

February 22, 2010

Dear Jeremy,

National Poison Prevention Week, March 14 – 20, aims to educate the public on how to prevent accidental poisonings. You will no doubt see a lot of information addressing how to keep humans safe from poisonous substances.



**Pet Poison Helpline wants to be sure that our pet friends are not forgotten when the important topic of poison prevention is discussed.**

Pet Poison Helpline experts are available to discuss the following topics:

- Precautionary steps to help protect our pet friends from accidental poisonings
- Items that may be safe for humans, but can be quite dangerous to pets (like macadamia nuts, grapes, raisins, and common household products)
- Human medicines that are the dangerous when consumed by pets
- Easy tips to 'pet proof' your home

Please see additional information about Pet Poison Helpline below as well as biographies for our available spokespeople.

Let me know if you would be interested in setting up a time to speak with someone on our team.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kathy Wahlers  
Pet Poison Helpline  
952-852-9503  
[kwahlers@safetycall.com](mailto:kwahlers@safetycall.com)  
[www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com)  
Twitter: [@PetPoisonHelp](https://twitter.com/PetPoisonHelp)

Natalie Wires  
*For Pet Poison Helpline*  
952-851-7245  
[nwires@tunheim.com](mailto:nwires@tunheim.com)  
[www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com)

### **About Pet Poison Helpline**

Pet Poison Helpline is a service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for pet owners, veterinarians and veterinary staff who require assistance treating a potentially poisoned pet. The staff at Pet Poison Helpline can provide treatment advice for poisoning cases of all species, including dogs, cats, birds, large animals and exotic species. As the most cost-effective option for animal poison control care, Pet Poison Helpline's fee of \$35 per incident includes follow-up consultation for the duration of the poison case.

With expert staff in both animal and human medicine, Pet Poison Helpline provides a unique advantage since more than 50 percent of all pet poisonings involve human drugs. Pet Poison Helpline staff consists of veterinarians, board-certified veterinary toxicologists, board-certified internal medicine and emergency critical care specialists, and doctors of pharmacy. They are the only animal poison control with board-certified internal medicine specialists and emergency critical care specialists.

## Staff Bios

### **Lynn Hovda, RPh, DVM, MS, DACVIM**

Director of Veterinary Services



Dr. Lynn Hovda is the Director of Veterinary Services and toxicologist with Pet Poison Helpline (PPH), a division of SafetyCall™ International. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota and Chief Commission Veterinarian for the Minnesota Racing Commission. Dr. Hovda received a BS in Pharmacy from North Dakota State University and a BS in Veterinary Science from the University of Minnesota. In 1985, she received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Minnesota. She completed an internship at the University of Georgia and a three year internal medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1989, she received a Master of Science in Veterinary Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Hovda was awarded board certification by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 1992. Dr. Hovda served as the Director of Veterinary Services for the Minnesota Regional Poison Center and Hazard Information Services and was Director of Veterinary Services for PROSAR International Poison Center from 1997 to 2004. She is a Certified Specialist in Poison Information, holds Pharmacy Board licensure in Minnesota and North Dakota, and Veterinary Board licensure in Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Georgia. She has published scientific articles and book chapters, presented scientific abstracts and invited presentations, and participated in numerous educational proceedings for lay groups. She holds memberships in several professional, scientific, and civic organizations and has served on committees for the American Veterinarian Medical Association, American College of Veterinary Medicine, and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Her educational and research interests include plants and plant related toxicities, nutritional support, race track breakdown injuries, and prevention and treatment of pesticide and farm chemical related exposures.

### **Justine Lee, DVM, DACVECC**

Associate Director of Veterinary Services



Dr. Justine Lee is a board-certified emergency critical care veterinary specialist, and is the Associate Director of Veterinary Services at Pet Poison Helpline. Previously, she was on faculty at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Lee graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Animal Sciences, and then obtained her veterinary degree at Cornell University. She pursued her internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, which is affiliated with the MSPCA. In addition, she has also completed an emergency fellowship and residency at the University of Pennsylvania. Currently, she is 1 of approximately 260 board certified veterinary specialists world wide in emergency medicine and critical care, and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (DACVECC). Dr. Lee has been published in numerous veterinary journals, including the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, the Journal of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care, and the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She has also published several veterinary book chapters, and has been aired on radio and television to promote preventative medicine, animal health, and the overall well-being of pets. She is the author of two humorous pet reference books (Random House 2008) entitled "It's a Dog's Life... but It's Your Carpet" and "It's a Cat's World... You Just Live In It." Dr. Lee is a contributing author for *Prevention* magazine and various other breed newsletters. She lectures throughout the world on emergency and critical care.

**Ahna Brutlag, DVM**

Assistant Director of Veterinary Services



Dr. Ahna Brutlag is the Assistant Director of Veterinary Services at Pet Poison Helpline and has been with the organization for six years. She received her veterinary degree from the University of Minnesota. Currently, she is preparing for board-certification through the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology (ABVT) by dividing her time between PPH and the completion of a Master's degree in Toxicology through the University of Minnesota. Dr. Brutlag has authored multiple textbook chapters and has lectured throughout the United States in the field of small animal toxicology. The primary focus of her publications and presentations include rodenticide toxicity, toxic plants, common pharmaceutical poisonings, and the safety of household products.

**Gary D. Osweiler, DVM, MS, PhD, DABVT**

Board-Certified Veterinary Toxicologist



Dr. Gary Osweiler is a board-certified veterinary toxicologist and a consultant for PPH. He served as the director of the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory from 1994-2007 and currently remains on faculty as a professor in both the veterinary and graduate school. Dr. Osweiler has authored or co-authored three books, contributed chapters to five additional books and has authored or co-authored more than 100 publications and presentations in professional or scientific journals. He is presently consulting editor in toxicology for the Five Minute Veterinary Consult Clinical Companion, along with Drs. Brutlag, Hovda, and Lee. Dr. Osweiler is a past chair of the Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee of the Center for Veterinary Medicine, FDA and also served as a charter member of the National Organic Standards Board, a group directly advisory to USDA in implementing the Organic Foods Production Act. He is past president of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology and the American Academy of Veterinary and Comparative Toxicology. At present he is serving as a consultant to FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine regarding clinical poisoning issues in large animals.

**Daniel E. Keyler, PharmD**

Clinical Toxicologist



Dr. Daniel E. Keyler is a clinical toxicologist who specializes in snake, spider, and scorpion envenomations, and a consultant for PPH. He is on faculty within the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Medicine at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. He is also the co-director of Toxicology Research at the Minneapolis Medical Research Foundation and a professor within Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Minnesota. He received his BS from Purdue University and his Doctorate in clinical pharmacy from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Keyler has published over 100 articles in multiple journals and has authored multiple book chapters. He has been actively involved with venomous snakes for over 35 years and consulted on the treatment of over 200 venomous snakebite cases. Additionally, he has served as the Chair of the Envenomations Group within the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology from 2002-07 and is a member of the Antivenom Index Medical Advisory Committee, as well as a member of the Federal Committee for the conservation of venomous snakes. In addition to Pet Poison

Helpline, his consulting clientele include the USA Armed Forces, Department of Defense and multiple national and international zoos.