

GDCNC NEWSLETTER

JUL - SEP 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HELLO EVERYONE

I hope everyone has a beautiful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As a breed club with a very large demographic, it's hard to please everyone. Since so many have different avenues of interest, the board is open to suggestions if any of you have thoughts or ideas for your club and its growth. We are looking forward to 2024!

At this time, I want to thank the board for putting in tireless time, and energy to keep our club up and running!

Safe Travels to those traveling either for work, pleasure, showing or the upcoming holidays!

Once again, Happy Holidays!

Terri Dillistin – GDCNC President

3RD QUARTER BRAGS

We have some great brags for 3rd Quarter.

Congratulations to:

Memory Armstrong – ScarletOak's Glass Slipper "Cindy"

07/30/23 – Greenville KC-Greenville SC - RWB

08/19/23 – Carolina KC-Greensboro NC – WB

08/20/23 – Carolina KC-Greensboro NC – RWB

08/26/23 – Greater Fredericksburg KC-Doswell VA – RWB

08/27/23 – Greater Fredericksburg KC-Doswell VA – WB

Guy Fisher & Diana Deonofrio-Fisher – Deluna Murbe Crime Boss Of Gotham

08/18/23 – Greater Hickory KC-Greensboro NC – WD

08/19/23 – Carolina KC-Greensboro NC – RWD

08/31/23 – Fayetteville KC-Raleigh NC – WD/BW/BOBOH

09/02/23 – Durham KC-Raleigh NC – BPSW/WD/BOBOH

09/04/23 – Cary KC-Raleigh NC – WD/BW/BOBOH

09/16/23 – Forsyth KC-Winston-Salem NC - WD

Guy Fisher & Diana Deonofrio-Fisher – Deluna Murbe The Daily Planet

08/31/23 – Fayetteville KC-Raleigh NC – RWB

08/19/23 – Carolina KC-Greensboro NC – RWD

08/31/23 – Fayetteville KC-Raleigh NC – WD/BW/BOBOH

Jessica Powers – Ellenni Blackstone Cheese With That Wine V Izya

09/15/23 – GDC of Middle TN-McDonald TN – BP

09/16/23 – GDC of Middle TN-McDonald TN – RWB

Jessica Powers – Legado N Izya's Oops! I Did It Again

09/16/23 – GDC of Middle TN-McDonald TN – WD/BW/BBE

09/17/23 – Chattanooga KC-McDonald TN - WD

Jim & Carole Cataudella – CH Valhalla's You Just Want Attention AOM "Tessa"

07/20/23 – Columbia KC-Concord NC – BOS

07/21/23 – Columbia KC-Concord NC – SB
08/04/23 – GDC of Lehigh Valley-Palmer/Easton PA - SB
08/05/23 – GDC of Lehigh Valley-Palmer/Easton PA - SB
08/18/23 – Greater Hickory KC-Greensboro NC –BOS
08/19/23 – Carolina KC-Greensboro NC – SB
08/20/23 – Carolina KC-Greensboro NC – BOS

Cindy Casper – Smokin’ Hot Safire I’m Bulletproof Because Of You “Coralee”

07/20/23 – Columbia KC-Concord NC - RWB
07/22/23 – Greater Monroe KC-Concord NC – WB/BW
07/23/23 – Greater Monroe KC-Concord NC – WB/BW
09/15/23 – GDC of Middle TN-McDonald TN - RWB

Cindy Casper – Coleridge’s Hail Of A Paso Doble “Catarina”

08/25/23 – Northern Neck KC of VA-Doswell VA – WB/BOS/BOBOH
08/26/23 – Greater Fredericksburg KC-Doswell VA – WB/BW/BOB/BOBOH
08/27/23 – Greater Fredericksburg KC-Doswell VA – SB
09/16/23 – GDC of Middle TN-McDonald TN – SB

*"Animals are like little angels sent to earth to teach us how to love. They don't get angry or play silly games. They are always there for us."
- Whitney Mandel*

HARMED 66.6% OF PETS, YET VETERINARIANS STILL PRESCRIBE THEM?

