

FDA Expands its Nationwide Warning About the Risk of Botulism Poisoning from Certain Castleberry's Food Products and Dog Food

Natural Balance Pet Foods are included among the expanded product list from the FDA. The following is the latest information from the FDA. Please visit www.avma.org for additional information.

Castleberry's Food Company has announced that it is expanding its original recall of July 18, which targeted human foods suspected to contain botulinum toxin, to include some pet food products. Botulinum toxin is the substance that causes botulism.

In addition to the products recalled July 18, the following canned Natural Balance brand pet food products, which Castleberry's co-packs for Natural Balance, are being recalled, also because of suspected botulinum toxin contamination. These include:

Natural Balance Eatables for Dogs Irish Stew With Beef, Potatoes & Carrots, 15 oz can (UPC 2363359860)

Natural Balance Eatables for Dogs Chinese Take Out With Sauce With Vegetables and Chicken, 15 oz can (UPC 2363359861)

Natural Balance Eatables for Dogs HOB0 Chili With Chicken & Pasta, 15 oz can (UPC 2363359863)

Natural Balance Eatables for Dogs Southern Style Dumplings With Chicken & Vegetables, 15 oz can (UPC 2363359862)

For more information, including signs and symptoms of botulism poisoning, see the FDA press release at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01670.html>.

(Courtesy AVMA)

FDA Says Food Recall is Urgent Health Threat

Reuters

By Will Dunham

(WASHINGTON) - A recall of canned meat products and dog food made at a Georgia plant due to botulism fears could involve tens of millions of cans that pose an urgent public health threat, U.S. officials said on Monday. [READ THE FULL STORY...](#)

(story link provided by the AVMA)

Convention Information is Coming!

Remember to block off November 2-4, 2007 on your calendar. You will not want to miss the 125th Annual ISVMA Convention which will be held at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, IL.

This year's convention will be bigger and better than ever! We have organized another tremendous program and hired outstanding speakers. We have expanded on the popular general session format and will have both an opening session speaker on Friday and a keynote speaker on Saturday. You know the reputation that ISVMA has developed for attracting outstanding keynote speakers...we have raised the bar again this year!

This year's program includes new tracks on alternative and complementary medicine, expanded wetlabs, a business management intensive, and an incredible program for the technicians and non-veterinarian staff.

Registration will be made available online in the next few days. Please check www.isvma.org starting on Friday to take advantage of early bird pricing and to obtain more program information.

Exciting Program for Technicians and Veterinary Assistants

The ISVMA Education Planning Committee is offering a tremendous, day-long program at the 125th ISVMA Annual Convention for CVTs and veterinary assistants.

Offered in concurrent sessions all day on Friday, November 2: Join us for **CSI: Clinic Scene Investigation**, a lecture program designed to advance the clinic team's skills in clinical diagnostics.

As in-clinic diagnostic testing becomes more affordable and accurate, hospital teams are able to offer more thorough in-house testing for their patients in a shorter period of time. CSI: Clinic Scene Investigation will help give hospital team members a better understanding of clinical diagnostics, the associated instrumentation, the anatomy and physiology evaluated, changes occurring with the pathology, and how to discuss these changes with the medical team and client.

What is scheduled for the day:

Complete Blood Count: How to handle the blood sample, make an effective blood film and focus on the identification of red blood cells and their abnormalities, white blood cell populations and their changes and platelet identification.

Clinical Chemistry: General concepts of what each clinical diagnostic evaluates, sample handling, what is necessary to get a full clinical diagnostics, and how disease and pathology can alter clinical chemistry testing.

Interactive Case Programs –Work through full cases with special focus on clinical diagnostics.

This course will be presented by Sharon Dial, DVM, Diplomate ACVP (Clinical and Anatomic Pathology) and Andrew J. Rosenfeld, DVM, Diplomate ABVP. Lecture notes and interactive case material will also be provided. *Sponsored by Heska Corporation.*

About the Photo in This Issue...

The Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) is an odd-looking tropical bird in the cuckoo family with a long tail and a large, curved beak. It is a resident species throughout most of its range, from southern Texas and central Mexico through Central America, to northern Colombia and Venezuela, and coastal Ecuador and Peru. It only retreats from the northern limits of its range in Texas and northern Mexico during winter.

The Groove-billed Ani is about 13 inches long, and weighs 2.5-3.2 oz. It is completely black, with a very long tail which appears as if on a hinge, swinging up and down and from side to side like a pendulum. At times, the tail almost looks as though it might drop off. It has a huge bill with horizontal grooves along the length of the upper mandible. It is very similar to the Smooth-billed Ani, some of which have bills as small as the Groove-billed and with grooves on the basal half. The two species are best distinguished by voice and range. In the United States, the ranges of the two do not overlap.

In flight, the ani alternates between quick, choppy flaps and short glides. Like other anis, the Groove-billed is found in open and partly open country, such as pastures, savanna, and orchards. It feeds largely on a mixed diet of insects, seeds, and fruits.

The Groove-billed Ani lives in small groups of one to five breeding pairs. They defend a single territory and lay their eggs in one communal nest. All group members incubate the eggs and care for the young.

I photographed this Groove-billed Ani at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas in the winter of 2003.

Contact Us

Please feel free to forward this issue of the E-SOURCE to veterinarians that are not receiving ISVMA's electronic newsletter. Any ISVMA member may subscribe to the E-SOURCE for free:

If you wish to add your name to the recipient list, send an e-mail to info@isvma.org and ask to receive the E-SOURCE newsletter.

ISVMA values your membership and does not want to send you any unwanted email. If you would like to be removed from this member service, please email info@isvma.org.