



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2005

PET FOOD REGULATIONS IN CANADA

Currently, the only regulation in Canada regarding pet food is that the label must contain the name and address of the company, the weight of the product and whether it is cat or dog food – there are no regulations about what can or can not be put in the bag !!

Things are slightly better in the U.S. – the feed analysis must be on the bag showing level of proteins, fats and fibre, but the sources may not be disclosed (eg. organic vs. condemned for human consumption).

NEW PRODUCTS ARRIVING

New toys, beds, treats, treat jars, ceramic dishes, placemats, coats and more are arriving over the next few weeks for the winter season and Christmas. We also have many items (old stock) on sale to make room for the new products. Drop in and see the new merchandise.

HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

The Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals (C.C.F.A.) is an organization that promotes the welfare of animals raised for food in Canada. For complete information, check out their web-site at www.humanefood.ca

IS YOUR PET A “FLAVOUR” ADDICT ?

Some animals will get “addicted” to a certain flavour of canned food, treat etc. if they are fed this exclusively. Why is this such a bad thing?

Pets who are fed the same diet day in and day out may be missing out on some minerals and other nutritional components. Because dogs evolved from wolves, beef & poultry aren't necessarily their natural diet. They would be eating venison, caribou, elk, etc. Because we don't normally feed our dogs those meats, giving a variety of other meats (beef, chicken, turkey, lamb) can make up for some nutritional deficiencies.

Also, sometimes, due to reasons beyond our control, we may be out of a certain flavour if our supplier is out of stock when we receive our shipment. Or, what if the company suddenly discontinued your pet's “favourite” flavour ?

If you are feeding your pet dry food only, you can add some variety by adding some fresh vegetables to its diet, or as snacks. If you are making your own food from the Dr. Harvey's pre-mix, use different types of protein. If you are buying canned food, rotate through a few different flavours.

ECHINACEA & THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

Echinacea is a flowering plant that can be used to boost the immune system in the case of infections, colds, etc. There has been a lot of disagreement over how to administer Echinacea but some general guidelines are as follow. Because Echinacea boosts the immune system, it should only be given in cases where the immune system is underactive or weak. It should be given only when symptoms are present and for one week followed by a one week break.

A better option is ModuVet – an immune system “modulator” that brings the immune system to a state of balance whether it is underactive or overactive. It can be given daily without worry of adverse effects to the immune system.

Outdoor cats & indoor cats

An interesting fact on a cat calendar – “An outdoor male cat has an average life expectancy of three years. An indoor male cat has an average life span of twelve years”

LOST & FOUND PET DIRECTORY

The Pet Rescue is a “clearinghouse” domain for all lost or found pets throughout Canada and the United States. You can make a listing along with a photo and it will be posted. “Red Alert” banners scroll across the bottom of the site making urgent announcements.

Check out this site at www.thepetrescue.com.

ANTI-FREEZE & YOUR PETS

The sweet taste of antifreeze is very appealing to pets, but is also deadly. The highly toxic liquid can cause kidney failure & death. Be aware of any puddles of liquid in driveways, on roads or in parking lots that may be tempting to your pets.

The U.S. congress is attempting to pass legislation to add a bitter chemical to antifreeze that would discourage animals and children from drinking this deadly fluid. We haven’t heard of any similar legislation in Canada.

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.