

Scratch Sheet

Does Dry Food Clean the Teeth? *Jean Hofve, DVM*

Let's get this one straight once and for all: dry food does not clean your cat's teeth! In fact, dry food really has no benefits for the cat. It is merely a convenience for the guardian. If you haven't already read "Why Cats Need Canned Food", that's a good place to start in your quest for accurate, up-to-date information on feeding cats.

Most cats don't consistently chew dry food; they swallow it whole. Obviously, without contacting the teeth, there is zero effect on tartar accumulation. For cats who do chew dry food, whether consistently or occasionally, there is still little or no benefit. The kibbles shatter, so contact between the kibble and the teeth occurs only at the tips of the teeth. This is certainly not enough to make a difference in the formation of tartar and plaque, which most commonly builds up along (and underneath) the gum-line at the base of the teeth.

Keeping your cat's (or dog's) teeth and gums healthy requires a commitment on your part. Daily tooth brushing and regular veterinary cleanings are still important. The labels on even the special "tartar control" diets like Hill's t/d and Friskies dental diet recommend these additional steps. (Of course, brushing daily with periodic cleaning by the vet are sufficient to keep the teeth healthy by themselves, without using a special diet at all!) Dental diets are very different from all other dry foods. The kibbles are very large, and have a different texture than regular dry food.

In Dr. Hofve's experience as a feline veterinarian, she reports an estimate of examining at least 13,000 cats' mouths. There was no real pattern to the dental and periodontal disease she saw. If anything, tartar and gum disease seemed to be more attributable to genetics or concurrent disease (such as feline leukemia or feline AIDS) than to any particular diet. She noted both beautiful *and* horrible mouths in cats eating wet food, dry food, raw food, and every possible combination. Many of her patients initially ate mostly or exclusively dry food; yet these cats had some of the most infected, decayed, foul-smelling mouths she saw. If there was any dietary influence at all, she believes that raw-fed cats had better oral health than cats on any type of commercial food. However, the overall effect of diet on dental health appeared to be minimal at most.

If your vet still believes the myth of dry food and dental health (which is still actively promoted by the pet food companies despite the utter lack of scientific support for the theory), here are a few references that refute the idea:

- Logan, et al., Dental Disease, in: Hand et al., eds., *Small Animal Clinical Nutrition, Fourth Edition*. Topeka, KS: Mark Morris Institute, 2000, p. 487.
- *J Nutr.* 1998;128:2712S-2714S
- A review of feline neck lesions found no significant influence of diet. (Johnson N, Acquired feline oral cavity disease, Part 2: feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions. *In Practice.* 2000 Apr:188-197). A review of feline neck lesions found no significant influence of diet. (Johnson N, Acquired feline oral cavity disease, Part 2: feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions. *In Practice.* 2000 Apr:188-197).
- *J Vet Dent.* 1996 Sept;13(3):101-105.

These studies show that dry food does not clean a cat's teeth any better than eating pretzels cleans ours! At best, we can say that dry food tends to produce slightly less tartar than canned food. For cats, the benefits of feeding canned food far outweigh any possible dental problems that may result. After all, it is much easier for your vet to clean your cat's teeth once a year than to treat diabetes, urinary tract problems, and other diseases that are either directly caused or aggravated by feeding dry food.

Regular home and veterinary dental care are *real* keys to keeping your cat's teeth and gums healthy for life.



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www.mcbfa.org
Username: MCBFA
Password: Dental Disease



URGENT DRUG RECALL DIGOXIN (DIGITEK)

April 25, 2008 -- Actavis Totowa LLC, a United States manufacturing division of the international generic pharmaceutical company Actavis Group, is initiating a Class I nationwide recall of Digitek® (digoxin tablets, USP, all strengths) for oral use. The products are distributed by Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc., under a "Bertek" label and by UDL Laboratories, Inc. under a "UDL" label.

The voluntary all lot recall is due to the possibility that tablets with double the appropriate thickness may have been commercially released. These tablets may contain twice the approved level of active ingredient than it appropriate.

http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/actavis04_08.html

(left) A Kitten at LAPD Cattery in California enjoying life

July 14 & 15, 2008 Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine Presents Two Courses on Integrative Veterinary Medicine for the Pet Owner

Course 1

What is Integrative Veterinary Medicine?

Monday July 14, 2008, 5 - 7 PM Pacific Time

This course is the first in a series that will explore this rapidly emerging medical approach to health and healing for your pet. Integrative Veterinary Medicine is a comprehensive medical approach to pet care which combines the best of conventional medicine and complementary and alternative therapies. This type of veterinary practice focuses on treating the whole animal, partnership between the client and the veterinarian, and it uses all appropriate therapeutic options to achieve optimal wellness for your pet. The emphasis is on using all reasonable therapies or systems of medicine together that provides an increased capacity to prevent and treat disease that would not be possible using one system of medicine alone. This integrative approach to veterinary medicine is designed to minimize adverse effects, maximize successful treatment outcomes and improve the quality of life.

Course 2

How Complementary and Alternative Therapies and Conventional Medicine are Combined in an Integrative Veterinary Medicine Approach

Tuesday July 15, 2008, 5 - 7 PM Pacific Time

This course is the second in a series on Integrative Veterinary Medicine. This course will discuss in detail the complementary and alternative veterinary medicine (CAVM) therapies that may be included in an integrative medicine approach. Major topics include acupuncture, herbal medicine, chiropractic, homeopathy, canine physical therapy, nutritional therapy and more. Examples of how these modalities are combined with conventional medicine will be given to illustrate the benefits of using an integrative approach to treat your pet. Tips and information on how to evaluate and find a qualified integrative medicine veterinarian in your area will also be included.

Course fee = \$35 (2 hours) EACH course.

How the course works: These 2 courses are real-time, web-based, 2 hour sessions with an opportunity to ask questions using text messaging.

