Norris directly and 563,568 shares of common stock held by Norris Trust Ltd 6/18/02.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following summary of certain provisions of our capital stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to our Certificate of Incorporation, our Bylaws and the provisions of applicable law. Copies of our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws are filed as exhibits to the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part.

Authorized Capitalization

General

The total amount of our authorized capital stock consists of 200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, and 100,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share. As of September 4, 2018, we had 35,461,656 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, issued and outstanding, and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Common Stock

As of September 4, 2018, there were 108 stockholders of record of our common stock. Our common stock is not entitled to preemptive or other similar subscription rights to purchase any of our securities. Our common stock is neither convertible nor redeemable. Unless our Board of Directors determines otherwise, we will issue all of our capital stock in uncertificated form.

Preferred Stock

Our Board of Directors has the authority to issue shares of preferred stock from time to time on terms it may determine, to divide shares of preferred stock into one or more series and to fix the designations, preferences, privileges, and restrictions of preferred stock, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preference, sinking fund terms, and the number of shares constituting any series or the designation of any series to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL"). The issuance of our preferred stock could have the effect of decreasing the trading price of our common stock, restricting dividends on our capital stock, diluting the voting power of our common stock, impairing the liquidation rights of our capital stock, or delaying or preventing a change in control of our Company.

Voting Rights

Each holder of our common stock is entitled to one vote per share on each matter submitted to a vote of stockholders. Our Bylaws provide that the presence, in person or by proxy, of holders of shares representing a majority of the outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote at a stockholders' meeting shall constitute a quorum. When a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast is required to take action, unless otherwise specified by law or our Certificate of Incorporation, and except for the election of directors, which is determined by a plurality vote. There are no cumulative voting rights.

Dividend Rights

Each holder of shares of our capital stock is entitled to receive such dividends and other distributions in cash, stock or property as may be declared by our Board of Directors from time to time out of our assets or funds legally available for dividends or other distributions. These rights are subject to the preferential rights of the holders of our preferred stock, if any, and any contractual limitations on our ability to declare and pay dividends.

Other Rights

Each holder of common stock is subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Liquidation Rights

If our company is involved in a consolidation, merger, recapitalization, reorganization, voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, or similar event, each holder of common stock will participate pro rata in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to prior distribution rights of preferred stock, if any, then outstanding.

Anti-takeover Effects of our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws

Our Certificate of Incorporation and our Bylaws contain provisions that may delay, defer or discourage another party from acquiring control of us. We expect that these provisions, which are summarized below, will discourage coercive takeover practices or inadequate takeover bids. These provisions are also designed to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to first negotiate with the Board of Directors, which we believe may result in an improvement of the terms of any such acquisition in favor of our stockholders. However, they also give the Board of Directors the power to discourage acquisitions that some stockholders may favor.

Action by Written Consent, Special Meeting of Stockholders and Advance Notice Requirements for Stockholder Proposals

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that stockholder action can be taken only at an annual or special meeting of stockholders and cannot be taken by written consent in lieu of a meeting. Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws also provide that, except as otherwise required by law, special meetings of the stockholders can be called only pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of the total number of directors that we would have if there were no vacancies. Except as described above, stockholders are not permitted to call a special meeting or to require the Board of Directors to call a special meeting.

In addition, our Bylaws require advance notice procedures for stockholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting of the stockholders, including the nomination of directors. Stockholders at an annual meeting may only consider the proposals specified in the notice of meeting or brought before the meeting by or at the direction of the Board of Directors, or by a stockholder of record on the record date for the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has delivered a timely written notice in proper form to our secretary, of the stockholder's intention to bring such business before the meeting.

These provisions could have the effect of delaying until the next stockholder meeting any stockholder actions, even if they are favored by the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities.

Classified Board

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that our Board of Directors is divided into three classes of directors, with the classes as nearly equal in number as possible. As a result, approximately one-third of our Board of Directors is elected each year. The classification of directors has the effect of making it more difficult for stockholders to change the composition of our board.

Removal of Directors

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that directors may only be removed from office for cause and only upon the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the voting power of our outstanding shares of common stock.

Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws

The DGCL provides generally that the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding stock entitled to vote on amendments to a corporation's certificate of incorporation or bylaws is required to approve such amendment, unless a corporation's certificate of incorporation or bylaws, as the case may be, requires a greater percentage. Our Bylaws may be amended, altered, changed or repealed by a majority vote of our Board of Directors, provided that, in addition to any other vote otherwise required by law, the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the voting power of our outstanding shares of common stock is required to amend, alter, change or repeal our Bylaws. Additionally, the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the voting power of the outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote on the adoption, alteration, amendment or repeal of our Certificate of Incorporation, voting as a single class, is required to amend or repeal or to adopt any provision inconsistent with specified provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation. This requirement of a supermajority vote to approve amendments to our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws could enable a minority of our stockholders to exercise veto power over any such amendments.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute

Section 203 of the DGCL provides that if a person acquires 15% or more of the voting stock of a Delaware corporation, such person becomes an "interested stockholder" and may not engage in certain "business combinations" with the corporation for a period of three years from the time such person acquired 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock, unless: (1) the Board of Directors approves the acquisition of stock or the merger transaction before the time that the person becomes an interested stockholder, (2) the interested stockholder owns at least 85% of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at the time the merger transaction commences (excluding voting stock owned by directors who are also officers and certain employee stock plans), or (3) the merger transaction is approved by the Board of Directors and by the affirmative vote at a meeting, not by written consent, of stockholders of 2/3 of the holders of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder. A Delaware corporation may elect in its certificate of incorporation or bylaws not to be governed by this particular Delaware law.

Under our Certificate of Incorporation, we opted out of Section 203 of the DGCL and therefore are not subject to Section 203.

Corporate Opportunity

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that we renounce any interest or expectancy in, or in being offered an opportunity to participate in, any business opportunity that may from time to time be presented to MidOcean or any of its officers, directors, agents, stockholders, members, partners, affiliates and subsidiaries (other than us and our subsidiaries) and that may be a business opportunity for MidOcean, even if the opportunity is one that we might reasonably have pursued or had the ability or desire to pursue if granted the opportunity to do so. No such person will be liable to us for breach of any fiduciary or other duty, as a director or officer or otherwise, by reason of the fact that such person, acting in good faith, pursues or acquires any such business opportunity, directs any such business opportunity to another person or fails to present any such business opportunity, or information regarding any such business opportunity, to us unless, in the case of any such person who is our director or officer, any such business opportunity is expressly offered to such director or officer solely in his or her capacity as our director or officer. Neither MidOcean, nor any of its representatives has any duty to refrain from engaging directly or indirectly in the same or similar business activities or lines of business as us or any of our subsidiaries.

Limitations on Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors

Our Certificate of Incorporation limits the liability of our directors to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, and our Bylaws provide that we will indemnify them to the fullest extent permitted by such law. We have entered and expect to continue to enter into agreements to indemnify our directors, executive officers and other employees as determined by our Board of Directors. Under the terms of such indemnification agreements, we are required to indemnify each of our directors and officers, to the fullest extent permitted by the laws of the State of Delaware, if the basis of the indemnitee's involvement was by reason of the fact that the indemnitee is or was a director or officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or was serving at the Company's request in an official capacity for another entity. We must indemnify our officers and directors against all reasonable fees, expenses, charges and other costs of any type or nature whatsoever, including any and all expenses and obligations paid or incurred in connection with investigating, defending, being a witness in, participating in (including on appeal), or preparing to defend, be a witness or participate in any completed, actual, pending or threatened action, suit, claim or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, or establishing or enforcing a right to indemnification under the indemnification agreement. The indemnification agreements also require us, if so requested, to advance within 30 days of such request all reasonable fees, expenses, charges and other costs that such director or officer incurred, provided that such person will return any such advance if it is ultimately determined that such person is not entitled to indemnification by us. Any claims for indemnification by our directors and officers may reduce our available funds to satisfy successful third-party claims against us and may reduce the amount of money available to us.

Exclusive Jurisdiction of Certain Actions

Our Certificate of Incorporation requires, to the fullest extent permitted by law, that derivative actions brought in the name of the Company, actions against directors, officers and employees for breach of fiduciary duty and other similar actions may be brought only in the Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware and, if brought outside of Delaware, the stockholder bringing the suit will be deemed to have consented to service of process on such stockholder's counsel. Although we believe this provision benefits the Company by providing increased consistency in the application of Delaware law in the types of lawsuits to which it applies, the provision may have the effect of discouraging lawsuits against our directors and officers.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol "FRPT."

