



**NEWSLETTER – FEB '09**

**NOXIOUS NEWS:**

The glorious hot weather we have been experiencing in Gauteng seems to have encouraged all sorts of creepy crawlies out of their hiding places. Although bites and stings are, in themselves, seldom life-threatening, it is vital to have the pet checked by a vet as soon as possible. These injuries often occur in the facial area and can cause swelling of the mouth and airway, thus potentially becoming a serious emergency. Additionally they can be very itchy and sometimes painful, so treatment should be administered to reduce the severity of the symptoms and alleviate discomfort. Commonly seen symptoms include shakes, swelling (especially of the face, resulting in a typical “chipmunk” look), salivating, convulsions, difficulty breathing, hives (multiple bumps all over the body), etc.

Long summer evenings also mean pets spend time outside with the family and may decide that a frog or toad looks tasty – licking or consuming one of these poisonous animals could cause excessive salivating, vomiting and, if the species is poisonous, could result in more serious anaphylactic reactions as mentioned above.

The “muggy” weather has resulted in the growth of mushrooms and lichens in the garden which, if eaten, can cause similar problems for your pets. These are best removed as soon as they are spotted, just in case.

Please also bear in mind if you have a roof-rat infestation, although there are no poisons which are “safe” if consumed by your domestic pets (and wildlife, such as owls) – the “safest” to use is *Racumin*. This is due to its cumulative effect in the body, ie. the packages of poison must be consumed over a period of 5 consecutive days in order to result in fatality. Most pets would only be exposed to one dose. If ingestion of any brand is suspected, the animal must be rushed to the vet immediately. Time is of the essence as quick treatment can prevent absorption into the body, as well as treating the toxin, and the resulting horrific effects like internal bleeding.

**BREED BYTES – THE BURMESE CAT**

This charming little critter is known as the “dog of the cat world” due to its sanguine nature and affection for people and other animals. The characteristic round face and triangular-set ears give them an almost pixie-like appearance and allude to the mischievous plans almost certainly being hatched within! Most cats are accused of being aloof and “on their own mission”; this is *not* true of Burmeses, which are known to be very owner-focused, participating fully in all aspects of family-life and enjoying affection. They can even be harness-trained with relative ease! Burmeses love being groomed and their short coats are easy to keep in peak condition, taking on a high-gloss often favoured for photo shoots and television commercials. The most common colour is “almost-black” brown, but chocolate, lilac, red and other colour coats are also seen.

**NEWSFLASH:**

IAMS/EUKANUBA, ALTHOUGH STILL MANUFACTURED IN EUROPE, IS NOW ADMINISTERED LOCALLY AND CAN THEREFORE MAKE INDEPENDENT COSTING DECISIONS RATHER THAN FOLLOW OVERSEAS TRENDS. YOUR PETS CAN NOW ENJOY THE SAME BRILLIANT TASTE AND SUPERIOR HEALTH BENEFITS OF IAMS/EUKANUBA AT A SIMILAR PRICE TO MANY OF THE LOCALLY PRODUCED SUPER PREMIUM BRANDS.



**ASK YOUR VET OR NUTRITIONAL ADVISOR AT RVV/SVV TO DO THE PRICE COMPARISONS FOR YOU.**



