



Lab Notes

November 2013

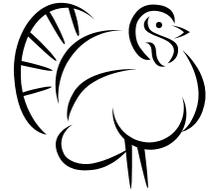
Happy Trails Dr. Britt!

Oct. 31st we bid a fond farewell to our lab director Dr. James Britt. He has been a veterinary pathologist at ALPC since 1988, taking over as laboratory director in 2010. He has organized the annual South Central Division pathology program for the C.L. Davis Foundation for 22 years and has managed the Davis Foundation veterinary student externship program in pathology and hosted many student externs in the lab over the years. He plans to enjoy his time riding his bicycle, camping and working on projects.

Dr. Linda Meola will be acting as interim director.

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK
AND POULTRY
COMMISSION
VETERINARY
DIAGNOSTIC LAB

Dr. Linda Meola, Interim
Laboratory Director.



Helpful Hints from the Lab—

You can use Xpress Courier to get your samples to us in a timely manner! The current charge is \$5.00 a pickup which we bill you for monthly. They cover most of the state and can do STAT pickups for an extra charge. They usually pick up samples on one day and deliver to us the next morning; call for same day or STAT service. They do not deliver on Saturday or Sunday.

Call to see if they service your area

Toll-Free 1-877-677-4090 for pickups

John 501-231-9310 or Michael 501-580-9336

The Lab will be closed Nov 11 for Veterans day, and Nov. 28th and 29th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Tritrichomonas pouches—

When sending *Tritrichomonas* pouches to the lab with the courier PLEASE make sure to specify on the package in a visible and clear manner that they are NOT TO BE REFRIGERATED. Refrigeration can cause false negatives on the testing. Thank you!

Dog Bite Fever

Capnocytophaga canimorsus is a zoonotic agent (causes interspecies infection) that has been isolated from humans following bite wounds, licks and scratches from dogs⁵, but also to a lesser degree from cats and rarely rabbits. It can be part of the normal flora in a dog's mouth. The disease it causes in humans is sometimes referred to as "Dog Bite Fever".

C. canimorsus has been documented to cause wound and systemic infection in humans. Although between the years 1976-2010, only 200 cases of *Capnocytophaga* infection were reported. Systemic symptoms arise 5-7 days after a dog bite. Initial symptoms range from localized cellulitis, pain, purulent discharge, lymphangitis, and regional lymphadenopathy. Septicemia symptoms include chills, myalgia, vomiting, diarrhea, dyspnea, abdominal pain, malaise, mental confusion, and headache. Immunocompromised individuals exposed to the bacterium are more susceptible than healthy persons to sepsis, meningitis, osteomyelitis, peritonitis, endocarditis, pneumonia, purulent arthritis, disseminated intravascular coagulation, and fulminant purpura. Infection in non-human mammals has rarely been observed or reported.

You can receive your newsletter through e-mail! Send a request to jmccune@alpc.ar.gov



Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

1 Natural Resources Dr, Little Rock, AR 72205 501-907-2430 alpc.ar.gov

Jerky Pet Treats

Since 2007, FDA has received reports of illnesses in pets associated with the consumption of jerky pet treats. As of September 24, 2013, FDA has received approximately 3000 reports of pet illnesses which may be related to consumption of the jerky treats. The reports involve more than 3600 dogs, 10 cats and include more than 580 deaths.

FDA has issued several advisories to the public about the illnesses, and while the rate of reports has declined since February 2013, we are still receiving new complaints. We continue to investigate these illnesses in conjunction with the Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (Vet-LIRN) and State partners.

On October 22, 2013, FDA issued a Dear Veterinarian letter to licensed practitioners, encouraging them to provide case information to FDA and Vet-LIRN, and asking them to advise their clients about the illnesses. We are also providing a Fact Sheet for pet owners explaining what symptoms to look for and steps they can take to protect their pets' health. We also remind pet owners that treats are not needed for a balanced diet.

As veterinarians, animal scientists and pet owners, we strive to make sure that the products FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine regulates are safe, effective and properly manufactured. We understand the love and devotion pets provide, and we are determined to find the answer to this mystery.

Below is a fact sheet from the FDA website for pet owners that can be copied and given to clients.



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

FDA Facts: Jerky Pet Treats

FDA has been actively investigating consumer complaints about jerky pet treats causing illness in dogs and in some cats. As of Sept. 24, 2013, over 3,600 dogs and 10 cats have reportedly become ill from eating jerky pet treats.

The treats are sold as jerky tenders or strips and are made with chicken, duck, sweet potato, dried fruit, and in combinations of these ingredients.

Product samples have been tested for contaminants known to cause the symptoms and illnesses reported in pets including *Salmonella*, metals, pesticides, and antibiotics, and were screened for other chemicals and poisonous compounds. Nutritional composition analyses have been conducted including fatty acids, crude fiber, glycerol, protein, ash and moisture, and other excess nutrients. The purpose of nutritional composition testing is to verify the presence of ingredients listed on the label. To date, none of the tests have revealed the cause of the illnesses.

Treats Are a Treat

Pet treats are not a necessary part of a fully balanced diet, so eliminating them will not harm pets. All the nutrients your pet needs can be found in commercially produced pet food.

What to Look Out For

Watch your pet closely. Signs that may occur within hours to days of feeding the products are decreased appetite, decreased activity, vomiting, diarrhea (sometimes with blood or mucus), increased water consumption and/or increased urination. Severe cases are diagnosed with pancreatitis, gastrointestinal bleeding, and kidney failure or the resemblance of a rare kidney related illness called Fanconi syndrome. Although FDA has reports of more than 580 deaths, many pets have recovered.

Testing Samples

FDA is testing samples of jerky pet treats. FDA is working with the Veterinary Laboratory Investigation Response Network

(Vet-LIRN) to test samples of jerky pet treats. FDA laboratories and the other animal health diagnostic laboratories in the Vet-LIRN™ network obtain samples of treats directly from the source for testing. In some instances, after obtaining medical histories of pets that have been seen by a veterinarian, FDA may plan and organize testing of treats collected from consumers based on the case profiles. FDA recommends that pet owners whose pet becomes sick after eating jerky pet treats should hold on to any unused portion of the product in its original container for at least 60 days, in case FDA calls to request samples for testing. Owners should place the container inside a sealable plastic bag, if possible.

Contacts

You can help FDA's investigation by reporting your complaints through the Safety Reporting Portal (www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov) or your local FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator (www.fda.gov/Safety/ReportaProblem/ConsumerComplaintCoordinators/default.htm).

You can also contact the pet food/treats company (see packaging for contact information) and alert them about your pet's illness.

If you require the use of a Relay Service, please call the Federal Relay Services toll-free from a TTY device (1-800-877-8339).

For More Information

FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine:
www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm

Report pet food complaints:
www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ReportaProblem/ucm182403.htm

Questions & Answers about jerky treats:
www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ProductSafetyInformation/ucm295445.htm

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