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The Selling Stockholders, which as used herein includes donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling our common stock or interests in our common stock received after the date of this prospectus from the Selling Stockholders as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other transfer, may, from time to time, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of certain of its shares of common stock or interests in our common stock, on any stock exchange, market or trading facility on which the common stock is traded or in private transactions. These dispositions may be at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market price, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices.

The Selling Stockholders may use any one or more of the following methods when disposing of shares or interests therein:

- on NASDAQ or any other national securities exchange or U.S. inter-dealer system of a registered national securities association on which our common stock may be listed or quoted at the time of sale;
- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;
- one or more underwritten offerings;
- block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;
- an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;
- privately negotiated transactions;
- short sales effected after the date the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part is declared effective by the SEC;
- through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise;
- broker-dealers may agree with the Selling Stockholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share; and
- a combination of any such methods of sale.

The Selling Stockholders may, from time to time, pledge or grant a security interest in some of the shares of common stock owned by them and, if the Selling Stockholders default in the performance of their secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares, from time to time, under this prospectus, or under an amendment or supplement to this prospectus amending the list of the Selling Stockholders to include the pledgee, transferee or other successors in interest as the Selling Stockholders under this prospectus. The Selling Stockholders also may transfer the shares of common stock in other circumstances, in which case the transferees, pledgees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of this prospectus.

In connection with the sale of our common stock or interests therein, the Selling Stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of our common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The Selling Stockholders may also sell our common stock short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge our common stock to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The Selling Stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities that require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

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The aggregate proceeds to the Selling Stockholders from the sale of our common stock will be the purchase price of our common stock less discounts or commissions, if any. The Selling Stockholders reserve the right to accept and, together with their agents from time to time, as applicable, to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of our common stock to be made directly or through agents. We will not receive any of the proceeds from any offering by the Selling Stockholders.

The Selling Stockholders also may in the future resell a portion of the common stock in open market transactions in reliance upon Rule 144 under the Securities Act, provided that they meet the criteria and conform to the requirements of that rule, or pursuant to other available exemptions from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

The Selling Stockholders and any underwriters, broker-dealers or agents that participate in the sale of our common stock or interests therein may be “underwriters” within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act. Any discounts, commissions, concessions or profit they earn on any resale of the common stock may be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. If the Selling Stockholders are “underwriters” within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act, then the Selling Stockholders will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. Underwriters and their controlling persons, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us and the Selling Stockholders, to indemnification against and contribution toward specific civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

To the extent required, the common stock to be sold, the respective purchase prices and public offering prices, the names of any agents, dealers or underwriters, and any applicable discounts, commissions, concessions or other compensation with respect to a particular offer will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement or, if appropriate, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement that includes this prospectus.

To facilitate the offering of the common stock offered by the Selling Stockholders, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of our common stock. This may include over-allotments or short sales, which involve the sale by persons participating in the offering of more shares than were sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option, if any. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of our common stock by bidding for or purchasing shares in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if shares sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of our common stock at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

The Selling Stockholders may use this prospectus in connection with resales of the common stock. The Selling Stockholders may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act in connection with the shares of common stock they resell and any profits on the sales may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, the Selling Stockholders will receive all the net proceeds from the resale of the common stock sold by them.

LEGAL MATTERS

Kirkland & Ellis LLP, New York, New York will pass upon the validity of the common stock offered hereby on our behalf. If any legal matters relating to offerings made in connection with this prospectus are passed upon by counsel for underwriters, dealers or agents, such counsel will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to any such offering. Certain partners of Kirkland & Ellis LLP own shares of Freshpet common stock representing less than 1% of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Freshpet, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2017 have been incorporated by reference in this prospectus in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, herein and upon the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Freshpet, Inc. files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The public may read and copy the information we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is www.sec.gov.

Our website address is located at www.freshpet.com. Through links on the "Investor" portion of our website, we make available free of charge our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Such material is made available through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file the information with, or furnish it to, the SEC. **The information contained on our website is not part of, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus.**