<https://www.barkandwhiskers.com/2023-07-24-flea-tick-products/>

According to this survey, two-thirds of 1,594 dogs given this common treatment experienced an adverse event, such as muscle tremors, reduced muscle control, seizures or death. Is your dog or cat taking any of these nine products that are FDA approved and prescribed by veterinarians?

Analysis by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

Jul 24, 2023



STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- In 2018, the FDA issued an alert (updated in 2019 and again in 2021) for flea/tick products containing the chemical insecticide isoxazoline due to the potential for neurologic adverse events in dogs and cats
- Project Jake, a large-scale survey of veterinarians and pet owners regarding the use of isoxazoline-containing flea/tick products, wrapped up around the same time; the survey results were published in June 2020
- According to the Project Jake survey results, of 1,594 dogs given a flea treatment (1,325 of which contained isoxazoline), 66.6% were reported to have experienced an adverse event, including muscle tremors, ataxia (loss of muscle control), seizures and death
- Whenever possible, consider using safe, nontoxic alternatives to protect your pet from pests

In 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an alert to pet owners and veterinarians about the potential for neurologic adverse events in dogs and cats treated with flea and tick products containing isoxazoline, a parasiticide (chemical insecticide). In 2019, the alert was updated to include two additional products, and it was updated again in 2021.

The quite serious side effects pets have experienced after being given products containing isoxazoline include muscle tremors, ataxia (loss of muscle control), and seizures. The implicated products have received FDA approval and include:

- Bravecto (fluralaner) tablets for dogs
- Bravecto (fluralaner) topical solution for cats and dogs
- Bravecto Plus (fluralaner and moxidectin) topical solution for cats
- Bravecto 1-month (fluralaner) tablets for dogs
- Credelio (lotilaner) tablets for dogs and cats
- Nexgard (afoxolaner) tablets for dogs
- Simparica (sarolaner) tablets for dogs
- Simparica Trio (sarolaner, moxidectin and pyrantel) tablets for dogs
- Revolution Plus (selamectin and sarolaner) topical solution for cats

While the FDA “considers products in the isoxazoline class to be safe and effective for dogs and cats,” the agency asserts it is “providing this information so that pet owners and veterinarians can take it into consideration when choosing flea and tick products for their pets,” according to its fact sheet. Further, per the FDA:

- Isoxazoline products have been associated with neurologic adverse reactions, including muscle tremors, ataxia, and seizures in some dogs and cats
- Although most dogs and cats haven’t had neurologic adverse reactions, seizures may occur in animals without a prior history

I’m guessing most veterinarians who routinely prescribe chemical flea/tick products would only consider pets with a previous history of neurologic issues to be at risk. After all, there’s no way to predict a potential problem in healthy animals, and yet the FDA warns that, “... seizures may occur in animals without a prior history.”

Project Jake Pet Owner and Veterinarian Survey

While the FDA doesn't provide specifics in its alert about adverse events, "Project Jake," a pet owner and veterinarian online survey about flea and tick medications containing isoxazoline was wrapping up at around the same time the alert was issued in 2018. The survey findings involved 2,751 respondents and were released in June 2020.

According to veterinarian Dr. Jean Dodds, one of the co-authors of the study, the Project Jake survey was broadly based and included:

- People who didn't give their pets any flea or tick medications
- Pet parents who didn't observe any adverse reactions as well as those that did report them, providing a more inclusive review of isoxazoline use
- Observations by pet owners pre- (3 months) and post-drug use
- Questions when an adverse event occurred after use of the drug
- Questions about number of doses of drug(s) given before an adverse event
- Other concurrent health issues and treatments given
- Multiple adverse events
- Recovery information and/or follow-ups

It's also important to note that the survey ended before the FDA alert was released, so the results represent an objective review.