More Details & to Sign-up: <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ce/integrative/>

Contact: Katie Seaman 509-335-4840 kseaman@vetmed.wsu.edu

WINNERS' GALLERY



Regional Winner
Supreme Grand Champion
Dracoonfly Kachina Doll of MaineVu
 Brown Classic Torbie
 Breeder: Sharon Stegall
 Owners: Phil & Marge Berger



(above) Grand Champion
Ger.Macavity T Bear of McKittycreek
 Brown Classic Tabby & White Male
 Breeders: Peter & Irmi Bittner
 Owners: S.Storten, R. Shuba & T. Signore



Regional Winner
Supreme Grand Champion
Witchcraft Flash Fire of Chemicooons
 Brown Classic Torbie & White Female
 Breeder: Walburga Petz
 Owner: Liz Hansen
 ©2008 PrestonSmithPhoto.com



(left) Supreme Grand Champion Alter
Chemicooons McGurk Momie
 Brown Classic Tabby Neuter
 Breeder: Liz Hansen
 Owners: Carol & Steve Welch
 ©2008 PrestonSmithPhoto.com

(right) Quadruple Grand Champion
Dracoonfly Miramichi Special
 Brown Classic Tabby Female
 Breeder/Owner: Sharon Stegall



(left) CFA Grand Champion
TICA Supreme Grand Champion
Terrificats Smokin' in the BackRoom
 Black Smoke & White Male
 Breeder/Owner: Karen Crooke



Quadruple Grand Champion Alter
Woodpile Orange Crush
 Red Classic Tabby Neuter
 Breeder: Jan Dell
 Owner: Ann Lervold



Does Your Cat Have Dental Disease?

Breeder Member Liz Hansen, Chemicoons Cattery, Missouri

Dental disease, specifically periodontal disease, is the most common ailment affecting cats and dogs. The amount and severity of dental disease in our pets can be very surprising. The recognition and treatment of dental disease is all too often overlooked by veterinarians and pet owners alike. Most veterinary schools have yet to recognize the importance teaching about oral health in the education of veterinarians and technicians. It may require the combined efforts of pet owners and enlightened veterinarians to recognize the signs of dental disease in our pets.

Halitosis, or bad breath, is the most common sign of oral disease. Classic "cat breath" is not necessarily normal. The major cause of halitosis is periodontal disease. This is an infection of the gums and potentially the other supporting structures of the teeth. Plaque builds up every day on the tooth surface including at the gum line.

Left in place, the plaque can mineralize, or harden, in less than 2 days, forming calculus or tartar. The tartar will stick to the tooth surface forming a scaffold for more plaque accumulation. The continued build-up of tartar both above and below the gum line can eventually produce an environment that is a haven for certain types of bacteria that may be more destructive to the periodontal tissues and also produce a more noticeable odor.

The most obvious visual clue to dental disease is the build up of the tartar on the tooth surface. A much more subtle clue to dental disease is the change in the normal gum lines. Every tooth has a bulge just where the normal, healthy gum meets the tooth. This bulge is normally not a



Plaque along the gum line is the most common cause of gingivitis.

straight line for most teeth. This means that we should see a slight wave of gums along the outside of normal, healthy teeth. If the gums are straight along the tooth, either gingivitis, or inflammation of the gums, or gingival recession, or loss of the normal gum height, is present.

Gingivitis is reversible, as the inflammation will go away once the cause of the inflammation is addressed. Plaque along the gum line is easily the most common cause of gingivitis. Once the gingiva, or gums, begin to be lost, periodontal disease is present. As in humans, gingival recession is permanent. With gum loss, comes exposure of the root surface of the tooth. The root surface is rougher than the crown of the tooth and is therefore more likely to attract plaque.

In cats, however, gum loss has even more serious repercussions than in humans. The area between the roots of teeth with more than one root is called the furcation. The furcation is much closer to the normal gum line in the teeth of cats. A seemingly small amount of gum loss can cause exposure of the root surface and perhaps even this furcation area, providing even more surface for plaque and tartar on which to adhere. Fortunately, cats do not get true caries. Visualization of the actual bulge or even the exposed furcation area of a tooth is evidence of fairly signifi-

cant periodontal disease. As more of the gums and bone supporting the teeth are lost, the more likely loss of teeth. Noting one of the more severe signs of dental disease, loosening of the teeth, may also be tricky unless one knows to look for it.

There are other signs of dental disease in your pet that may be more subtle. Cats may preferentially choose softer foods, play with chew toys less and decline crunchy treats. You may notice your pet chewing more on side of his mouth. He may chew less in general and this sometimes causes the cat to vomit, seen as undigested, poorly chewed food. Increased salivation, pawing at or rubbing the face can be indications of oral pain.

It is important to realize that some periodontal disease may not be visible to even the most experienced observer. Sometimes, the bone around the teeth is lost faster than, or even without, gum loss. Not all periodontal disease can be appreciated without a complete periodontal examination, including dental radiographs. This step requires pets to be under anesthesia. Therefore, a more complete evaluation of oral health by both pet owners and veterinarians becomes much more important before or between dental procedures, in which our pets are anesthetized, so that we can help them maintain good dental health and treat dental disease before it becomes severe.

Too Young for Gum Disease?
Gingivitis can occur in cats as young as 3 to 5 months of age.

Chronic Gingivitis & Stomatitis

Holly Nash, DVM, MS

Cats are prone to chronic inflammatory diseases of the mouth including gingivitis (inflammation of the gums) and stomatitis (inflammation of the oral *mucous membranes*).

What to Watch For?

Depression, Loss of Appetite, Bleeding or Drooling from the Mouth, Behavioral Changes (hiding), Bad Breath & Reddened Gums, Difficult Eating are a few of the most common signs.

What causes gingivitis and stomatitis in cats?

