



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

WARNING REGARDING CHICKEN JERKY

Chicken jerky imported from China is under scrutiny by the FDA in the United States after several veterinarians and pet owners complained about pet illness after the ingestion of this product.

The University of Sydney in Australia has also reported a potential link between the Chinese jerky and illness in animals.

Some of the symptoms noticed in the dogs affected were decreased appetite, decreased activity & lethargy, vomiting and diarrhea sometimes with the presence of blood and an increase in the consumption of water and increased urination.

No definite factor for the illness related to the jerky has been found.

HEALTHY DIGESTIVE TRACT BOLSTERS CAT LONGEVITY

A 7 year long study following 90 cats of a minimum age of 7 years showed that cats fed supplements containing omega 3 and 6 fatty acids and probiotics tend to live longer and age slower.

These cats showed overall improved health in terms of body composition (muscle mass), skin condition, and digestive health including healthier stools.

PETS ON CALORIE RESTRICTED DIETS LIVE LONGER

A life span survey revealed that dogs who were fed calorie restricted diets tend to live at least 2 years longer than dogs on unrestricted diets. A lean body condition was also found to delay degenerative chronic diseases such as arthritis.

A study of cat obesity showed similar results. “Pampering our pets to death” is leading to obesity and an increase in the occurrence of arthritis, diabetes and other chronic illnesses among dogs & cats.

NATIONAL SERVICE DOGS

National Service Dogs (N.S.D.) in Cambridge, Ontario was founded in 1996 and breed, raise, train and place 25 service dogs each year. Volunteers help with various duties including puppy walking and doggie massage.

NSD is dedicated to enriching the quality of life and enhancing independence of children and families living with autism. NSD has a “Train the Trainer” program that works with other trainers around the world to help them start up an autism program. They have chapters in Alberta, British Columbia, Montreal, California, New York, and Spain.

Some service organizations have chosen to make NSD their charity of choice, with all funds raised at their events being donated to NSD.

For more information on their organization and programs, or to make a donation, see their website at www.nsd.on.ca.

SURVEY SHOWS PREFERENCE FOR PETS OVER KIDS

A British study showed that many couples were planning to start a “family” by bringing home a dog or cat, not a baby.

Part of this choice was due to the economic climate, but some said it would be a permanent choice regardless of the economy.

Three thousand people responded to the survey and the participants were equally divided between males and females.

A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.....

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.

7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's critters.

In good health, Mike, Lee, Jayne & Moxy

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