66% of Dogs Given a Flea Treatment Suffered an Adverse Event

Of the 2,751 Project Jake survey responses (all involving dogs), 42% (1,157) reported no flea treatment or adverse events, 58% (1,594) reported that a pet had been treated with a flea control parasiticide, and of those, 83% (1,325) received a product containing isoxazoline. Of the 1,594 dogs given any flea treatment, 66.6% (1,062) had an adverse event (AE).

The Project Jake survey findings were compared to findings of the FDA and the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The number of total adverse events reported to the FDA and EMA were comparable, but there was a 7 to 10 times higher incidence of seizures and deaths reported by the EMA or from outside the U.S.

Serious adverse events involving neurological effects, seizures and deaths in the Project Jake findings were higher than the FDA but somewhat lower than the EMA reports. In addition, the number of reported deaths and seizures associated with flea treatments containing lotilaner and spinosad in the Project Jake results were considerably higher than product labelling suggests with regard to potential neurological effects.

The Project Jake study co-authors also raise concerns about human exposure to isoxazoline, as well as exposure through the food chain. From the study:

"Based on the results from the Project Jake survey and reviews of publicly available FDA and EMA AE reports demonstrating that cross-species neurotoxicity exists, the following issues also require further attention: Recognition of human exposure risk as delineated in package inserts, and concerns that may arise from recent proposals to repurpose isoxazoline veterinary drugs for application to vector-borne human diseases by treating humans (Miglianico et al., 2018).

Furthermore, there is a very real potential for food-chain associated AE, since fluralaner (as Exzolt) has recently been approved for treatment in poultry in Europe (Exzolt fluralaner for chickens)."

The position of the Project Jake study co-authors is that as a class of drugs, isoxazolines "can work as intrinsic neurotoxins across species."

In addition:

"The data also suggested notable differences in reporting of AE for the US versus European territories. This may reflect cultural tendencies and/or procedural methodologies for reporting of AE. Nevertheless, the national and international post-market safety survey data summarized here indicate an immediate need for continued cross-species studies and a critical review of product labelling by regulatory agencies and manufacturers.

Moreover, this class of drugs had more serious AE than those reported in the package inserts. We believe that the FDA should consider additional changes to their criteria for AE observation and define what would be needed for future clearances of this class of drugs."

Safe, Nontoxic Alternatives to Chemical Parasiticides

While it's true that some pets are given chemical flea/tick preventives regularly for a lifetime and have no observable adverse reactions, the volume of reports of negative outcomes connected to these products should have every pet parent asking, "Is it worth the risk?" In the majority of cases, my answer is no, and my advice is to exhaust all possible nontoxic alternatives first. Some I recommend include:

- A safe, natural DIY pest deterrent (see recipe below)
- Cedar oil (specifically manufactured for pet health)
- Natural, food-grade diatomaceous earth, topically (avoid eyes, nose and mouth)
- Fresh garlic (¼ teaspoon of freshly chopped garlic per 15 pounds of body weight)
- Feed a nutritionally optimal, species-appropriate fresh food diet to bolster your pet's innate immune defenses
- Bathe and brush your pet regularly and perform full-body inspections to check for parasite activity (if you spend a lot of time outdoors, it's important to check your pet and yourself for ticks every night during tick season)
- Use a flea and tick comb to naturally exfoliate your pet's skin while removing or exposing pests (absolutely nothing takes the place of physically checking for ticks)
- Make sure both your indoor and outdoor environments are unfriendly to pests

All-Natural Homemade Pest Deterrents

- **For dogs** — You can actually make an all-natural pest deterrent for your dog very easily at home. It will help him avoid a good percentage of the pests he encounters, though not all of them. The recipe: mix 8 ounces of pure water with 4 ounces of organic, unfiltered apple cider vinegar and 20 drops of neem oil.

Neem oil is not an essential oil. It's an expelled or pressed oil, and it's safe for cats (I have a pest deterrent recipe for kitties I'll give you in a second). Neem oil is effective because fleas and ticks hate it. It's also great for animals who are very sensitive to smells.

