



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

HEAVY METAL TOXICITY IN OUR PETS

Many humans are showing high levels of metals (mercury, aluminium, cadmium, etc.) in their blood and tissues. Our pets too are showing these metals on specialized tests like EAV machines or hair analysis. These heavy metals can be factors in many debilitating and terminal illnesses.

High levels of heavy metals are found in our air, our water, our foods and unfortunately in some pet foods because of pollution affecting crops. Certain crops take up much higher levels of heavy metals. Legumes (soybeans, alfalfa, peas, beans) and cereal crops (wheat, rice, oats and barley) can contain very high levels of aluminium.

Poor quality pet foods that contain high levels of grains and cereals not only pose dangers in the way of chemicals and pesticides sprayed on them and chemical preservatives used by the manufacturer, but also high levels of the heavy metals from pollution.

Aluminium and mercury are contained within vaccines also. These substances can accumulate in the body and act as neurotoxins that affect the brain and all tissues in the body. Tap water can contain high levels of heavy metals also.

Pets exposed to cigarette smoke can have high levels of cadmium in their bodies. Cadmium has been identified as a factor in many bladder infections and stones.

Heavy metal toxicity can be treated using natural remedies, but the two most important steps to take are feeding a natural diet (organic if possible) and filtered water. We would like to stress that Natura Pet Products tests all ingredients before the shipment is approved for entry into their manufacturing plant

WHY USE CONDITIONER ON YOUR PETS?

We find that many people don't think of using of using conditioner on their pets after bathing them. Using a conditioner like Espree Rainforest conditioner can save you grooming time. It makes the fur softer and less likely to tangle, thereby decreasing the amount of time you spend combing out mats. For the month of May, if you buy a shampoo, you get 20% off a conditioner (Rainforest or Remoisturizer).

“GREENIES” PRODUCTS CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR SOME DOGS

The makers of Greenies chews for pets are being sued after a dog died allegedly from eating a Greenie bone and not digesting it. Although no product is 100% digestible, the FDA is investigating multiple complaints they have received over the past year. Greenies were originally given a seal of acceptance from the Veterinary Oral Health Council for being effective against tooth tartar.

Although we have never sold Greenies, we do have some similar products in our store. We have never received any complaints from our customers regarding any of our products. At present, we have Merrick treats containing chlorophyll for fresh breath. Also, the Benko naturally smoked beef bones are helpful with removing and preventing tartar.

FOOD RECALL AFTER PET DEATHS

Diamond Pet Foods of Missouri have admitted to faulty testing procedures after 35 dogs in several states died from eating Diamond food. The culprit was found to be aflatoxins at higher than acceptable levels (greater than 20 ppb are not acceptable while levels in the food were at 1850).

Aflatoxins are contaminants that can grow on corn, peanuts and other grains that are not stored or dried properly. Aflatoxins can be associated with allergic reactions.

ASPCA WARNS ABOUT PETS INGESTING DRUGS

The ASPCA Poison Control Center is receiving more reports of accidental pet poisonings with the increase in the use of prescription of anti-depressants in humans.

The ASPCA offers the following information about anti-depressants that can be potentially harmful to your pets:

1. Tricyclic Antidepressants – used to treat depression and schizophrenia, these account for 67% of the suspected anti-depressant poisoning calls received by the center
2. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) – used to treat anxiety, depression and bulimia and sometimes used to treat aggression and anxiety in dogs and urine spraying in cats, these drugs accounted for 32% of anti-depressant poisonings investigated by the center.

As with all medications, vitamins and herbal supplements, keep them safely stored away from children and pets. Children are often attracted by the colours and pets will often eat anything that is within their reach or dropped on the floor.

DOGS SNIFFING OUT CANCER

Certain breeds of dogs are noted to be able to sniff out tumours in humans by sniffing the person's breath or skin. Labrador retrievers, Portuguese water dogs and miniature schnauzers have been able to detect lung cancers, skin cancers and other tumours sometimes with 99 percent accuracy. Studies are currently being expanded to include other breeds of dogs and other types of cancers.

FOOD ITEMS POISONOUS TO ANIMALS

It has been known for a long time that chocolate is toxic to animals because of the theobromine contained within it. Theobromine speeds up the heart rate and can cause serious illness or sudden death (especially in smaller dogs).

Recent information shows that onion can be toxic to some dogs, depending on the size of the dog

and the amount eaten. Also, grapes are thought to be toxic also, but it is not certain whether raisins (dried grapes) show the same toxicity.

To be safe, avoid feeding your pets chocolate, onions and grapes until further research is conclusive.

In good health, Mike, Lee, Jayne & Moxy

This newsletter is published by Healthy Paws in Sarnia. This information is not intended as medical advice. Please consult your animal practitioner for severe or stubborn problems. If you are receiving this newsletter by e-mail and wish to be removed from our list, please e-mail us at paws@rivernet.net and your name will be removed promptly. Healthy Paws can be reached at (519) 344 3443.