There are probably a number of causes of this chronic *inflammation* in the mouth and gums. It may actually be due to a combination of factors. The three factors which are receiving the most attention are:

Hyperresponsiveness: It is felt that some cats may have a hypersensitivity or allergic reaction to bacterial *plaque* and are called 'plaque-intolerant.' This results in a disease called lymphocytic-plasmacytic gingivitis stomatitis (LPGS), which affects the entire mouth. In this disease, certain cells involved in the *immune system* called *lymphocytes* and plasma cells move into the tissues of the mouth and we see severe inflammation where the tooth meets the gumline. It is this disease which we will focus on in this article. Another possible cause is an allergy to something else such as food or fleas which may manifest itself as skin and oral lesions called feline eosinophilic *granuloma*.

Immunosuppression: A cat's immune response may be suppressed for a number of reasons but the most common is viral infections. It is estimated that 15% of cats with chronic oral inflammation are infected with either feline leukemia virus (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), or both.

Viral or bacterial infections: Feline *calicivirus* can cause oral lesions, and in some studies, feline infection peritonitis (FIP) and *Bartonella henselae* have been implicated.

Are some cats more susceptible?

Some researchers feel certain purebred breeds such as Siamese are more prone to this disease, while others feel it is more common in domestic shorthair cats. Sometimes this disease can develop when the cat is very young. This is called a 'juvenile onset' form of disease. It may occur at 3-5 months when the permanent teeth are erupting and become more severe by 9 months of age. Additionally, cats who are immunosuppressed have a greater tendency to have oral infections which may become chronic.

What are the signs of chronic gingivitis and stomatitis?

Chronic gingivitis and stomatitis can cause severe pain. The animal's behavior may change - irritability, aggressiveness, depression or reclusiveness may be seen. The cat may drool excessively, have difficulty eating or not eat at all. Some cats will go up to the dish as though they are very hungry (which they are) and then run from the food dish because eating is so painful. They will often have bad breath (halitosis) and may not be grooming themselves adequately. Their gums bleed very easily.

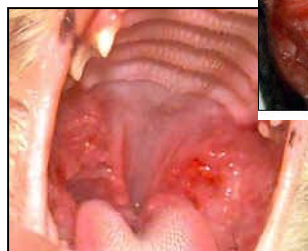
How is this disease diagnosed?

During the physical exam, which may need to be done under anesthesia to do it well, multiple lesions are seen. There may be *ulcers* or proliferative lesions. The lesions can be on the gums, roof of the mouth, back of the mouth, tongue, or lips. The lesions at the gumline surround the whole tooth. Usually, the area around the back teeth, the premolars and molars, is most affected. Sometimes resorption lesions are seen.

Radiographs (x-rays) of the mouth often show moderate to severe periodontal disease.

In LPGS, a large amount of globulins would be found in the blood since the vast number of plasma cells are producing antibodies (a type of globulin).

A *biopsy* of the affected areas is often performed to differentiate between LPGS, eosinophilic granuloma complex and neoplasia (cancer). The biopsy would reveal inflammation with a large number of lymphocytes and plasma cells in the case of LPGS. Large numbers of *eosinophils* would be present if the lesions are caused by eosinophilic granuloma complex.

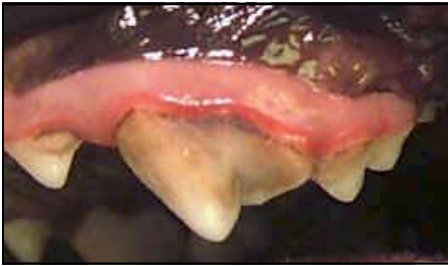


Photos of Stomatitis in cats.



(Above) Grad 1 Gingivitis
Gum-line Inflamed

(Below) Grade 2 Gingivitis
Gum-line Inflamed & Swollen



(Above) Grade 3 Periodontal Disease. Bone loss
around 3rd premolar tooth root

(Below) Grade 4 Severe Periodontal Disease



What is the treatment for chronic stomatitis/gingivitis?

First, let us review what plaque is. Bacteria play a major role in the formation of plaque. Bacteria live on remnants of food in the mouth. When bacteria combine with saliva and food debris in the channel between the tooth and gum, plaque forms and accumulates on the tooth. When bacteria continue to grow in the plaque and, as calcium salts are deposited, the plaque hardens to become a limestone-like material called tartar.

If the chronic stomatitis/gingivitis is due to a plaque intolerance, then it is essential we remove all plaque and keep it off. This is accomplished through:

- regular [dental cleaning and polishing by your veterinarian](#)
- fluoride application by your veterinarian
- extraction of teeth with [resorption lesions](#) or severe [periodontal disease](#)
- daily home care, including [brushing](#) and the application of 0.2% chlorhexidine
- antibiotics
- corticosteroids
- good nutrition, often with vitamin supplements since these cats may not eat as much as they should because of the discomfort

**How long would YOU
go without brushing
your teeth?**

Unfortunately, even with this intensive care, the disease often progresses and the only way to cure the disease and eliminate the very painful lesions is to extract all of the teeth in back of the large canine teeth (fangs). This may appear drastic, but in almost all cases it is the only alternative. In cases of juvenile onset gingivitis, professional teeth cleaning every 2 months and once- to twice-daily brushing at home for the first year or so of their life, may allow them to revert to a more normal status as they age.

What is included in a good dental care program? (more details on page 9)

A good dental care program includes:

- Regular visits to your veterinarian, which include an oral exam
- Veterinary dental cleaning as advised
- Daily home oral care

ATTENTION EUROPEAN MEMBERS

from Breeder Member Henning Mueller-Rech



**Athenaberceau Berlioz
of Canaletto's**



Gr.Int.Ch. (FIFe) Canaletto's RoanokeBlueBelle

Dear European friends in MCBFA,

In June, only 7 weeks to go, will be a Maine Coon special show held by the breed club of Felikat, one of the Dutch FIFe members. The cat count should be around 350 Maine Coons. This will be a one-day show on Sunday, June 22.

The MCBFA provided already Best Cat, Best Kitten, and Best Neuter winner ribbons for this special event. It would be great if you, as a European member of MCBFA, would make an appearance there.

