

UC Davis study finds chemical combo in petfood

The data will make petfood ultimately safer because now we know what to look for

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U.S. researchers from the University of California-Davis, say it appears it was the combination of two chemicals found in petfood recalled this year that caused animals to die.

The UC Davis study said four cats given various doses of either melamine or cyanuric acid survived. But when three cats were fed petfood laced with a combination of both chemicals they began to show signs of kidney failure within 12 hours. Fan-shaped crystals developed in the urinary tracts of cats given the cat food adulterated with both chemicals. The three cats were found to have the same kind of kidney damage found in animals whose deaths were linked to the petfood recall, while the fourth cat showed normal kidneys.

"The data will make petfood ultimately safer because now we know what to look for," veterinary toxicologist Birgit Puschner said. "We had to make some sacrifices, but I hope a large population of pets will benefit from it." The UC Davis research can be found in the November issue of the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*.

News from AKC CHF

Dr. Matthew Breen Receives the Asa Mays, DVM, Excellence in Canine Health Research Award

Raleigh, NC 11-12-2007 – By a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), North Carolina State University's Matthew Breen, PhD, has been awarded the Asa Mays, DVM, Excellence in Canine Health Research Award. To date, the AKC Canine Health Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million in funding to the College of Veterinary Medicine in grants and research.

The award, begun in 2005 to honor longtime breeder and veterinarian Dr. Asa Mays recognizes those researchers who have made a profound impact in the world of canine health research. Dr. Breen received the award in St Louis, MO, in conjunction with the biennial National Parent Club Canine Health Conference.

Dr. Matthew Breen completed his PhD in cytogenetics in 1990 and then spent two years as a Post Doc in Molecular Genetics at the UK Medical Research Council's Human Genetics Unit in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he was responsible for developing novel ways to map genes to chromosomes as part of the Human Genome Project. Dr. Breen then spent four years working for the research arm of the Australian Thoroughbred industry, returning to the UK in 1996 where his laboratory developed molecular cytogenetics reagents, resources and techniques for application to canine genome mapping, comparative cytogenetics and cancer studies. In 2002, Dr. Breen relocated his laboratory to North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, where he is Professor of Genomics and also a member of

the Center for Comparative Medicine and Translational Research (CCMTR). He also serves as Director of the CCMTR's Clinical Genomics Resources Laboratory.

Dr. Breen's major research interests continue to focus on the genomics, genome mapping and the comparative aspects of canine cancer – including optimizing the potential of canine research in human investigations. Dr. Breen played a key role in the mapping of the canine genome and now uses his skills and resources to focus on the molecular cytogenetic evaluation of canine tumors as a means to discover the genes involved in the initiation and progression of cancers. In addition to his activities at NCSU, Dr. Breen was a founder member and now serves on the Board of Directors of the Canine Comparative Oncology and Genomics Consortium, Inc (CCOGC). The CCOGC is a national organization that serves to gather tumor tissues that may be used for the advancement of canine (and human) cancer research. He also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Morris Animal Foundation and the National Canine Cancer Foundation.

“Matthew is a true pioneer in the discovery and mapping of the canine genome – an invaluable tool in the fight against disease,” notes Karen Mays, a member of the board of directors of the CHF, and wife of Dr. Asa Mays for whom the award was named posthumously. “Asa would have been so proud of the work Matthew and his colleagues continue to do on behalf of our dogs and indeed, our human neighbors as well.

Our thanks to Matthew for his dedicated work, he is a true member of the Canine Health Foundation family.”

Upon accepting the award, Dr. Breen noted, “I am deeply honored to be selected as the 2007 recipient of the Asa Mays Award. In accepting this award, I do so with the recognition that it is presented in the memory of a man for whom many of us had the deepest respect, for his values, leadership and above all his commitment to dogs. On behalf of the canine health research community, I would like to thank the AKC Canine Health Foundation for their continued sterling efforts to raise awareness, to provide education and to fund research that is aimed at improving the health and welfare of our dogs.”

