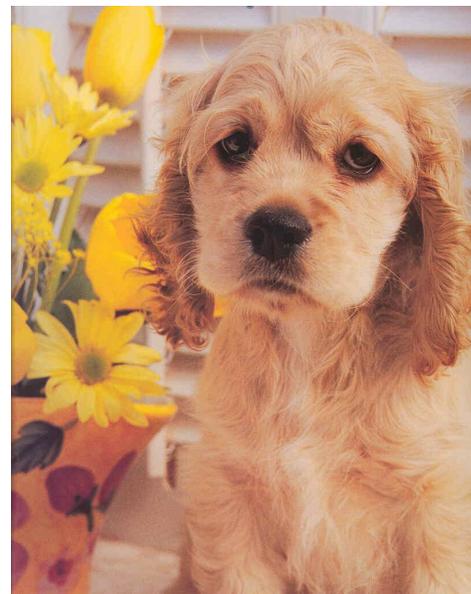


Free Poison Control Hotline

Kansas State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital offers a FREE 24 hour poison control hotline for pet owners and veterinarians.

1-785-532-5679 is the number and the free service has been available since 1969. Although there is no 800 number and you will be charged for the call – the service itself is provided for not cost. Dr Oehme, a vet and professor in toxicology and pathology oversees the hotline. Dr Oehme offers these suggestions:

- Be patient. The person answering the phone may have to take a few minutes to consult the vet on duty. Toxicologists are also taking calls from vets about other animals and other problems, including those problems with large animals.
- Call as soon as possible. Immediate attention might save your animal. Waiting to see if there is a reaction could cost your animal their life.
- Have any product labels available for answers. The vet might need to know milligrams and generic names.



Noted from AVMA

Cases of xylitol poisoning in dogs rise

The Animal Poison Control Center of the ASPCA has managed a substantially increased number of cases involving xylitol poisoning in dogs. Found in sugar-free chewing gum, candy, and baked goods, xylitol is a sweetener that can cause serious and sometimes life-threatening problems for pets. The center managed more than 170 cases of xylitol poisoning in 2005, up from approximately 70 in 2004 according to a spokesperson at the center. As of August, the center had managed nearly 114 cases in 2006.

Dr. Eric Dunayer, the center's toxicology specialist reported they have begun to see problems developing from ingestions products with lesser amounts of this sweetener. Dogs ingesting substantial amounts of items sweetened with xylitol could develop a sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination, and seizures. Signs can develop quite rapidly, sometimes less than 30 minutes after ingestion of the product.

Executive Board Discusses Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia

Dr. Robert E. "Bud" Hertzog, District VII, of Lee's Summit, Mo., chaired the final meeting of the 2005-2006 AVMA Executive July 13 in Honolulu. The board discussed a recommendation to approve a procedure for updating sections of the Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia as new science becomes available in physiology, pharmacology, and species variations. It was noted that industry and organizations turn to the AVMA when knowledge develops about euthanasia methods.

Board members agreed on the need to be timely in responding to inquiries about new procedures and agents of euthanasia, but some expressed concern over the recommendation's provision to charge members of the Animal Welfare Committee with evaluating euthanasia methods between the convening of expert panels.

Another concern was that changing the name of the document from the Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia to AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia might erode its authority. An AVMA member in attendance at the board meeting, Dr. Charles L. Stoltenow, said that in the world where he works—as an extension veterinarian at North Dakota State University and member of its institutional animal care and use committee—the panel report is the gold standard, and it is critical to maintain that credibility.

After deliberating, the board approved the recommendation. It provides that at least once every 10 years, the AVMA will convene a panel of scientists to review all literature that scientifically evaluates methods and potential methods of euthanasia, with the goal of publishing the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia. During interim years, any request for procedures or agents to be considered for approval by the AVMA that deal with causing, facilitating, or complementing existing procedures of euthanasia will be directed to the Animal Welfare Committee. The AWC will evaluate available science on the procedure or agent to determine whether it should be included in the existing guidelines. If so, the AWC will draft appropriate wording and determine where it should be inserted. The AWC will then recommend the revisions to the Executive Board for inclusion, and if passed, the revised document will become the official version.

