

PET MEDS AND HUMANS

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<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/pet-owners-harming-animals/2017/01/16/id/768836/>

People are injuring their pets on purpose in order to obtain painkiller drugs, the New York Post reports. The paper writes about the painkiller Tramadol, which is prescribed to both humans and animals. At the wholesale level, they cost less than \$25 for 1,000 pills, the Post reports. The low price, coupled with the nation's opioid epidemic, has some people taking drastic measures to get their hands on the painkiller. That includes, according to the Post, a Kentucky woman who sliced her dog's leg open with a razor on two occasions in order to obtain Tramadol. Heather D. Pereira of Hardin County, Ky., was arrested and charged with using a disposable razor to slice open the leg of her 4-year-old retriever on two separate occasions to get her hands-on tramadol. Chad Bailey, the vet who used six to eight stitches to close Pereira's dog's initial wounds, told The Post he became suspicious when she returned to his clinic three days after the first visit for more pills — claiming her child accidentally flushed them down the toilet. Pereira, 23, has no kids.

In another case, authorities in Portland, Ore. found 100,000 pills and 17 dogs living in poor conditions. The growing problem has veterinarians on high alert and watching for the signs of potential animal abuse. In the Kentucky case, the female suspect visited her vet three times — once for the first injury to her dog, again to obtain more pills after she claimed her child flushed them down the toilet (it was later discovered she had no children), and again for another injury. The vet picked up on the scam and called the police, and the woman was arrested.

<http://theantimedia.org/dogs-prescription-drug-veterinarians/>

As opioid addiction continues to plague many Americans, some are now hurting their pets to scam veterinarians into giving them prescription painkillers. ABC affiliate, News 10, recently reported on the growing trend, specifically with regard to tramadol, an opioid painkiller originally intended for humans. The pharmaceutical analgesic was extended to animals when it was discovered it could be administered without having to change the formula, and now addicts are exploiting veterinarians who prescribe it.

In a different example of desperation, a Portland couple continued to request tramadol from their veterinarian even after they euthanized their pet. "The co-owners had already filled two tramadol prescriptions and were 'trying to fill a third (120 tablets each)' when they were caught," one veterinarian said on a message board.

These schemes are not new. The Dayton Daily News, a local Ohio paper, documented humans abusing their pets to obtain pills back in 2013. At that time, the DEA had not yet scheduled tramadol. When the DEA did schedule tramadol, it left enforcement up to the states, and Ohio has taken some measures to keep humans from harming their pets for drugs, including tightening animal abuse laws and passing legislation to allow Ohio's Attorney General to "work with the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and state licensing boards to educate veterinarians about possible abuse by people who seek medications for dogs, cats and other pets." Even as federal agencies attempt to fix the damage; however, these restrictions are creating conditions that drive addicts to obtain their highs in other ways — whether that means resorting to heroin use or harming their pets to obtain their fix.

<https://www.verywell.com/are-animal-medications-safe-for-humans-1124030>

A bigger issue, however, is self-medicating with drugs that may not be appropriate. This self-medicating may especially be a problem with the self-diagnosis of an infection and then self-treating with an animal's antibiotic. The self-diagnosis may not be correct. The antibiotic may not be the correct one to treat the infection or the dose may not be correct. Please remember that an incorrect diagnosis or incorrect medication can put someone's health at great risk.

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/explainer/2011/04/can_i_take_my_dogs_pills.html

So how dangerous is it for a human to take animal medicine? The official answer is that you shouldn't take animal drugs. Even if you could accurately diagnose yourself, figure out the appropriate dose, and adroitly cut the horse pills down to the right size, it's hard to tell whether the amount and type of inactive ingredients in any particular drug are safe for people.

<https://www.drugs.com/article/tramadol-need-to-know.html>

In 1995, tramadol was originally approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a non-controlled analgesic. However, since 1995, changes to the controlled substance status of tramadol have been made due to reports of drug abuse and diversion. The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) reported that roughly 20,000 emergency department visits were related to tramadol non-medical use in 2011. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) in 2012, 3.2 million people in the U.S. aged 12 or older used tramadol for nonmedical purposes.

The FDA failed to schedule tramadol when it first approved it for use in 1995, despite the fact people were abusing it in other parts of the world at the time. However, in 2010, after studies revealed the high the drug produced was similar to that of oxycodone and heroin — two of the most heavily used opioids in the U.S. — the federal government began to take note. At that time, the Department of Health and Human Services reviewed the painkiller and suggested it should be officially scheduled. By 2014, the DEA had scheduled tramadol as a Schedule IV drug, meaning it allegedly has "a low potential

for abuse relative to substances in Schedule III” — a class that includes Ketamine and Tylenol with codeine. Because tramadol can be up to 20 times cheaper than traditional painkillers, Drugabuse.com has warned, it “may become the new opioid of choice for abusers” even though it is not quite as strong as traditional opioids.

<http://www.chron.com/life/article/Humans-taking-animal-antibiotics-a-pet-peeve-2101734.php>

There are several dangers posed by human consumption of antibiotics meant to treat tail rot, body slime and other fish maladies. Even though these drugs may resemble the pills prescribed for people, they are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, don't have to be manufactured under the same sterile conditions and might not contain exactly the same ingredients. Some may contain impurities or other substances that can be harmful to humans, and their potency cannot be guaranteed.