The award was presented on October 20, 2007, in conjunction with the 2007 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference held in St Louis, MO. Co-sponsored by Nestlé Purina PetCare Company and The American Kennel Club, the event was attended by more than 350 participants who received updated information on topics such as canine cancer, cell therapy, reproduction, nutrition, canine neurological disease, endocrine disorders, cardiology research and vaccination protocols.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation, founded in 1995 by the American Kennel Club, is the largest nonprofit worldwide to fund health research exclusively for canines. Our goal is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. The AKC Canine Health Foundation is proud to be the leader in non-invasive genetic health research, stem cell research, and biotherapeutics benefiting both canines and humans. We're proud to announce we have allocated more than \$20 million in canine health research through more than 75 schools and research institutions worldwide.

Nestlé Purina PetCare is a premiere global manufacturer of pet products, with North American headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. Purina and the AKC Canine Health Foundation have partnered since 1997 in sponsoring the biennial parent club canine health conference. Since that first conference, Purina has donated over \$6.2 million to support canine health and genetic research funded through the AKC Canine Health Foundation. www.akcCHF.org

Company Adds Collision Benefit for Pets

Nov 11, 2007 CLEVELAND (AP) — To a dog that loves drives in the car while sticking a head out a window to feel the wind, insurance isn't a concern. An auto insurance company is now offering their owners a benefit for pets.

Progressive Corp., based in suburban Mayfield, is providing collision coverage for customers' dogs or cats at no additional premium cost. It will pay up to \$500 if a customer's dog or cat is hurt or dies in a car accident.

"It's an unusual and interesting benefit," said Jean Salvatore, a senior vice president for the New York-based Insurance Information Institute. "Auto insurance is a very competitive market, and companies are always looking for ways to differentiate themselves. If this becomes popular, I'm sure others may look into it as well," Salvatore said.

There are over 150 million pets in the U.S., and Americans spend over \$40 billion on their pets annually, according to a recent Insurance Information Institute study. The Progressive benefit has been in place since Sept. 6, and it's still too soon to determine if the company's undetermined cost of offering it will be offset by better sales, Progressive spokeswoman Leah Knapp said.

A Progressive strategist said the company saw a pets benefit as an auto insurance market opportunity.

"We found no coverage that was even similar to it," said Geoff Souser, Progressive product manager for auto insurance. "We have pets, too, and we know how important they are to our families. We are always looking for new and different ways of delivering value to our customers, and this seemed like a logical extension."

Progressive is the third-biggest auto insurer, ranking behind State Farm and Allstate and slightly ahead on National Indemnity (Berkshire Hathaway), which includes GEICO. <http://tinyurl.com/3ex6o6>

In Their Own Words

Animal Rights: It's NOT Animal Welfare. Do you know the difference?

"Go vegan, *never* patronize zoos, and resist the creation of new hierarchies based on humanocentric values. Humans are not *the* measure of things; we are only *one* measure among many." **Prof. Gary L. Francione – Blogspot, Animal Rights: The Abolitionist Approach, Equality and Similarity to Humans**

"Almost all my work is directed toward breaching the legal wall that separates humans from nonhumans. I'm interested in getting the first nonhuman animals their rights because I think once that happens the paradigm will shift. I'm very practical about this. It's going to take a while." **A Conversation with Stephen Wise, New York Times Oct. 2002**

If nonhuman animals are going to be morally significant—if they are going to have value beyond merely beings things with extrinsic or conditional value alone—we must protect their interest in not being commodities irrespective of consequence. This requires that we abolish and not merely regulate animal exploitation, that we care for the domestic animals that we have here now, and that we stop bringing [domestic animals](#) into existence for our use. **Prof. Gary L. Francione – Blogspot, Animal Rights: Clarifying the Meaning of a Right. January 31, 2007**