<http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/sep06/060915e.asp>

Veterinarians are seeing more and more senior pets

The percentage of cats and dogs 6 years of age or older jumped between 1987 and 2001, according to U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics sourcebooks. The sourcebooks draw on data from national studies performed by the AVMA, the next of which is due to be conducted in 2007. The studies revealed that the percentage of owned dogs age 11 or older increased from 14.6 percent in 1987 to 15.5 percent in 2001. The percentage of owned cats age 11 or older increased from 10.6 percent in 1987 to 16.8 percent in 2001. During that same period, the percentage of dogs age 6 to 10 rose from 27.1 percent to 31.2 percent whereas cats age 6 to 10 rose from 17.9 percent to 25.7 percent.

Veterinary medicine has responded to the aging of the pet population with a variety of measures. A large amount of recent veterinary research has focused on geriatric conditions such as cognitive dysfunction, glaucoma, and osteoarthritis. On the basis of comments from veterinarians, the trend toward older pets is likely to continue. Many veterinarians attribute the longer, healthier life of the typical pet to care provided by owners as well as medical advances.

Winn Feline Foundation

The Winn Feline Foundation is currently accepting grant applications for awards to be made in February 2007. During the fiscal year ending April 30, 2006, The Winn Feline Foundation funded grants totaling \$131,364 including such areas as feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, feline cancer, intestinal biopsies, feline genetics, and drug treatments. Through the George Sydney and Phyllis Redman Miller Trust, Winn Feline Foundation has funded \$101,288 in grants for studies of heart disease, pain management, corneal ulcer repair, vaccination-site sarcomas, and two on infectious diseases - feline herpesvirus and feline infectious peritonitis.

A New Leash On Life

Craven/Pamlico Animal Services and Pitt County Animal Shelter partnered with Craven Correctional Institution to receive 4 unwanted dogs every 8 weeks to promote “A New Leash On Life Program”. The program helps to reduce the homeless pet population, promotes adoption of unwanted animals, and provides education about responsible pet ownership.

The New Leash On Life Program allows minimum and medium custody state prisons to partner with local animal shelters and animal welfare agencies to train dogs in preparation for their adoption. It gives inmates a chance to serve communities by training dogs to be well-behaved. The inmates spend 8 weeks teaching the dogs basic obedience, house training and socialization skills, which make them better pets for adoption. It is a community service program that provides an opportunity for prison facilities to partner with local government and nonprofit agencies to give inmates an opportunity to perform community service work while incarcerated. The partnership provides an opportunity for dogs to be trained for companionship. Careful analysis must be done before considering this program for your area. More information on the program can be found at: <http://www.doc.state.nc.us/DOP/Program/leash.htm>.

A star graduate of the program is “Doppler”, a mixed-breed dog adopted by WITN from Pitt County Animal Shelter in February. Doppler graduated from the New Leash On Life program on April 21, 2006. Drake Parker of Top Dog Academy in Greenville is helping Doppler make the transition from shelter to school to television star. Doppler knows several commands – like sit, down and stay – and is working on expanding her bag of tricks. WITN staff members also receive training on how to properly give Doppler commands. Doppler accompanies WITN meteorologists to events, schools, and community programs across Eastern Carolina.

Doppler hopes to spread the word about responsible dog ownership.

Study Shows 9/11 Responder Dogs OK

The 300 search and rescue dogs who served at the site of the World Trade Center disaster apparently have escaped the health problems that have affected many of the human workers at Ground Zero. Data compiled by the NYPD Canine Unit and in studies at Animal Medical Center in Manhattan and the University of Pennsylvania show that search and rescue dogs suffered little or no consequences from whatever they inhaled or touched.

