When feeding your dog, it might be best to avoid canned food

Generated from News Bureau press release: Bisphenol A in Canned Dog Food May Increase BPA Concentrations in Pets

Pet owners should take caution when purchasing canned food for their animals, a study from the University of Missouri-Columbia warns.

Most canned foods are lined with a resin that contains BPA, or Bisphenol-A, an industrial chemical that can seep into the food contents. Research in recent years has suggested it could interfere with brain development, particularly for infants and children. However, there are few studies on pets’ exposure to BPA.

Scientists at Mizzou led an experiment where they fed canned food to two groups of dogs that normally eat dry food from a bag. One group was fed canned food advertised as being BPA-free and another group received canned food without that label. Blood and fecal samples revealed that after two weeks, BPA concentrations rose threefold for both groups.

This concerned Mizzou veterinarian Cheryl Rosenfeld, who co-authored the study.

"What if a dog is on canned food for some time, its lifetime essentially?" Rosenfeld said. "That could mean it could have really high concentrations of [BPA] and they could be at greater risk of getting other diseases."

Rosenfeld and her colleagues also analyzed the participants' gut bacteria. They found that as the dogs continued to eat canned food, levels of a bacteria that metabolizes BPA decreased. In other words, the dogs' bodies became less able to reduce the consumed BPA.

Rosenfeld said she wasn't sure why that happened, but it's one of several directions they're hoping to take this research.

Some of the next steps could also include seeing how BPA concentrations change when the dogs are switched back to bagged food, or observing dogs that have eaten only canned food for their entire lifetime. Rosenfeld mentioned interest in using MRI scans to see if the chemical has any affect on the pets' brains.
"One thing we could certainly do is see how does it affect their behavior," she said. "We could see if there are changes in the brain that correspond with greater levels of BPA."

Nonetheless, she stressed that pet owners take her findings seriously when purchasing food for their animals.

"If at all possible, feed them dry food that's contained within a bag," Rosenfeld said. "If you can get it fresh, that's even better yet."

MU researchers warn parents of electrical cord injuries


Generated from a MU Health press release- Decorating Dangers: MU Researchers Caution Parents to Prevent Electrical Cord Burns to the Mouth

COLUMBIA - Some people love the holiday season so much they break out decorations in months before the official day.

But new research is warning parents of the hidden dangers of the holidays.

Researchers from the University of Missouri School of Medicine found, during a 15 year period, more than 1,000 instances where children were taken to the emergency room because of electrical burns in and around their mouths.

The researchers pored over injury reports from Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System database, a product safety database.
David Chang co-authored the study and said he wanted to find out more about the problem.

"One of the common pediatric problems that was discussed maybe 10 to 20 years ago was oral burns from electrical injuries," Chang said. "We were looking to see if this was still a prevalent problem or not."

The study found children were still biting cords or putting the hot end of a plug into their mouths. Chang said over the years the number of injuries has decreased but the nature of the injuries is what's important.

“This is an otherwise very preventable type of injury. If we can protect kids from playing with cords or putting the cords in a more responsible location or hiding them or being more mindful about toddlers playing around electrical devices these injuries can be easily prevented.”

The researchers have a few tips to make the holidays safer:

- Put electrical cords in places away from where children play.
- Be aware of where your kids are playing in relation to electrical devices.
- If your child gets a mouth burn, contact your physician or seek other medical assistance.

This is continuing coverage, similar stories have run nationwide, outlets include:

KMBC- Kansas City, MO
WDAF- Kansas City, MO
KHQA- Quincy, IL
KTVO- Ottumwa, IA

MU staff to get paid leave between holidays

MIKE KREBS, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Some of MU's almost 10,000 staff employees will have the full week off between Christmas and New Year's this year.
MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley delegated authority to Provost Garnett Stokes and vice chancellors to give paid administrative leave at their discretion, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Those administrators are then working with schools, colleges, departments and divisions under their authority to determine who will take the time off from Tuesday through Dec. 30.

Staff members such as university police and power plant employees may still have to work next week, Basi said. Ellis Library will also remain open with minimal staff. All other university libraries will be closed.

Foley has directed that employees required to work be able to take an equivalent leave sometime after the holidays, Basi said. Only those employees who are required to work and whose departments are granting administrative leave will be eligible for equivalent leave later, he said.

Many MU employees already had Monday and Jan. 2 off in accordance with university policy.

This directive gave the interim chancellor the opportunity to thank employees for their work and dedication over the past year with the hope that this action will help build morale, which could have positive effect on productivity, according to Basi.

Chrissy Kintner, chair of the MU Staff Advisory Council, said she thinks it is a way to put people first.

"So often when an organization goes through some budget constraints, it is generally staff who take a big hit — meaning not only not getting a raise but positions that are not being filled," Kintner said. "We’re all doing a lot more with a lot less, and this is a great way to say thank you."

The administrative leave has been approved only for this year and does not include the other three University of Missouri System campuses.
94% of Mizzou mumps cases treated

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=0c9cd303-c4c9-4f77-8ae7-8a924f2fbc4e

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri was still seeing new cases of the mumps Wednesday.

The University's student health center put out an update stating that since the beginning of the fall semester, there have been 265 cases identified. That's 37 more than last week.

Despite the rising number, at least 94% of those cases were considered recovered and are no longer infectious.

Amid winter break, the student health center said, "We will continue to monitor case reports during the winter break and late January to determine the need for further measures to control the outbreak."