HSUS Endorses MSN for Pit Bulls

In his Humane Nation blog on November 8, 2007, Wayne Pacelle writes: “There are too many pit bulls being bred, mistreated and discarded in this country. Many urban shelters are packed with them—with pit bulls, in some communities, accounting for as many as 70 percent of all dogs in the shelters. Many people who want to provide a loving home won't consider these animals. And many people who want a dog as a weapon or a fighting animal do want them. This dynamic does not lend itself to an easy solution, and that's why **The HSUS has been advocating mandatory spaying and neutering of pit bulls in our communities**—partly because these animals are the most abused companion animals in our society and they deserve extra protections. They are the dog of choice for dogfighters, who are responsible for incalculable suffering.

Isn't mandatory spay neuter of a specific breed another path to breed extinction? How can HSUS be both for and against Breed Specific Legislation?

Quoting Pacelle from a 2006 article in Animal Sheltering: “The decade-to-decade evolution of the “dangerous” label from one breed to the next is one reason **The HSUS opposes breed-specific legislation**, said Pacelle. While there is merit to the argument that such legislation applied to pit bulls may curb the incidence of dogfighting, history shows that banning one breed won't prevent people from obtaining and exploiting another. And a number of factors unrelated to breed can lead to dog attacks in general: lack of sterilization, inhumane confinement, and lack of socialization, to name a few. The point was underscored, Pacelle said, in a recent article in the *New Yorker* by Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point*. Even though the so-called “dangerous” breeds come and go and change with time, Gladwell wrote, the total number of people killed by dogs has remained constant.”

What is Personhood?

The term “personhood” for animals is widely used among animal rights lawyers and advocates, their opponents, and the popular media. There is no single meaning to this term, nor are the implications clear if “personhood” is granted to animals. What does it mean to grant personhood to animals? Should all animals be granted personhood or only some? If some, how do we decide which ones? Should it be those that exceed a certain threshold of cognitive abilities, or those we especially love as pets?

There are no answers to these questions. Those of us concerned about the implications to research if this movement gains steam don't fully understand this term, but neither does the other side.

Wise, who has done the most to popularize the notion of personhood for animals, has a narrow view of what this means. He believes certain animals should be granted basic legal rights because they have mental abilities sufficiently similar to humans. For Wise, the basic right to be conferred is the right to bodily integrity, which means no captivity and no invasive medical research.

Wise argues basic rights should be granted to certain animals on two separate legal grounds, 1) liberty and 2) equality. For both, the essence of his argument is that likes should be treated alike. Certain animals are so much like humans, based upon their mental abilities, they should enjoy at a minimum, the basic legal rights afforded to the least capable humans.

Not all animal lawyers or animal rights advocates agree with this notion. In fact, most do not. The most prominent legal scholars who have spoken on animal rights issues have not endorsed the “personhood” argument as presented by Wise.

Many legal scholars believe personhood should be bestowed upon animals in a legal sense, but not for the purposes of establishing “rights.” What is the difference? The law often allows legal issues to be decided in a manner that might otherwise be precluded, referring to these as “legal fictions.” For example, the law confers “personhood” on many inanimate objects. Corporations and partnerships are legal persons under the law. So are certain churches, families, labor unions, municipalities and states. Specific ships and oil rigs can be considered “persons” under the law. They all can sue and be sued. The argument is why animals should be excluded from this legal fiction.

Two very prominent legal scholars, Laurence Tribe and Cass Sunstein, subscribe to this view of personhood. (Tribe is the Ralph S. Tyler, Jr. Professor of Constitutional Law, and Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard Law School. Tribe is arguably the most prominent constitutional law scholar in the country. His constitutional law treatise was the most widely cited legal document of the 20th century. Cass R. Sunstein is the Karl Llewellyn Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago and has written extensively on animal law issues.) They agree legal personhood should be granted to permit animals’ representatives to file a lawsuit to enforce existing rights, not necessarily to establish new rights. This still represents a significant threat to the research community, but it’s not the same personhood argument being made by Wise.