As we do have now quite a lot of European members, it might be fun, interesting and for the good of the Club to have an MCBFA-European meeting over the lunch-break. Also the appearance of quite a group of us will be for the benefit, the publicity and the appearance of MCBFA in Europe and general. If you can join the show, please let Misha Peersmans or me know. And if you have topics of interest

you want to include please let us know also. We will try to place us as a group in a common area so we can be seen as MCBFA and its members!

If you are on the waiting-list for a cat-entry still do write MCBFA as a addition with your data so the entry clerk can react accordingly.

We would be glad to see you there.

Learn More:

<http://www.felikat.org/content/documenten/downloads/Aalsmeer2008flyerEN.pdf>

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What's New in MCBFA?

- Welcome to New Breeder Members:
 - Nastaja Hannink/Paul te Bokkel A NICE MOON from the Netherlands
 - Ulrike Illia COONITY from Austria
 - Judith Null GENTLEGIANTS from Florida
- The election of Officers is currently being held (May 2008) and the new officers will be reported on the MCBFA Yahoogroups list shortly and in the next issue of the Scratch Sheet.
- Please get your 2007-2008 International, National and Regional Winning cat photos and details to both the Webmaster, Caron Gray, rumford@wi.rr.com, and Scratch Sheet Editor, Liz Hansen, Liz@chemicoons.com for publication.

Oral Exams by Your Veterinarian: A thorough dental exam can identify potential problems such as plaque and tartar buildup, gingivitis, periodontal disease, and fractured or abscessed teeth. During an oral exam your veterinarian will:

- Examine the face and head for asymmetry, swelling, or discharges.
- Examine the oral cavity, oral mucosa, and surfaces of teeth and gums.
- Open the mouth to examine the inner surfaces of the teeth and gums and the tongue, palates, oral mucosa, tonsils, and ventral tongue area.
- Palpate and assess the size, shape, and consistency of the salivary glands and the lymph nodes in the neck.

Dental Cleaning by Your Veterinarian: To prevent dental disease, your cat needs routine dental care at home. But to perform good home care, you need to start with clean teeth. Brushing will remove plaque but not tartar. So if your cat's teeth have tartar, it is necessary for your veterinarian to remove it and polish the teeth. This professional veterinary dental cleaning is also called a prophylaxis or "prophy." A routine dental cleaning consists of:

- Anesthetizing your cat.
- Taking radiographs (x-rays) to assess the health of all of the teeth and bone.
- Flushing the mouth with a solution to kill the bacteria.
- Cleaning the teeth with handheld and ultrasonic scalers. All calculus is removed from above and **below the gumline**. This is extremely important and can only be done if the animal is under anesthesia.
- Using a disclosing solution to show any areas of remaining calculus which are then removed.
- Polishing the teeth to remove microscopic scratches.
- Inspecting each tooth and the gum around it for any signs of disease.
- Flushing the mouth, again, with an antibacterial solution.
- Optionally, applying a dental agent to retard plaque build up.
- Recording any abnormalities or additional procedures on a dental chart.
- Determining the best follow-up and home dental care program for your cat.

Daily Home Oral Care: Home oral care includes routine examinations of your cat's mouth and brushing her teeth.

Home oral exam: As you care for your cat's mouth, look for warning signs of gum disease such as bad breath, red and swollen gums, a yellow-brown crust of tartar around the gum-line, and pain or bleeding when you touch the gums or mouth. You should also watch for discolored, fractured, or missing teeth. Any bumps or masses within the mouth should also be checked by your veterinarian.

Mechanical removal of plaque: Studies show that hard kibbles are slightly better at keeping plaque from accumulating on the teeth. There are veterinary dentist-approved foods and treats on the market that have shown that cats eating these foods have less plaque and tartar build-up.

Feline products that have received the Veterinary Oral Health's Council seal of acceptance are as follows:

- Friskies Feline Dental Diet
- (Hill's) Prescription Diet Feline t/d
- Science Diet Oral Care Diet for Cats



Definitions

Dental resorption lesions: Dental resorption lesions result in the loss of tooth structure, starting with the outer enamel surface, usually at or below the gumline. The lesions, which are NOT cavities, begin as a loss of tooth enamel and can eventually spread to the dentin and then the pulp canal, which contains the blood vessels and nerves to the tooth. Sometimes, the entire crown of the tooth may be missing.

Eosinophil: A type of white blood cell that commonly increases in numbers as a response to parasites and allergies.

Granuloma: The formation of a nodule as a result of inflammation.

Immune system: The body's defense system which recognizes infectious agents and other 'foreign' compounds (such as pollen), and works to destroy them.

Lymphocytes: The class of cells in the body which are responsible for mounting an immune response. Two main types are B cells and T cells.

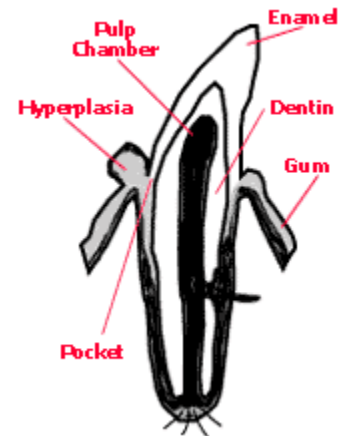
Mucous membranes: Specialized membrane which covers various passages and cavities exposed to the air such as the mouth, nose, inner portion of the eyelids, vagina. Examination of the mucous membranes can provide important information: if they are dry, the animal is likely dehydrated; pale, and the animal may be anemic or in shock; yellow, and the animal is said to be jaundiced due to accumulation of waste products which should be eliminated by the liver.

Periodontal Disease: If the tartar is not removed, it builds up under the gums. It separates the gums from the teeth to form "pockets" and encourages even more bacterial growth. At this point the damage is irreversible, and called "periodontal" disease. It can be very painful and can lead to loose teeth, abscesses, and bone loss or infection. As bacterial growth continues to increase, the bacteria may enter the bloodstream. This can cause infection of the heart valves (endocarditis), liver, and kidneys. If treated by your veterinarian with special instruments and procedures, periodontal disease can be slowed or stopped.