Catnip oil can also be used as a pest deterrent, since it has been proven to be as effective as diethyltoluamide (DEET), the mosquito and tick spray humans use that has a number of toxic side effects.

If you want to add some extra punch to your dog's pest recipe, go with an extra five drops of lemon, lemongrass, eucalyptus, or geranium oil. I use geranium oil quite a bit because I find it very effective. In fact, I use it in my Dr. Mercola natural flea and tick products. If you have a dog who comes in contact with ticks, adding the extra punch of one of the essential oils I listed can be very beneficial

You can store your homemade pest deterrent in the fridge, which is what I do. Before my dogs head out in the morning, I mist them with it, being careful to avoid their eyes. The active ingredients, especially the oils in the recipe, dissipate in about four hours, so you may need to reapply it several times throughout the day.

- **For cats** — My recipe for cats is very similar to the one for dogs. Mix 8 ounces of pure water with 4 ounces of organic, unfiltered apple cider vinegar, plus 10 drops of neem oil and 10 drops of catnip oil. Cats and essential oils can be tricky, so we want to leave essential oils out of the kitty recipe.

- Neither neem nor catnip oil are truly essential oils - they're distillates, so we're safe using those. Catnip oil works to deter mosquitoes as well. Cats aren't prone to heartworm, which is a mosquito-borne disease, but dogs are.

So those are two easy, all-natural recipes you can use to deter pests and as a bonus, they also make your dog or cat smell wonderful! You can use them during flea season, tick season, and all summer long and feel good that you're not using pesticides on your pet.

If you live in areas where pests are such a problem you have to use chemicals, consider starting with the Spinosad class of chemicals, which are derived from soil bacteria, and whenever you use chemicals, make sure to detox your pet simultaneously.

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From Betty: other non-toxic choices

AnimalEO essential oils <https://animaleo.info/>

Either buy her combination products such as Evict or Away, or use her oils to make your own. In my opinion, these are the best quality essential oils available for pet use, including cats, birds, pet rats, rabbits, etc. Be sure to read how to use them on the website. While cats and other small animals are more sensitive to essential oils than dogs, they are still highly effective and safe when used as directed.

Amber Collars



Organic Flea and Tick Repellent Amber Collar
with Adjustable Leather Strap for Dogs and
Cats
ambercrowncom

I LOVE the idea of this, and at this site, the price is acceptable, too. Scroll down to watch the review by Samantha. I haven't used this personally, but I would certainly use one if I needed to. I've heard other people say they work.

Another plug for a raw diet: I think dogs who eat raw have a reduced appeal for external parasites.

RESCUE

We are still closed for intake for a bit. We applied for and received a grant from GDCA, which is always very helpful and appreciated. Our annual holiday auction will end on 12/9. Got a lot of great donations of items for that and starting to collect things for next year's annual Christmas in July auction. No major vet bills this month, just a few visits with a couple of our Danes.

Thanks,

Brittany Dail – Great Dane Rescue Alliance Inc.

SHOW REPORT

Show Report September 2023

The Designated Specialties that we had with the Tarheel Cluster over Labor Day Weekend were smaller than we had hoped. Unfortunately, this circuit is in direct competition with the Lexington Shows, and as we decided to add to this cluster so late, most people had already made their choice for Kentucky.

We had some great raffle items, and the raffle was a success. We are looking forward to our next shows in March and hope to see a great turnout.

March 2024 will be our 20th Anniversary and we will once again be having our concurrent and designated Specialties with the Tarheel Circuit. I am hopeful that our judges slate will bring a nice entry. We will need some volunteers from the membership for the raffle and for our hospitality table. Please contact Terri Dillistin or Colleen Assell-Carra if you would be able to help at the show.

As we get a little closer, I will be asking each of you to donate \$10.00 towards our trophy fund, we are not a large club and need everyone's support. Remember without the individual breed clubs putting on Specialties the Majors are harder to find, so let's support our club so we can provide great prizes and points to help draw a great entry.

Wishing Everyone Happy Holidays!