Many other animal lawyers and animal rights groups seem to view the personhood issue in the context of the current treatment of animals as property under state laws. For many, the significance of eliminating the property status of animals allows much higher damage awards in lawsuits involving pets and other animals.

So how do we get to personhood? Obviously the answer to this question depends upon your definition. Those with views similar to Tribe and Sunstein are seeking statutory changes to the Animal Welfare Act, as well as changes to state animal protection laws.

Those who want to eliminate the property status of animals are seeking changes to state statutes, as well as local and municipal ordinances. In addition, lawsuits aimed at changing state common law are being brought by animal lawyers across the country. Many of these lawsuits are asking state judges to use their common law powers to change the law. Lawsuits have been filed seeking damages for intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress in cases in which a pet has been killed or harmed. Loss of companionship cases and veterinary malpractice cases are increasingly being filed. All of these activities, if successful, will have the effect of breaking down the traditional view of animals as property under the law.

Those with more radical views about personhood, like Wise, understand that their view of animals will best be accepted by using a step-by-step approach. They seek small gains wherever they can be achieved. Each success will be followed by new, modest, and attainable goals. They are taking a long-term view. Wise likes to quote economist Robert Samuelson who said: “Progress occurs funeral by funeral.” (2) Wise uses this quote in the context of court decisions. He believes as older judges who are wedded to certain precedents die off, new, younger judges who once may have been animal rights lawyers will be in a position to establish law more favorable to the animal rights community.

Wise understands establishing his view of personhood for animals must be preceded by significant social and legal change. Even if the day comes when he believes some judges in some courts are ready to establish new legal precedents, Wise would continue with his step-at-a-time approach.

He would first ask that legal personhood be granted to several of the great apes. As we increase our knowledge of other animals, personhood could be expanded to other species as courts and legislatures become more willing to establish new legal rights.

Many other animal rights lawyers are also content to implement a long-term, step-by-step strategy. This strategy, though not necessarily coordinated, involves a multi-front campaign to slowly but consistently change the attitudes of the public who will then influence public policy and future court decisions.

Source: The Physiologist Vol.47 No. 6 December, 2004: Animal Personhood—A Threat to Research? by Steve Michael, Vice President and General Counsel Policy Directions, Inc.

Animal Law Notes

Twenty-eight years ago, animal law was nonexistent. The first animal law course was taught at Pace University School of Law in 1986. By 2000, 12 law schools taught animal law. Now there are 89, with the expectation of more coming soon.

One-million-dollar grants for animal law courses, workshops, scholarships and related work have gone to seven law schools since 2001, beginning with Harvard. The funds come from a foundation started by Bob Barker, the former host of television's *The Price Is Right*. The other schools are Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, Northwestern, Stanford and UCLA.

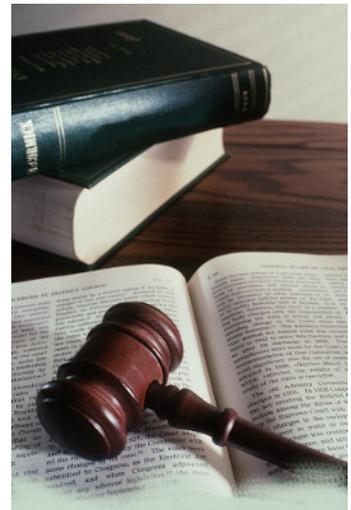
The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) law school chapters have grown from 12 in 2000 to 106.

The ALDF had 70 law firm lawyers doing pro bono work in 2000; there are now 640.

The Humane Society of the United States opened its own legal shop in 2005 with three lawyers. That practice has grown to 12 lawyers and 40 active cases, with about 200 lawyers helping out pro bono, including members of six of the 10 biggest law firms in the country, according to Jonathan Lovvorn, the society's vice president for animal-protection litigation.