Plaque: Cats rarely get cavities, but are much more prone to gum disease and excess tartar build-up on the teeth. Food particles and bacteria collect along the gumline forming plaque. Routine home care can remove this plaque.

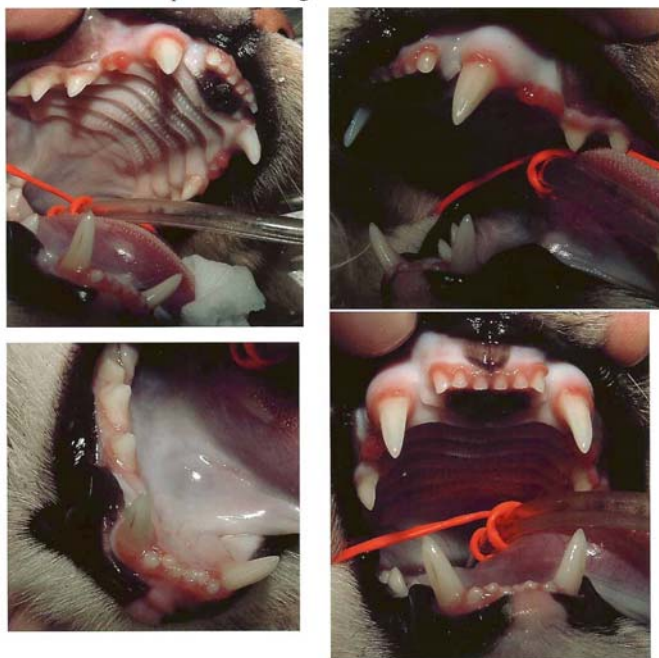
Tartar: If plaque is not removed, minerals in the saliva combine with the plaque and form tartar (or calculus) which adheres strongly to the teeth. Tartar starts to mineralize 3-5 days after it forms. The tartar is irritating to the gums and causes an inflammation called gingivitis. This can be seen as reddening of the gums adjacent to the teeth. It also causes bad breath. At this point it is necessary to remove the plaque with special instruments called scalars, and then polish the teeth.

Ulcer: A lesion in which the tissue surface is eroded away.



Characteristic	Calicivirus
Incubation period	1-14 days
Duration of illness	1-2 weeks
Nasal signs	Nasal discharge; sneezing uncommon
Effects on the eye	Discharge
Mouth lesions	Oral ulcers common; can cause chronic gingivitis
Pneumonia	Common
Effect on reproduction	None
Signs of limping	Joint and muscle pain can occur; may develop ulcers on paws
Fever	Inconsistent
Loss of appetite	Mild
Depression	Mild
Carrier state*	Continual for years
Survival in environment	8-10 days
Susceptibility to disinfectants	Not as susceptible; use a 1:32 dilution of household bleach

Continued from page 9



A Member's Maine Coon at 10 months of age just prior to having extractions done as treatment for Gingivitis-stomatitis

A Study of Prevalence of Feline Chronic Gingivitis-stomatitis in First Opinion Veterinary Practice

Feline chronic gingivitis-stomatitis (FCGS) is a syndrome characterised by persistent, often severe, inflammation of the oral mucosa. In the absence of similar studies, our objective was to estimate the prevalence of FCGS in a convenience based sample of cats visiting first opinion small animal veterinary practices. Twelve practices took part, providing a sample population of 4858 cats. Veterinary surgeons identified cases of FCGS according to our case definition over a 12-week sampling period; age, sex and breed information was determined for all cats, plus brief descriptive data for FCGS cases. The prevalence of FCGS was 0.7% (34 cases, 95% confidence intervals: 0.5-1.0%). Of the 34 cases of FCGS, 44% (15 cats) were new cases and 56% (19 cats) were ongoing cases. No statistically significant difference ($P>0.353$) was found when the age, sex and breed of cats with FCGS were compared to data from cats without the condition.

[J Feline Med Surg.](#) 2007 Oct;9(5):373-81. Epub 2007 May 15. PMID: 17507275 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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WINN FELINE REPORT ON DENTAL DISEASE

In a recent survey of the health status of over 15,000 cats examined at veterinary practices in the United States, the most commonly reported disorders were dental tartar (24% of cats) and gingivitis (13% of cats). Many common oral diseases, such as feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions ("cavities"), are painful and impair quality of life. Chronic oral pain can cause behavior changes such as irritability, lethargy, depression or aggression. Many common oral diseases, such as feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions (FORLs), are painful and impair quality of life. A reluctance to eat due to oral pain can lead to poor body condition, especially in geriatric cats. Chronic oral pain can cause behavior changes such as irritability, lethargy, depression or aggression. Since periodontal disease develops gradually, the cat has time to adapt to the pain, and the owner may misinterpret any changes as simply due to "old age." Since periodontal disease is often preventable, all cats should receive an oral exam as part of annual wellness care.

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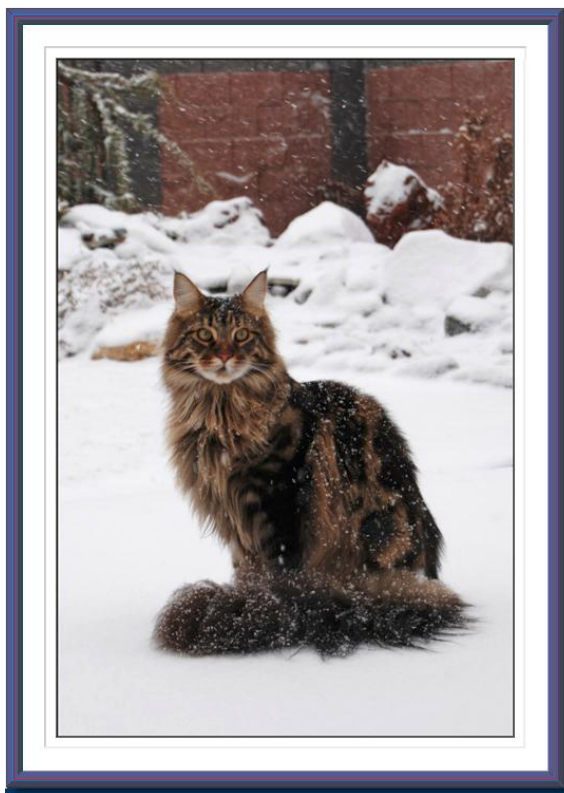
FDA Investigation Leads to Several Indictments for Importing Contaminated Ingredients Used in Pet Food