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the common stock offered under this prospectus. The registration statement can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC offices referenced above.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information about us by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents and reports listed below (other than portions of these documents that are either (1) described in paragraph (e) of Item 201 of Regulation S-K or paragraphs (d)(1)-(3) and (e)(5) of Item 407 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC or (2) deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, including Current Reports on Form 8-K furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 (including any financial statements or exhibits relating thereto furnished pursuant to Item 9.01), unless otherwise indicated therein:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the SEC on March 7, 2018, as amended by the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A filed with the SEC on April 30, 2018 (our “Annual Report”);
- our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, filed with the SEC on May 8, 2018, and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on August 8, 2018 (together, our “Quarterly Reports”); and
- the description of our common stock included in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on November 5, 2014 (File No. 001-36729), including any subsequent amendment or any report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference the information contained in all other documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (other than portions of these documents that are either (1) described in paragraph (e) of Item 201 of Regulation S-K or paragraphs (d)(1)-(3) and (e)(5) of Item 407 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC or (2) deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, including Current Reports on Form 8-K furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 (including any financial statements or exhibits relating thereto furnished pursuant to Item 9.01, unless otherwise indicated therein)) after the date of this prospectus and prior to the completion of the offering of all securities covered by this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. The information contained in any such document will be considered part of this prospectus from the date the document is filed with the SEC.

If you make a request for such information in writing or by telephone, we will provide you, without charge, a copy of any or all of the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Any such request should be directed to:

Freshpet, Inc.
400 Plaza Drive, 1st Floor
Secaucus, New Jersey 07094
(201) 520-4000
Attention: Investor Relations

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus, in any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of the applicable document.

Freshpet, Inc.

Common Stock



PROSPECTUS

PART II**INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the various expenses expected to be incurred by the Registrant in connection with the sale and distribution of the securities being registered hereby, other than underwriting discounts and commissions. All amounts are estimated except the SEC registration fee.

SEC registration fee	\$34,851.63
Accounting fees and expenses	(1)
Legal fees and expenses	(1)
Printing and engraving expenses	(1)
Registrar and Transfer Agent's fees	(1)
Miscellaneous fees and expenses	(1)
Total	(1)

- (1) Estimated expenses are not presently known. The foregoing sets forth the general categories of expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) that we anticipate we will incur in connection with the offering of securities under this registration statement on Form S-3.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The Company is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL") allows a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except where the director breached the duty of loyalty, failed to act in good faith, engaged in intentional misconduct or knowingly violated a law, authorized the payment of a dividend or approved a stock repurchase in violation of Delaware corporate law or obtained an improper personal benefit. Our Certificate of Incorporation provides for this limitation of liability.

Section 145 of the DGCL ("Section 145") provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person, including an officer or director, who was, is or is threatened to be made, party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person is or was an officer, director, employee or agent of such corporation or is or was serving at the request of such corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was illegal. Where an officer or director is successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action referred to above, the corporation must indemnify him against the expenses which such officer or director has actually and reasonably incurred.

Section 145 further authorizes a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise, against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would otherwise have the power to indemnify him under Section 145.

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Our Bylaws provide that we must indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent authorized by the DGCL and must also pay expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding in advance of its final disposition upon delivery of an undertaking, by or on behalf of an indemnified person, to repay all amounts so advanced if it should be determined ultimately that such person is not entitled to be indemnified.

We entered into indemnification agreements with each of our current directors and officers. These agreements require us to indemnify these individuals to the fullest extent permitted under Delaware law against liabilities that may arise by reason of their service to us, and to advance expenses incurred as a result of any proceeding against them as to which they could be indemnified.

Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

(a) Exhibits.

The exhibit index attached hereto is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
 - (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
 - (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement; and
 - (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.
- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:
 - (i) each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
 - (ii) each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or

the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; and

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
- (i) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
 - (ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
 - (iii) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
 - (iv) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers, and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that, in the opinion of the SEC, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer, or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement.
4.1	Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Freshpet, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Freshpet, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-200936, filed on December 12, 2014).
4.2	Certificate of Amendment to the Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Freshpet, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on September 21, 2017).
4.3	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Freshpet, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Freshpet, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-200936, filed on December 12, 2014).
5.1	Opinion of Kirkland & Ellis LLP.
23.1	Consent of KPMG LLP.
23.2	Consent of Kirkland & Ellis LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on signature page to this Registration Statement).

* To be filed, if necessary, after effectiveness of this registration statement by an amendment to the registration statement or incorporated by reference from documents filed or to be filed with the SEC under the Exchange Act.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Secaucus, State of New Jersey, on September 6, 2018.

Freshpet, Inc.

