



HEALTHY PAWS NEWSLETTER

May 2004

MOTHER AND KITTENS NEED HOME

A part Siamese cat & her two female babies, one black and white and one tabby, were found abandoned in an apartment building. If you can spay them and give them a good home, please call 337 2259.

HEART AILMENT IN DOGS

Recently, a heart ailment known as cardiomyopathy due to a taurine deficiency is showing up in dogs. Taurine is an amino acid (a component of protein) that is involved in digestion, metabolism, reproduction and in the health of the eyes and the heart. Cardiomyopathy results in a decrease in the pumping activity of the heart and enlargement of the heart. This can show up as fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, poor appetite and sometimes results in death.

Cats develop cardiomyopathy from eating high grain, low meat diets and show signs of heart disease as well as blindness. Simply adding supplemental taurine to a poor quality grain based diet does not provide the same protection as a high meat diet. Cats and dogs are carnivores and require meat.

Clinical reports have linked cardiomyopathy with "low protein" diets containing large amounts of grain and lamb and lamb meal. These diets had been previously tested and considered to be "nutritionally complete". The taurine can be depleted due to over-processing of foods resulting in heat damage to the ingredients.

Certain breeds appear to be more susceptible to taurine associated cardiomyopathy – American Cocker Spaniels, Dobermans, Irish Wolfhounds, Great Danes, Boxers, Saint Bernards, Newfoundlands, Afghans, Old English Sheepdogs and Portuguese Waterdogs. It has been known that large chested breeds are more prone to heart ailments than smaller dogs.

With the release of this information, Natura Pet Products (makers of Innova, California Natural and Healthwise) confirmed through nutritional analysis that all of their foods provide taurine "well above the 0.1% standard". In fact, they have modified all formulas to provide at least 0.2% taurine.

HEALTHY TEETH AND FRESH BREATH

Feeding your pet a fresh, raw diet does more than any of the new dental products we are seeing advertised on television. Dry foods are promoted to clean the teeth, but processed foods actually contribute to the build-up of tartar on the teeth!

For those concerned about giving raw meat or bones, raw vegetables can contribute enzymes that help to keep the teeth cleaner and the breath fresher. Cooked bones **should never** be given to animals because the heat from cooking makes them brittle.

Benko smoked bones are a healthy way to encourage chewing that helps to keep the teeth clean and the gums healthy. These cow bones are sterilized and smoked without any additives. Dogs love the taste!

Wysong Dentatreat is a powder that is sprinkled on top of your pet's food to provide enzymatic action to decrease tartar on the teeth. This natural cheese flavoured powder contains enzymes, calcium and other minerals important for oral hygiene.

Rubber and nylon bones can be beneficial in strengthening the gums and cleaning the teeth also and provide a good way to occupy your dog and prevent boredom.

GREYHOUND RELOCATION & ADOPTION

If you are interested in adopting a retired greyhound, call (519) 425 7822 (Mount Elgin, Ontario), or e-mail them at GRACanada@aol.com or check out their website at www.members.home.net/styson1.

LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN DOG BREED?

If you are looking for a particular dog or cat breed, always research and find a reputable breeder. To find dog breeders, check out www.dogsincanada.com and to check out a particular breeder, call (416) 674 3699.

A little research before you get emotionally attached to a dog or cat can save a lot of heartbreak down the road. Please adopt responsibly from a breeder or a humane society or shelter.

MAY SPECIAL

25% off Nature's Herbs for Pets "Itch Relief" and "Allergy Relief", and "Pet Allergy for People" (a homeopathic remedy for those allergic to animal hair & dander)

Treat allergy symptoms without drugs!!

In good health, MIKE, LEE & JAYNE

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