February 6, 2008

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office of Criminal Investigations announced that two Chinese nationals and the businesses they operate, along with a U.S. company and its president and chief executive officer, were indicted by a federal grand jury today in separate but related cases. The indictments are for their roles in a scheme to import products purported to be wheat gluten into the United States that were contaminated with melamine. These products were used to make pet food.

Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Co., LTD. (XAC), a Chinese firm that processes and exports plant proteins to the United States; Mao Linzhun, a Chinese national who is the owner and manager of XAC; Suzhou Textiles, Silk, Light Industrial Products, Arts and Crafts I/E Co. LTD. (SSC), a Chinese export broker that exports products from China to the United States; and Chen Zhen Hao, president of SSC and a Chinese national were charged in a 26-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City, Mo.

Also indicted were ChemNutra, Inc., a Las Vegas, Nevada corporation that buys food and food components from China to sell to U.S. companies in the food industry, along with ChemNutra owners Sally Qing Miller and her husband, Stephen S. Miller, who were charged in a separate, but related, 27-count indictment. Sally Qing Miller, a Chinese national, is



*Alter owned & loved by Fancier Members
Karen and Randy of Washington*

the controlling owner and president of ChemNutra; Stephen Miller is an owner and CEO of ChemNutra. The indictments charge all seven defendants with delivering adulterated food that contained melamine, a substance which may render the food injurious to health, into interstate commerce; introduction of a misbranded food into interstate commerce; and other charges.

The indictments allege that more than 800 tons of purported wheat gluten, totaling nearly \$850,000, was imported into the United States between Nov. 6, 2006, and Feb. 21, 2007. According to the indictments, SSC falsely declared to the Chinese government that those shipments were not subject to mandatory inspection by the Chinese government prior to export.

Melamine can be used to create products such as plastics, cleaning products, glues, inks, and

fertilizers. Under certain conditions, melamine mixed with wheat gluten can make the product appear to have a higher protein level than is actually present. Melamine has no approved use as an ingredient in human or animal food in the United States. Wheat gluten is a natural protein derived from wheat or wheat flour, which is extracted to yield a powder with high protein content. Pet food manufacturers often use wheat gluten as a thickener or binding agent in the manufacture of certain types of pet food.

ChemNutra contracted with SSC, a Chinese registered export broker, to purchase food grade wheat gluten, according to the indictment. SSC then entered into a separate contract with XAC to supply the wheat gluten it needed to fulfill its contract with ChemNutra.

The indictments allege that the products purported to be wheat gluten were misbranded because the labels incorrectly represented that the purported wheat gluten had a minimum protein level of 75%.

On March 15, 2007, a pet food manufacturer alerted FDA to the deaths of 14 cats and dogs, several reported by consumers and several that died during routine taste trials conducted by the company. The animals were reported to have developed kidney failure after eating pet food that had been manufactured with the purported wheat gluten.

Reference:
<http://www.fda.gov>

INTRODUCING NEW FANCIER MEMBERS

Bill & Sue Pearce of Wichita, Kansas

Our lives with cats...

Both Sue and I are natives of Wichita, Kansas, but our personal cat experiences began at different times. While in junior High, I decided that I had had my fill of dogs. A cat was in order. My uncle, a prominent local veterinarian, gave me a cat that was described as a male. It was in reality, a joke on my mother, his sister, as it turned out to be a pregnant female. To keep peace in the family, he spayed her as soon as possible after the birth of her first litter.

Not long after, my sister took a cat from a friend, but it didn't fit in her lifestyle. Of unknown heritage, she was a large, longish-haired black cat of about 14 pounds. Bearing the appearance of an average Maine Coon, she went with me to college and returned. She was the first of my cats to be named Kitty.

A few years after my return from college, I met Sue, and we became engaged. A few months before marriage, I found myself at the local pound, and got Kitty II, also large and bearing the appearance of a Maine Coon. His previous owner, who flagged down a passing Animal Control officer and handed him over, had donated him. We soon discovered, to the tune of many hundreds of dollars, that he had a urinary tract problem which culminated in a very expensive operation.



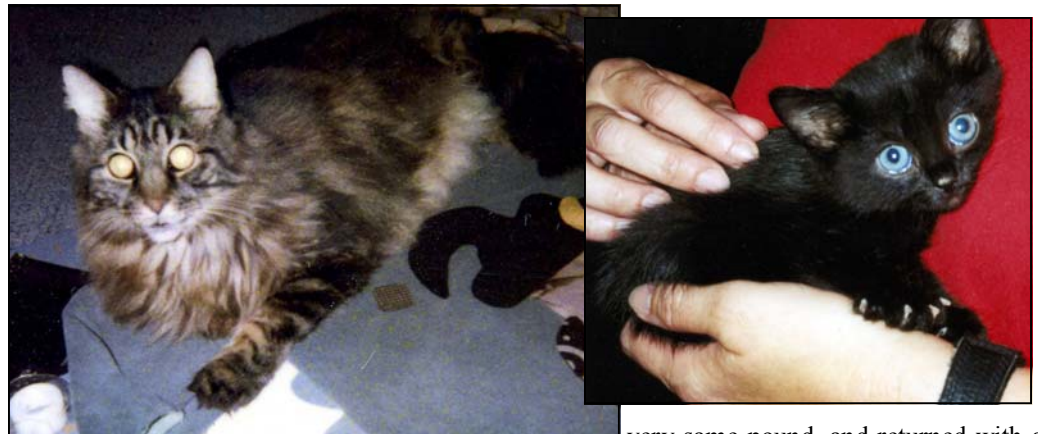
Kitty Pearce II

When he succumbed to old age, we decided to go the full-blooded Maine Coon route. Sue spent many hours looking at ads in cat magazines (these were the pre-internet days) and we visited many cat shows. We finally came upon Gayla Pierce, at the time in Southern California. We were on our way, and soon had Kitty III. He proved to be a reluctant traveler, and I'm sure that if you were to return to the LAX departure terminal we used, his screams could be heard to this day. It was to be my last experience traveling with a cat by air.

