



HEALTHY PAWS NEWSLETTER

March 2004

CANADIAN PET FOODS VS. AMERICAN PET FOODS

With the recent mad cow episode and now the bird flu issue, we have had some questions about pet food ingredients.

With the beef ban, some of our products were detained at the border while the ingredients were checked to make sure no beef was in any of the products. Only two of our canned foods contain beef, so they have been unavailable. Otherwise, all of our other foods contain turkey, chicken or lamb. One of our cat treats is presently unavailable.

Someone recently asked me why we didn't just carry Canadian pet foods to avoid this whole issue. So, we decided that this was a good thing to cover in this newsletter.

In the U.S., there are some standards about what can and cannot be in pet foods and on the labels. The claims that companies can make are somewhat regulated as well. The pet food companies we deal with (Innova, California Natural, Healthwise, Wysong, etc.) take this one step further to ensure that their sources are free of chemical pesticides, preservatives, artificial colouring, etc. The meat contained in these foods is strictly chemical free and the processing plants operate under very strict standards. We are confident that our foods remain safe and healthy.

Unfortunately, **in Canada, there are virtually no regulations about what can go into pet food!!!!** If we decided tomorrow to make our own pet food and package it, there are no regulations in place to govern the ingredients, packaging, claims we could make about the health benefits, etc.

We have been approached by various manufacturers of Canadian products to sell their food in our store, but we have not yet found one that we feel comfortable selling to our customers.

You will be seeing some changes in our canned foods over the next while. One of our products containing beef will be unavailable indefinitely, so we are looking at other quality options. We hope that this clarifies this issue for you. If you have further questions, please let us know.

LOCAL SOURCE FOR SAFE MEAT

We recommend "The Country Butcher" in Northgate Plaza for meat for making your pet food and for your consumption. Marlene and Dave are very choosy about their sources and all meat and poultry is local and chemical free.

The Country Butcher is along the strip at the west end of the plaza down from the Bookkeeper and Schyler's Gifts.

COMFORT BAGS FOR YOU AND YOUR PETS

We now have 3 sizes of grain (wheat) filled bags – small square, large rectangular and long rectangular (great for around your neck to soothe those tight muscles!). These can be heated in the microwave and used on achy muscles and joints, to warm beds for new kittens, puppies or ailing pets, or can be kept in the freezer and used in place of an ice pack for sprains and headaches. We have a variety of fabric patterns. These make a great gift for only \$15.00

MARCH IS KIDNEY MONTH

Keeping your pet's kidneys healthy starts with a good diet. The less processed the ingredients, the lesser amount of work the digestive system and the kidneys have to do. The percentage of protein listed on the bag means nothing if the ingredients are not of good quality. Many pets have been put on "low protein" diets for their kidneys, but if the quality of the protein is poor, this defeats the purpose - better to feed a higher percentage of a good quality protein source than a lower percentage of a less digestible protein source (cartilage, feathers, etc.). Home prepared diets containing proper proportions of raw organic meat are much easier to digest than a totally dry processed diet. If you are feeding totally dry food, using the Wysong Biotic powdered supplement helps to break down the food so that the body has to do less work to digest and eliminate it.

Herbal tinctures like dandelion and goldenrod are beneficial to the kidneys and can help with infections, crystals and stones and also to regenerate ailing kidneys. Our Nature's Herbs for Pets "Urinary Relief" benefits the kidneys, bladder and whole urinary system, so it can be used for infections, crystals, blood in the urine, urinary incontinence & dribbling, etc.

The kidney function does decline as our pets age, but giving them good food and supplements throughout their life can slow this deterioration. One of our

oldest cats had blood work done at age 17 and there was no sign of kidney decline at all!! This is certainly a testimony to our foods and supplements.

MARCH SPECIAL

We are introducing Merrick canned dog food in some really Yummy flavours - Grammy's Pot Pie, Venison Holiday Stew, Campfire Trout Feast, Mediterranean Banquet, Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Napa Valley Picnic!!!!

\$2.49 each (Introductory Price)

regular price \$2.99 each

In good health, MIKE, LEE & JAYNE

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