The study began with 97 search and rescue dogs that had spent time at the site and 55 control dogs. These were not first-responder dogs from the NYPD Canine Unit but the dogs that followed. First-responder dogs also fared well according to the director of research and staff cardiologist at Animal Medical Center.

Although researchers had heard many rumors about the health of the dogs, the study found no ill effects. Dogs have died over the years of old age, but there have been no differences between deployed dogs and the control group.

The American Kennel Club Health Foundation will continue to fund the University of Pennsylvania study for the life of the remaining 50 deployed dogs.

Pets & Allergies

Are you or someone in your family allergic to pets? There is hope for solutions with some work and understanding of the problem.

Animal dander (skin dandruff) is just one of many irritants. Unfortunately, the pet is the most obvious target to be the culprit for aggravating allergies. People with allergies are rarely allergic to only one thing. If someone discovers he is allergic to a pet, he probably has problems with dust, pollen, grasses, plant molds, ozone and other air pollutants, some foods, perfumes, smoke, feathers, and other substances.

True 'allergies' are caused by proteins, in plant or animal matter; the 'histamine' reaction is to the protein and the cellular involvement (i.e. red blotches on the face and tender areas (inside of arms, etc.) watery eyes, and the worst of course is allergy induced respiratory involvement as asthma.

Allergy Risk

Some veterinarians say that some pets are less allergenic than others; others disagree. Many people mistakenly believe that shorthaired dogs are less allergenic than longhaired breeds; however, the allergic reaction is caused by animal dander, not hair. The presence of allergic dander in cats and dogs is not affected by length of hair or fur. Poodles are often considered as hypoallergenic because they shed less than other breeds. While poodles can be a dog some allergy sufferers can live with, there is a down side to the breed because it requires a considerable amount of grooming. Poodle mixes do not uniformly inherit the gene for reduced shedding - probability would be about 50%. Dander is not the only culprit to aggravate an allergy. Body fluids such as saliva, tears and urine can all contribute to make an allergy sufferer's life miserable.



Cats are about equally allergenic no matter what breed. Their allergens are harder to escape than dog allergens since cat dander is smaller and stickier than dog dander. Because cats are always licking their fur, a child also has a good chance of coming into contact with cat saliva, another allergen.

Although hamsters, gerbils, and other rodents are sometimes recommended as pets for allergic children, children can develop an allergy to their urine and droppings. When caged, these animals can't really avoid stepping in their own urine or feces, which contain allergens that can cause a reaction when they come in contact with a child's skin.

Steps to work through your allergy problem

- Go to a reputable allergist. The doctor will conduct tests to see exactly what you are allergic to. The test results help determine your course of action.
- Insist on thorough testing, not just a scratch test.
- Even if the doctor says your pet is part of your allergy problem, don't give up the animal right away. Remember – it's not the pet itself you're allergic to, it's the dander, excess fur and other non-pet-related irritants

- Invest in a good air purifier for your home. Some small room-size purifiers may not do the job, but industrial-sized and specialized models usually will.
- Desensitize your home. This is just a way of saying keep everything as clean and free of dust, fur and animal dander as possible.
- Allergic people should live with as many washable surfaces as possible – the fewer carpets and upholstered pieces the better. Dander, fur and dust can accumulate on furniture and in carpets and can build up to an intolerable level. Nylon or synthetic carpets attract and hold dust more than natural wool.
- Special non-allergenic washable covers are available for mattresses, box springs and pillows
- Groom your cat thoroughly. Long or short-haired, you should comb and brush him every day. Besides keeping the coat glossy, grooming reduces shedding and prevents hairballs. Even if your pet is not accustomed to grooming, he will learn to enjoy it if you start with just a few strokes a day.
- Baths for cats are usually not necessary. If you really must bathe a cat, use warm water and mild soap, rinse thoroughly, dry well and keep the cat out of drafts until completely dry and fluffy again.
- Dogs should be bathed and groomed regularly.
- Wiping down the animal with a damp cloth will help also as it will remove dust, pollen, protein from saliva, dander; when done with the cloth, rinse it well and dry; if you just let it dry without cleaning, then the rag will become the allergy trigger.
- ALLERPET - for dogs or cats - comes in a pump spray bottle. Sprayed on the pet the product binds the proteins to the coat. Many people have been able to manage their allergies with the help of this product. Talk to your doctor or allergist for advice.