Meanwhile, we decided to become a two-cat household. We adopted a rescue cat when I went back to the



(above)
Lagunacoon Kitty Pearce III
(middle)
Rockcoon Bruno Gato
(right)
Newton B Pearce**
(below)
Kankoonkats Junior Pearce



very same pound, and returned with a pregnant female, Harriet. Harriet had a kitten that was to always be a part of our house, Motor. After he died of old age, next came Ed, a pound cat that had apparently lived his life in a warehouse or shop. He was totally unused to living with people. After some time with us, he was thoroughly socialized. When he died, he was replaced with another from a nearby small town pound, Newton. He isn't so social with people, but is generally well behaved with visitors.

Soon after, Sue decided that one Maine Coon wasn't enough, and we went to Denver and got Bruno. He formed a bond with Sue that was remarkable. He simply wouldn't allow another cat to come near her.

A few years later, one of Sue's employees, Larry Taylor, went into breeding Maine Coons with his wife Debra. We got Junior (so called because his fur was nearly the same yellowish shade as my graying red hair), and he remains with us. Junior is generally reclusive, but always gets up with Sue on weekend mornings, so he may drink some of her coffee.



When Bruno died, we wanted a clone of him, so we went to Texas and got a black Maine Coon from Karen Crooke. Karen had expected him to become a fine show cat, but he was disqualified due to a single spot of white fur on his groin. Despite Sue's reluctance, he was named Whitey, and has formed a more socially acceptable bond with Sue. He actually tries to bond with everyone he meets. Our niece says that he always gravitates to young women.



At the age of about 14, Kitty III succumbed to cancer. We located Gayla, who had relocated to the San Francisco area, and got Kitty IV. Kitty IV was Gayla's last kitten before she quit breeding. Sue went to San Francisco, and flew home to Kansas with him. His personality was remarkably similar to the previous Kitty, although he lacked the ability to go completely limp, demonstrating the reputed genetic link with Ragdolls. At the age of about 12, he was lost of Cardiomyopathy. Sue spent untold hours on the Internet and contacted Gayla Pierce and Karen Crooke. the result was Kitty V, from Chemicoons (better kitties through chemistry). His mother Rosie accompanied kitty. We've joked that if you don't make Grand Champion, you have to come live with the Pearces!

Kitty Pearce V learning to come/go from the Outback Barney.



Outback Barney's Outback Cat Hotel at the Pearce's

Bill and I would like to thank Gayla Pierce of Lagunacoon, Karen Crooke of Terrificats, Larry and Debra Taylor of Kankoonkats, and Liz Hansen of Chemicoons, for breeding some of the best tempered, good natured and well adjusted Maine Coon Cats.

Our current cats**



Chemicoons Kitty Pearce V**



CH Chemicoons Reverse Osmosis**



Lagunacoon Kitty Pearce IV



(Above & Right) Terrificats Dewers White Label**



Kitty Pearce V and Newton Getting Their Beauty Sleep



kids korner

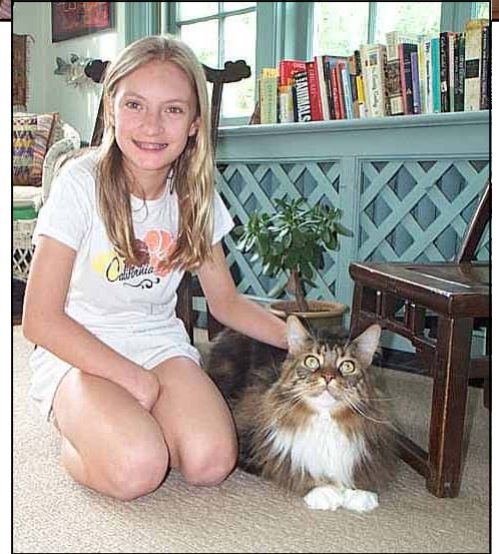
Meet New Fancier Members

(left & below) Rae & Maddie of Illinois with their new kittens Snow Drift and Snow Flake

(right & lower right) Sarah and Madison of Connecticut with their new kitten Chemicoons Topaz & their older Maine Coon, Oldstage Pippi



2-year old daughter of fancier member Sarah Hansen, DVM, with her beloved Maine Coon "Johnny"



President's Corner



This will be my last President's Corner. Elections are in process and after 4 years as your president, it is time for me to step down. Best wishes to the new officers as they take their places soon.

The past 4 years have been a very interesting time for all of us. I think the most significant thing was the discovery of the gene for HCM in late 2005 and the DNA test for it in 2006. It has changed things for many of us with testing and eliminating positive cats from our breeding programs. This is a step that will help decrease the incidence of HCM in the breed. I am proud of our organization for the fund raising & donation from our treasury that allowed us to make a donation of \$19,000 to help fund that research. Dr. Meurs is now working on a second gene for HCM in our breed. The Winn Foundation has made a donation towards this research and MCBFA has contributed to that also.

MCBFA is also becoming more involved in helping with res-

cues of Maine Coons. We need to do what we can to help cats of our breed who are in difficult situations. There are a lot of factors that probably contribute to this situation - possibly the economy is a big factor. We have had a number of rescues while I have been president that MCBFA and their individual members have helped with. MCBFA has recently set up a fund for rescue so that we have funds designated specifically for rescue and also to help the rescue groups with donations for food and medical care for Maine Coon rescues. It would be a big help if everyone could send a small donation to get this fund off the ground so we can be ready to help when needed.