A first in the U.S., this Tennessee order (Case File #: D-2252) appoints a guardian ad litem for the custody and care of decedent, Ronald W. Callan Jr.'s, dog. According to the order, the guardian ad litem (an attorney in this case) acts not as an advocate for the dog, but rather has a duty to determine what is in the dog's best welfare. Further, the guardian is given unlimited access to the dog and has the right to inspect where the dog is being sheltered. He can also inspect all veterinary records and speak with the dog's veterinarian.

Record Verdict: Honolulu, Hawaii. A circuit court jury on October 12, 2007 awarded a Hawaii dog attack case record \$850,000 to Keeton Manguso, age four, and his mother Veronica Tomooka, who were mauled at Kahala Beach on Mother's Day 2005 by a Rottweiler belonging to Mariko Bereday. "The jury awarded Manguso's family \$500,000 in punitive damages and \$350,000 in general damages. The award included \$6,500 in medical bills



A NEW PET for the HOLIDAYS? Think Twice!

Holiday cards are filled with images of irresistible pups and kittens poking their heads out of stockings, but the reality of adding a new pet to a household during the busy holiday season is quite different. The final weeks of the year are filled with decorating the house, making cookies and other delectable foods, buying gifts, entertaining, and visiting; a cheerful, busy time filled with anticipated and unanticipated events. It is wonderful and exciting for friends and family, but frightening to a pet trying to acclimate to a new environment.

The acquisition of a pet is for its lifetime, and a good beginning will set the tone for mutual companionship for the rest of its life---about 10 to 15 years. Whether you are thinking of giving a pet as a gift or adding one to your own household there are certain guidelines to follow.

Giving the surprise of a living, feeling, being to someone who is not prepared to, able to, or wants to take on the long term commitment of pet ownership is inhumane and irresponsible. Do speak to the intended recipient of the gift of a live animal, and allow them to decide if pet ownership is right for them.

Now is the time to decide on specifics. Does the recipient want a dog or cat? Both come in all sizes and temperaments, breeds, mixed breeds, colors, and coat lengths. Do they want an active pet or one which is more likely to lie at their feet and cuddle? The time to make decisions is before they bring that pet home. Do allow the recipients to select their individual pet. Then instead of bringing that new pet home to the frantic holiday environment, get a good book on pet care and training, wrap up some pet supplies, and leave them with an IOU under the tree. After the New Year, when everything has calmed down is the time to introduce the pet to a new environment and household routines.

Puppies and kittens grow up to be adults. While we know the adult size of a cat, that pup might grow much larger, but needs human companionship always. It's not fair to bring love home, tie it on a rope, and banish it to solitary confinement in a backyard for the rest of its life.

It's not fair either, to bring that pet home, and after it reaches its maturity turn it in to the municipal facility for someone else to end its life because the owner has changed his mind.

The new owner will be responsible for providing a safe environment, food and clean water, veterinary care, dishes, leashes, tags, toys, and beds and having the adequate funds to do so. Responsible ownership means neutering and spaying at the appropriate time. A pet eats and eliminates waste products. Owners must clean up after their pet and safely dispose of these waste products.

Has the new owner thought about the arrangements they will need to make before they consider going on vacation?

Dogs need to be taught to walk on leash and be allowed to run free only inside a securely fenced yard. Pets should not be allowed to roam at will. A good neighbor is the responsible owner who creates the good pet citizen.

It is now the New Year. You have carefully considered the pet you want and have brought him home.

Congratulations!

Keep Pets Safe During the Holidays

A measure of caution will keep your pets safe this holiday season. One rule to follow: do not let your guests feed your pets human food. There are many holiday foods, including fatty meats, gravies, poultry skin, bones that can cause illness or diarrhea; and chocolate is toxic.

Keep holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and lilies out of your pet's reach

The extra cords and plugs of holiday lights and other fixtures can look like chew toys to pets. Tape down or cover cords to help avoid shocks, burns or other serious injuries. Unplug lights when you are not home.

Anchor Christmas trees to the ceiling with a string to keep it from falling on pets.