Terri Dillistin
President
AKC Breeder of Merit
DTVS Great Danes



Our Board of Directors

Great Dane Club of Central NC

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Memory Armstrong- Vice President
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WEBSITE: www.gdccnc.org

JUST FOR FUN

Sweet Potato Fries For Dogs

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 30 minutes
Total Time: 40 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 Sweet Potato
- 1 tbsp Coconut Oil (melted)
- Spices - Turmeric, Cinnamon
-

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F
2. Wash and peel the sweet potato
3. Cut the sweet potato into evenly sized long skinny (fry shaped) pieces
4. Coat with oil and spices - Mix in a large bowl or Ziploc bag
5. Place fries on baking sheet in one layer
6. Bake for 15 minutes
7. Flip over fries for even baking
8. Bake for another 10-15 minutes
9. Let cool before giving to your dog!

These are super easy and extra delicious! Way better than frozen.



If you are looking for more possibilities for spice combinations, here are some dog safe spices:

Basil
Cinnamon
Coriander
Dill
Garlic (in small amounts)
Ginger
Marjoram
Oregano

Parsley
Rosemary
Sage
Tarragon
Thyme
Turmeric

As with anything if you try any new spices, be sure to keep an eye on your dog!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pendleton SC – January 6-7 – Clemson KC
Brooksville FL – January 11-15 – Hernando Co KC – Clearwater KC – Pasco FL KC – Tampa Bay KC – Manatee KC
W Friendship MD – January 13-14 – Annapolis KC
Brooksville FL – January 17-21 – Hernando Co KC – GDC of Mid FL – Pasco FL KC – Tampa Bay KC – Clearwater KC – Manatee KC
Ocala FL – January 25-28 – Lake Eustis KC – Greater Gainesville DFA
Ladson SC – January 27-28 – Charleston KC
Atlanta GA – February 1-4 – Griffin GA KC – Conyers KC of GA -
West Friendship MD – February 17-18 – Maryland KC
Tallahassee FL – February 21-25 – Okaloosa KC – Greater Panama City DFA – Ochlockonee River KC of FL
Winston-Salem NC – March 2-3 – Forsyth KC
Raleigh NC – March 7-10 – Cary KC - Alamance KC – Durham KC – Raleigh C – GDCCNC – Fayetteville KC
Franklin TN – March 8-11 – Tullahoma KC of TN – GDC of Middle TN – Nashville KC
Louisville KY – March 14-17 – Mid-KY KC – Louisville KC – Evansville KC
Doswell VA – March 21-24 – Langley KC – VA Beach KC
Doswell VA – March 28-31 – Chesapeake VA DFA – So MD KC
Lawrenceville GA – March 28-64 – Sawnee Mountain KC of GA – Lawrenceville KC

HAVE A PET SAFE CHRISTMAS!

Ho! HO! Ho! And HOLD IT - until you review these unsuspected risks, spray-on snow, tinsel, toxic foods and plants, lighting, wires, batteries, rubber bands...



[Nel Liquorman](#), Investigative Reporter

Animals are attracted to Christmas decorations so keeping your pet safe will require special care. A review of items that may be harmful (or fatal) to your pet will help you keep the merry in your holidays without emergency trips to the vet.

One of the biggest hazards is tinsel on your Christmas tree. Dogs and cats are attracted to the sparkly stuff. Both have been known to eat tinsel which can slice up their gastro-intestinal system. If it gets packed into a ball, surgery will be required.



Unfortunately, many items that pets swallow will not show up on x-rays unless air is trapped along with the items. This can make diagnosis difficult and costly – meanwhile your pet will be suffering.

Christmas Tree Safety:

A Christmas tree standing in chemical-free water may seem safe enough but the sap mixes with the water and may be more toxic than the chemicals used to keep the tree fresh. Bacteria from the standing water or fertilizers that were used while the tree was in the ground can cause stomach upset or worse. Spray-on snow adds more chemical risks so be aware of this hidden risk.