And congratulations to all the show winners from the past show season. It is wonderful to see how many of our beautiful cats are being recognized with new titles and awards in all the organizations. We will have pictures in the next issue of the Scratch Sheet.

Lynne Sherer

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GET YOUR PICTURES OR STORIES IN THE NEXT ISSUE



Anyone may submit articles, pictures or stories to the Scratch Sheet for FREE; however, only a Breeder, Provisional Breeder, or Fancier may submit Winners Gallery information. Submit to the editor, Liz Hansen, Liz@chemicoons.com or snail mail to: 1526 Bayberry Meadows Dr, O'Fallon, MO 63366. Pictures will be returned.



Advertising

- Anyone may submit merchandise ads or cat show ads.
- Any member may submit listings and photos for the Winners Gallery.
- Only Full Breeder Members may advertise cats or kittens for sale, stud service, catteries, or any other service related to animals.
- Please no laser color copies; they do not reproduce well. Photos will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Cattery Ad Rates

Business card-size ads \$5 per issue
1/8 page \$10/one time or \$35/year
1/4 page \$20/one time or \$65/year
1/2 page \$40/one time limit 2 per year
Full page \$85/one time limit 1 per year

Merchandise and/or Cat Show Ad Rates

1/4 page \$25 per issue
1/2 page \$50 per issue
Full page \$100 per issue

Payment must accompany ads. Please send your ads and payments to the Editor; all checks made payable to MCBFA.

Breeder Member LATE Dues

Breeder Members - annual dues of \$25 were due on May 1, 2008. Breeders may pay for multiple years. Those wishing to may use PayPal roxann@velvetjewels.com or you can send a check to Liz Flynn, payable to MCBFA, at the address below.

Arterberry	Genovese	Pettison	*CANADA*
Ballard	Gray	Pilar	Kereluk
Berry	Hicks	Rau	Schulz
Bistline	Hintz	Ray	Shindler
Blakely	Jones, D/G	Rokicki	
Boulter	Jones, S	Sable/Thompson	*OVERSEAS*
Bowman	Kakemoto	Smith, M	Bishop
Braun	Kampo	Skipchak	Fleischer
Brickley	Kembitzky	Spayde	Hagan
Chapetta	Komar	Stacy	Illia
Crooke	LeBaron	Sukeforth	Iwata
Cunningham	Lindenfeld	Szabo	Kiyomiya
Davis	Mackay	Taylor	Middelmann
DeGuzman	Magee	Tinney	Morello
Dillingham	Mann	Tomlin	Olssen
Dorey	Maynard	Triolo	Schoneis
Edwards	McKee	Weil	Seurinck
Esposito	Moriarty	Whittenberg	Tracey
Flahault	Nicolaides	Winsky	
Genovese			

Fancier Members LATE Dues

There has recently been a transition to a new Fancier Secretary and she is catching up on past dues.

January 2008:

Arlene Bernhard
Marygrace Colby
Patrick Cumbie
Penny Czyz
Susan Daly
Cheryl Guillet
Ann Harris
Holden Higbee
Julie Kasper
Camilla Larsen
P/S Lewis
Mary/Lynn Martin
C/C Munger McGonegal
Sharon Merritt
Sherry Porter
Lisa Rogers
Dorothy Ruxton
Rosann Scott
Margie Swarthwout

April 2008:

E/M Allen
Sandra Baba
Douglas Boyce
RoseAnna Bonadio
C/R Boyles
Louise Coggins
Barbara Corbin
F/S Deckeback
Char Greene
Nancy Kirkendall
Wanda Kruse
Yukiko Kuroda
B/C Lockwood
Linda Marshall
Ginger McFadden

April 2008:

Carole Nassif
Bonnie Pearson
Beverly Popeske
Michael Powers
Carrie Ryman
Nancy Sanford
Myra Schultz
Samuel Simmler
Beverly Sullivan
Ayako Torisaka
Valent & Chumley
Sonja Ziluca



Provisional Breeder Dues

Robert Cutrupi

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MEMBER DUES

Any and all dues may be paid to MCBFA's PayPal account using the address: roxann@velvetjewels.com. PLEASE DO NOT SEND TO THE TREASURER OR EDITOR

Fancier Memberships: Send membership fees and addresses to the Fanciers' Secretary, Lynne Sherer.

Payable in US funds only
\$20.00/one year
\$35.00/two years
\$50.00/three years

This includes first-class postage.

Canada: \$15.00 + \$6.00 postage (\$21.00 total) Postal Money Order Only

All Other Countries: \$31.00 per year; International Money Orders. No bank checks.

Provisional Breeder Memberships

Online information and application forms can be downloaded at the MCBFA website, www.mcbfa.org

If website is not available, prospective Provisional Breeders should do the following:

1. Write to the Provisional Breeder Secretary, Cain Haley, for information and application packet. Do not send money at this time.
2. Once the application packet is received, follow the instructions and send the completed application with appropriate dues (\$30.00 first year; \$25.00 subsequent years) to the Provisional Breeder Secretary, Cain Haley

Breeder Memberships: \$25.00 per year to Breeder Member Secretary, Liz Flynn. A copy of a current litter registration must be included to enable you stay on the Active Breeder list.

Change of address should be sent to the appropriate secretary.

The MCBFA, Inc., Executive Council has directed that MCBFA services be suspended for the following individuals for the period of time indicated.

Permanent

Chris Buck (Buctales) Oct 2001
Johnnie Hardee (Guitars/Megacoon) Feb 2003
Bill/Trisha Swisher (Kanab) as of 2/27/2003
Marla Vales (Marala) April 2003
Susan Lee (CoonsCross) Feb 2004
Ginny O'Neill Follensbee (Majesticats) Aug 2004