Do not let pets drink the holiday tree water; it could be harboring bacteria. Read the labels of any preservatives for tree water – some contain fertilizer - and the labels for artificial snow; buy only those that are nontoxic.

Keep other ornaments and tinsel out of reach of pets. Ingestion of any ornament, which might look like toys to pets, can result in life-threatening emergencies.

Put away toys after children open their gifts. Small plastic pieces and rubber balls are common causes of choking and intestinal blockage in dogs.

Do not try to introduce your dog to a visitor if the dog seems agitated. It is never good to force a dog into a behavior. If the dog's hesitation is based on fear, forcing the dog forward will not address the problem. Instead, you want to demonstrate to your dog why he should trust you as his leader while gradually introducing him to someone or something new...doing it gradually enough not to trigger a fear response. Dogs may respond to fear by attempting to flee or even through aggressive display (such as growling, lunging or nipping) in an attempt to repel the stranger.

While a houseful of guests may be a joy for you and your family, it could be stressful for your dog. If your dog is not used to a lot of visitors or is distrustful of strangers, a solution is to crate the dog in a separate room. You could also choose to place a baby gate across a hallway or adjoining room which will give the dog a chance to observe your company from the other side. This gives the dog a chance to watch and calm down, and also prevents the dog from accidentally slipping out the door while visitors are walking in and out.

Charities & Holiday Giving

As the holiday season approaches, many thoughts turn to helping those less fortunate. In fact, surveys have indicated that over 50 percent of all donations to charity are made between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's important, however, that you don't make charitable contributions indiscriminately. By following a few precautions, you can ensure your generosity provides maximum benefits for the organizations who need your help. Before you donate make sure your money supports a cause that meets your approval. Thoroughly investigate and understand both the animal-related issues and the programs or ideals that your donation will support. Will your donation go directly to help animals or will it be used for administrative costs and campaign funds?

Suggestions for donations to benefit animals and people:

American Veterinary Medical Foundation to fund VMAT (Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams). This group is the first line of defense in responding to animals and their owners in the event of a disaster. Monies could be used for training and instituting SART (State Animal Response Teams) and CART (County Animal Response Teams) programs. Without this team, in North Carolina after Hurricane Floyd, thousands of abandoned animals would have died. With SART in place, their physical and medical needs were taken care of, and once owners were allowed to come home, animals were reunited. Animals that were not reclaimed were adopted out quickly. The SART program made that happen. Donating to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation could make this program a reality in more states, and directly affect those in the greatest need. More information on the Foundation and what they have accomplished can be found at: <http://www.avmf.org/html/index.asp>

Canine Companions for Independence - a national nonprofit that enhances the lives of children and adults with disabilities by providing highly-trained [assistance dogs](#) and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. For more information visit <http://www.caninecompanions.org/>

AKC Canine Health Foundation - The foundation works to develop significant resources for basic and applied health programs with emphasis on canine genetics to improve the quality of life for dogs and their owners. The foundation funds research and supports canine health scientists and professionals in their efforts to study the causes and origins of canine disease and afflictions in order to formulate effective treatments. http://www.akcchf.org/index.cfm?nav_area=homepage

The Winn Feline Foundation - a non-profit organization established by the Cat Fancier's Association, Inc. to support health-related studies benefiting cats. <http://www.winnfelinehealth.org/index.html>

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission – Give back to wildlife this holiday season. The online NC Wild Store carries many different products, from books to posters to clothes, that make great gifts for hunters, anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts. Proceeds from each product go to support a correlating wildlife project or program. To see all items available for purchase visit www.newildstore.com

Local rescues and shelters – normally work on very tight budgets and have extensive wish lists and needs in order to better care for animals waiting for new homes.



Protecting your right to responsibly own and breed animals.

Join NCRAOA. See our home page for membership information and application

For more information on animal health, training, reports on pet issues, animal sheltering, or to learn the difference between animal welfare and animal rights – visit our website at www.ncraoa.com

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws.

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