The use of pet meds was so unexpected, the scientists didn't even ask about it in their survey about unprescribed antibiotic use. But people must have done it frequently, as they actually wrote it into their answers, saying it is one way they get off-prescription antibiotics.

The study ran in the recent edition of Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. Of the 400 demographically diverse adults surveyed, far too many people shared that they used antibiotics without a doctor's supervision, according to the co-authors, who are doctors in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine.

Of the randomly selected adults in Houston, 5% reported using antibiotics without a prescription in the past 12 months, 14.2% stored them at home in case of an emergency, and a whopping 25.4% said they intended to use antibiotics in an unprescribed manner at some time in the future.

The major source of these rogue antibiotics was not people's pets; that information was volunteered by just 4% of those surveyed. The rest came from more predictable sources: Twenty percent got them from well-meaning friends or family, 12% said they squirreled them away from the last time they were sick, and 24% said they bought them in another country.

The other survey surprise was that 40% were able to buy antibiotics without a prescription in American pharmacies. "We thought that was some other country's problems, not ours. That was an additional surprise," said Dr. Larissa Grigoryan, who has studied non-doctor-prescribed antibiotic use in other countries and found that Americans tend to hoard more antibiotics than other parts of the world. Though the people who take their pets' meds are a smaller number in this survey, it certainly wasn't a source the authors anticipated, Grigoryan said. Some veterinarians suggested that they had heard about patients seeking pain medication for themselves rather than for their animals and have created



awareness programs and workshops to help vets address the problem and to watch out for it. The need for antibiotics was a new one, however.

The American Veterinary Medical Association suggests that vets avoid giving unlimited refills of prescriptions or any other activity that might result in misuse of drugs. It did not mention antibiotics specifically.

Study co-author Dr. Barbara Trautner was not as surprised. Though the survey hadn't included the option, she said she has been questioned closely by her pharmacist when frequently picking up an antibiotic prescription for her daughter's pet frogs, Brooke and Tiny Bubbles. Frogs are susceptible to a condition called red leg, a kind of gangrene that can be cleared up with an antibiotic, she explained. As much as she has pet antibiotics around the house, she said, she would never be tempted to bogart Tiny Bubbles' stash.

"We metabolize things differently than animals do, and these drugs are formulated for animals," Trautner said.

If a patient were ever to ask her about taking their pet's medication, she said, she would compare it with how chocolate can be poisonous for dogs but fine for humans. Similarly, it may be dangerous for humans to take drugs that are created for an animals' system.

Trautner is, however, empathetic with people who do take Fido or Fluffy's antibiotics. She knows it's often tough to get in to see a doctor, and it can be expensive, but taking a pet's meds is not the answer.

<http://www.truthistreason.net/guide-to-veterinary-drugs-for-human-consumption-post-shft>

Most people who said they took antibiotics without a doctor's guidance did so to treat cold-like symptoms. Often, antibiotics won't even help in many of those cases. Perhaps more education is needed, Grigoryan said, about what responds to antibiotics and what doesn't.

In fact, taking your pet's antibiotics or using antibiotics without a prescription can be a big threat to human health. Studies have showed that communities of people who often take antibiotics without a prescription tend to have more problems with antibiotic resistance.

The world is already facing the potential loss of effective antibiotics, which are some of the greatest advances in modern medicine. That could mean a time when simple infections could pose a much more serious threat to us all, animal and human alike.

Bottom line: Even if they are sitting in easy reach in your cat's basket, please keep your paws off your pets' medicine.



http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2002-09-29/news/0210010484_1_antibiotics-goff-drugs

Perhaps the biggest loophole in the regulation of veterinary drugs is the sale of fish antibiotics in pet stores, according to Brandon Goff, of the Pentagon Clinic in Washington. Goff visited pet stores and Internet sites that sell pet supplies and found a range of antibiotics available: packages of penicillin, in 250-milligram tablets; tetracycline, in 250-milligram capsules or tablets; erythromycin, in 200-milligram tablets.

Some animal medications have a following among recreational drugs users. Dr. Elizabeth Curry-Galvin, of the American Veterinary Medical Association in Schaumburg, Ill., said there have been burglaries of veterinarians' offices in which the anesthetic ketamine -- used most commonly on animals -- was stolen. Absolutely. Dogs, cats, horses, and sheep regularly take the same medicines as wounded bipedals. Many, and perhaps most, antibiotics are approved for use in humans and animals.

<http://www.tramadolfacts.com/tramadol-for-pets/>

Tramadol has become a popular prescription medication for treating a variety of health-related issues in humans to include arthritis, fibromyalgia, MS, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, and so on but also certain injuries and post-surgical situations. Because this drug works great for moderate to moderately severe pain, it has a wide range of uses. However, something that many people are surprised to learn is that Tramadol for pets is also a viable treatment option. In fact, there are a number of human drugs used for treating animals although Tramadol is considered the most advantageous.

Versions of some of our anti-anxiety medications and painkillers are approved for other species as well. But just because the active ingredient is the same in human and animal formulations doesn't mean the pills are identical—there's often a difference in dosage, and the inactive ingredients may differ (in kind and amount) as well. For all animals to include cats, Tramadol can be used safely for chronic pain associated with injury or illness but also post-surgical pain. Although not yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration or FDA, Tramadol for pets is still deemed a great choice.

Credit to Kaye Klapper