Extremists in the News

Cambridge Mass. September 28, 2006-Boston Herald. An exotic pet store was burned out. Authorities arriving at the scene discovered black graffiti painted on the brick and concrete building face that reads “No more exploitation of animals” in large capital letters. The State Fire Marshal confirmed the following day that the fire was arson. Among the dead animals at the shop are 3 boa constrictors, 2 South American wood turtles, 2 California king snakes, 2 Mexican king snakes, 3 leopard geckos and 3 fat-tailed geckos; 21 reptiles and 60 fish total have died and dozens more are fighting for their lives.

Oban, Scotland, UK. September 20, 2006-TimesOnLineUK. 15,000 farmed fish were sent to their deaths when Animal Liberation Front activists released them. Thousands of dead fish are being washed up along the west coast of Scotland after the raid at Kames Marine Fish Farm, near Oban. The perpetrators are thought to have attacked last week. Detectives believe that the attack could be linked to a spate of other farm attacks throughout the country. The letters ALF (Animal Liberation Front) were spray-painted near by. The loss is estimated to have cost the fish farm at least £500,000 as boats, cranes and offices were also vandalized. The halibut died from starvation or getting caught in seaweed; they were also being eaten by herring gulls and otters.

Pet Animal Welfare Statute 2005 (PAWS)

This congressional session ends October 1st leaving PAWS by the wayside. Several items should be noted regarding this legislation. North Carolina animal organizations sent a strong message to their representatives that PAWS should not be supported. While supportive of reasonable animal welfare laws, these groups knew that the purported intent of PAWS to safeguard animals was not synonymous with the actual language, and unnecessary federal regulation intruding into our homes and lives would be detrimental in the long run to small scale breeders.

Did those who opposed PAWS secure a victory or a stalemate? When PAWS was introduced by Senator Santorum in May 2005, bear in mind this was the third version of a bill to federally regulate small animal breeding at the retail level - two strikes already against the concept. During the course of negotiations the bill's primary players fell into disagreement. Outsourcing of inspections to eliminate the impossible burden on USDA brought about reversal of support by Doris Day Animal League (DDAL). Santorum's re-election troubles at home so far in advance of the 2008 election certainly could be construed as having effect on his lack of effort to spend additional time on PAWS.

Nationally, animal groups and registries, dog and cat clubs, and AKC parent breed clubs issued statements of opposition. Under the leadership of SAOVA, a well-documented list was maintained as groups mobilized in opposition. Orchestrated by SAOVA's Bob Kane, the opposition included a full page ad in Roll Call – the Capitol Hill political newspaper with a circulation of ~30,000. The effect of the ad was not lost on Senator Santorum who alluded to it in the opening statement for his November hearing on PAWS.

Santorum/HSUS/AKC summoned waves of emotion into play attempting to gain acceptance for PAWS from the hobby breeder community and from the general public. Emotion is probably the worst reason for enacting legislation. When animal legislation is proposed we must examine not only the intent, but the need, language and possible outcomes both positive and negative. Thirty-three groups and countless individuals in NC did exactly that, uniting to state their opposition to PAWS.

Hopefully three failed legislative attempts at federal regulation should be enough and our message will not need to be repeated.

Pit Bull Saves Teen from Fire

A pit bull recently adopted by a family who found him wandering through a construction site, woke the teenager by barking and jumping on the bed when a fire broke out in the house. The 17-year old girl was safely out of the house when firefighters arrived at the scene.

Firefighters said the blaze appeared to have started from a bad extension cord on a window air conditioner. The house is said to be a total loss.

WBBH-TV—Ft. Myers, FL

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15074838/>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15061462/>