Electric cords may be chewed by your pet, but the risk becomes greater when the wires are attached to dazzling lights. When you go out, unplug the lights.

Christmas Ornaments and Decorative Items:

Hooks used to hang the ornaments can also be swallowed by a curious pet and a hook dropped into carpet could be stepped on. Painted ornaments and toys may contain lead, especially if they are from China.

Small glass ornaments may be mistaken for a ball and if your dog can get his mouth around it, it can get broken. If ingested it can cause severe damage to the gastro-intestinal tract.

Most **live Christmas flowers and plants are toxic** ^{Ref #1}. Lilies can cause kidney failure if ingested by pets, while poinsettias, mistletoe, Christmas cactus, and holly can inflict a wide range of problems such as irritation to the mouth, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. Many florists use toxic **cocoa mulch** ^{Ref #2} in potted plants which is deadly to cats.

Like small children, pets are curious, and candles should be well out of reach. And remember that any flame gives off carbon monoxide, so don't get carried away with candles when your windows are tightly closed in the winter.

Christmas Foods Safety:

Keep pets away from chocolate, alcoholic drinks, raisins, and onions. Garlic, fatty skin from the turkey, many spices and bones may do more than just sicken your pet. Never give your pet any yeast dough when you are baking. The dough can expand (rise) and have potentially fatal results.

Keep in mind that our stomach is *vertical* whereas our pets' bellies are *suspended like a hammock*. We can pass gas easily but dogs, especially large breeds, can die from **gastric torsion** ^{Ref#3} when an over-full stomach bloats up and twists.

Plastic wrap or plastic bags can be harmful to your pet and if they contain tasty food they may be ingested. If you use liquid potpourris, keep them out of reach of visiting pets and children. Walking through spilled liquid and then licking paws result in severe oral, dermal and ocular damage, especially for a cat. Rubber bands pose a choking hazard and contain a chemical that especially attracts cats.

Other Holiday Season Risks:

While you are enjoying the wonders of winter, don't forget that your pet could suffer hypothermia. Also, road salts and chemicals on their paws needs washing off. They can they irritate the pads but should not be licked off for obvious reasons.

Christmas toys and gifts often come with batteries which contain corrosives. If a pet chews on a battery, it can result in ulcers to the mouth, tongue and gastro-intestinal tract. During the hustle, bustle and stresses of the season, take care not to leave any medications exposed.

During the stress of holidays (and now COVID) remember to give your pets extra attention so they don't feel neglected while everyone is making merry during this wonderful season. Make it a joyous Christmas for your family and the safest one ever for your pet!

My personal motto when it comes to Christmas is; “**THE ONLY THINGS OF VALUE IN THIS HOUSE ARE THE PETS**”!

And lastly, keep your veterinarian's number handy. If vets are closed, among the best phone numbers to call in an **emergency is 800-222-1222 the National Poison Control Center** which will automatically connect to their free service in your state. Depending on who answers, you may get quick, basic information for animal poisoning, 24-7.



Human Foods Dogs Can & Can't Eat

CAN



CAN'T

- APPLE
- BANANAS
- BLUEBERRIES
- CANTALOUPE
- CARROTS
- CHEESE
- CHICKEN
- EGGS
- GREEN BEANS
- HONEY
- KIWI
- MANGO
- OATMEAL
- PEACHES
- PEANUT BUTTER
- PEARS
- PINEAPPLE
- COOKED POTATOES
- PUMPKIN
- RICE
- SWEET POTATO
- YOGURT



- ALCOHOL
- AVOCADO
- CAFFEINE
- CHOCOLATE
- COFFEE
- FAT TRIMMINGS
- GARLIC
- GUM
- GRAPES
- MACADAMIA NUTS
- MILK
- MUSHROOMS
- ONIONS
- PITS AND SEEDS
- POTATO SKINS
- RAW POTATO
- RAISINS
- RHUBARB
- SALTY FOODS
- TEA
- WALNUTS
- YEAST AND DOUGH

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."

- Unknown



HAPPY HOLIDAYS