By: /s/ William B. Cyr

William B. Cyr

Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each officer and director of Freshpet, Inc. whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints William B. Cyr and Richard Kassar, and each of them, his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute any or all amendments including any post-effective amendments and supplements to this Registration Statement, and any additional Registration Statements filed pursuant to Rule 462(b), and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent, or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

* * * *

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons on September 6, 2018 in the capacities indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
<u>/s/ William B. Cyr</u> William B. Cyr	Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
<u>/s/ Richard Kassar</u> Richard Kassar	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)
<u>/s/ Charles A. Norris</u> Charles A. Norris	Director
<u>/s/ J. David Basto</u> J. David Basto	Director
<u>/s/ Daryl G. Brewster</u> Daryl G. Brewster	Director
<u>/s/ Lawrence S. Coben</u> Lawrence S. Coben	Director
<u>/s/ Walter N. George III</u> Walter N. George III	Director
<u>/s/ Christopher B. Harned</u> Christopher B. Harned	Director
<u>/s/ Robert C. King</u> Robert C. King	Director
<u>/s/ Jonathan S. Marlow</u> Jonathan S. Marlow	Director
<u>/s/ Craig D. Steeneck</u> Craig D. Steeneck	Director

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
AND AFFILIATED PARTNERSHIPS**601 Lexington Avenue**
New York, NY 10022
United States
+1 212 446 4800
www.kirkland.com**Facsimile:**
+1 212 446 4900

September 6, 2018

Freshpet, Inc.
400 Plaza Drive, 1st Floor
Secaucus, New Jersey 07094

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as special counsel to Freshpet, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “*Company*”), in connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the “*Registration Statement*”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “*Commission*”) on the date hereof relating to the sale from time to time, pursuant to Rule 415 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “*Securities Act*”), of 7,878,773 shares of Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of the Company (the “*Shares*”) to be sold by certain stockholders of the Company (the “*Selling Stockholders*”).

In connection with the registration of the Shares, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of such documents, corporate records and other instruments as we have deemed necessary for the purposes of this opinion, including (i) the organizational documents of the Company, (ii) minutes and records of the corporate proceedings of the Company and (iii) the Registration Statement and the exhibits thereto.

For purposes of this opinion, we have assumed the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to the originals of all documents submitted to us as copies and the authenticity of the originals of all documents submitted to us as copies. We have also assumed the legal capacity of all natural persons, the genuineness of the signatures of persons signing all documents in connection with which this opinion is rendered, the authority of such persons signing on behalf of the parties thereto other than the Company and the due authorization, execution and delivery of all documents by the parties thereto other than the Company. We have not independently established or verified any facts relevant to the opinions expressed herein, but have relied upon statements and representations of the officers and other representatives of the Company.

Beijing Boston Chicago Dallas Hong Kong Houston London Los Angeles Munich Palo Alto San Francisco Shanghai Washington, D.C.

We have also assumed that:

- (i) the Registration Statement (and any amendments thereto) will be effective and will comply with all applicable laws at the time the Shares are offered or sold as contemplated by the Registration Statement;
- (ii) a prospectus supplement or term sheet describing the Shares offered thereby ("*Prospectus Supplement*"), to the extent required by applicable law, will have been filed with the Commission and will comply with all applicable laws;
- (iii) the Shares will be sold in the form and containing the terms set forth in the Registration Statement and the appropriate Prospectus Supplement; and
- (iv) all Shares will be sold in compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws and in the manner stated in the Registration Statement and the appropriate Prospectus Supplement, if applicable.

Based upon and subject to the qualifications, assumptions and limitations set forth herein, we are of the opinion that the Shares to be offered by the Selling Stockholders pursuant to the Registration Statement are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Our opinion expressed above is subject to the qualifications that we express no opinion as to the applicability of, compliance with, or effect of any laws except the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, as currently in effect.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion with the Commission as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement. We also consent to the reference to our firm under the heading "*Legal Matters*" in the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, we do not thereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission.

We do not find it necessary for the purposes of this opinion, and accordingly we do not purport to cover herein, the application of the securities or "Blue Sky" laws of the various states to the sale of the Shares.

This opinion is limited to the specific issues addressed herein, and no opinion may be inferred or implied beyond that expressly stated herein. We assume no obligation to revise or supplement this opinion should the present laws of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware be changed by legislative action, judicial decision or otherwise.

This opinion is furnished to you in connection with the filing of the Registration Statement, and is not to be used, circulated, quoted or otherwise relied upon for any other purpose.

Sincerely,

/s/ KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors
Freshpet, Inc. and subsidiaries

We consent to the use of our report incorporated by reference herein and the reference to our firm under the heading “Experts” in the prospectus.

/s/ KPMG LLP
Short Hills, NJ
September 6, 2018