



Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

SUSQI NEWS

Susquehanna Conference –

Summer 2011

Dear Susquehanna CASA Members:

Hopefully everyone has been enjoying the current outdoor weather. I know I've been making the most of every barbeque, walk, and time with my family. As you know, this past spring was a time for changes in the CASA board with from the recent elections. Thank you for voting.

The 95th Annual CASA Education and Training Seminar was great success. I would like to take this time to thank everyone who attended the conference in Towson. Garry Ritter did a wonderful job the past two years as our CASA President and deserves our gratitude for making sure we had helpful and informative training sessions.

Our next training session is scheduled for **Thursday, July 14th at the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center**. Topics to be covered are the new Milk Regulations, Commercial Food Waste Recycling, Healthcare Associated Infections, and a look at a recent Outbreak Investigation. Please register to attend the meeting so we can make sure we have enough room and food to go around. Our last Quarterly Training Session in April was tight fit. It was a welcome surprise to see so many people show up for a Spring CASA training meeting. Also, if you have not renewed your membership for 2011, go to www.casafdo.org, print a renewal form, mail as instructed or bring it to the July 14th meeting or if you decide to pay for you CASA membership on-line, be sure to pick "Susquehanna" conference.

We need You and You need CASA!

I look forward to seeing all of you in Lancaster. Thanks again for a job well done.

Michelle Clarke
President of Susquehanna Conference

2011-2012 Susquehanna Conference Officers::

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SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE OF CASA QUARTERLY TRAINING MEETING

Date: THURSDAY, July 14, 2011

Location: Lancaster County Farm and Home Center

1383 Arcadia Road

Lancaster, PA 17601

717 392-4911

Directions: For those without GPS capabilities, coming from the west, either Harrisburg or York, exit from Route 283 or Route 30 at PA 72 South (Manheim Pike) turning left just past Route 30 onto Service Road, local landmarks at the intersection are Jones Honda, Conestoga Marine, and a Buick dealership. Arcadia Road will be on your right.

From the east on Route 30, first exit onto Route 283, and then take the exit for PA 72 South (Manheim Pike). Follow above directions.

YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED AND HAVE APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION.

Agenda:

8:30 – REGISTRATION / WELCOME –

Michelle Clarke, Susquehanna Conference President

COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

Erin Frederick, Conservation Program Specialist

Lehigh County Conservation District, Allentown, PA

COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING-RESTAURANT PERSPECTIVE

Rich Fegley, Founder & Co-Owner

Fegley's Brew Works, Allentown, PA

NEW MILK REGULATIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA

HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Aimee Palumbo, Council of States & Territorial Epidemiologist Fellow

PA Department of Health, Harrisburg, PA

"OH NO, NOT ANOTHER OUTBREAK" - THE LATEST OUTBREAK IN PA

Dr. Andre Weltman, MD, MSc, Epidemiologist

PA Department of Health, Harrisburg, PA

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND OR ASSOCIATE WITH YOU!!

FIRST TIME ATTENDEES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS CAN BE PAID AT TRAINING.

Registration fee: \$5, payable at training, to: CASA,

Questions – contact Ted Veresink @ 610 250-6765

New Menu and Vending Machines Labeling Requirements

On March 23, 2010, the President signed the [health care reform legislation](#)¹ into law. Section 4205 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 requires restaurants and similar retail food establishments with 20 or more locations to list calorie content information for standard menu items on restaurant menus and menu boards, including drive-through menu boards. Other nutrient information – total calories, fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, total carbohydrates, sugars, fiber and total protein – would have to be made available in writing upon request. The Act also requires vending machine operators who own or operate 20 or more vending machines to disclose calorie content for certain items.



The FDA has issued a [Federal Register notice](#)² that explains how restaurants and similar retail food establishments with fewer than 20 locations and vending machine operators with fewer than 20 vending machines can [voluntarily register](#)³ to become subject to new federal menu labeling requirements. Anyone needing assistance with filling out this form call 240-402-2371.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued two proposed regulations that would ensure calorie labeling on menus and menu boards in chain restaurants, retail food establishments, and vending machines. FDA invited members of the public to submit their comments on the proposed regulations by visiting www.regulations.gov¹.

- [Food Labeling; Nutrition Labeling of Standard Menu Items in Restaurants and Similar Retail Food Establishments](#)²
- [Food Labeling; Calorie Labeling of Articles of Food in Vending Machines](#)³

The proposed rules would apply to restaurants and similar retail food establishments with 20 or more locations, and vending machine operators with 20 or more machines. Consumers would see calories listed in restaurants and similar retail food establishments that are part of a chain with 20 or more locations doing business under the same name and offering for sale substantially the same menu items. Movie theaters, airplanes, bowling alleys and other establishments whose primary purpose is not to sell food would not be subject to these proposed regulations. The proposal invites the public to comment on whether these or additional types of food establishments should or should not be covered by the new rules. Vending machine operators who own or operate 20 or more vending machines would be required to post calorie information for food sold in those vending machines unless certain nutrition information is visible on individual packages of food inside the machine.

FDA is accepting comments on both proposed rules.

Purchasing Pet Drugs Online: Buyer Beware

"Discount pet drugs—no prescription required" may appeal to pet owners surfing the Web, but FDA experts say it can be risky to buy drugs online from sites that tout this message and others like it.

Some of the Internet sites that sell pet drugs represent legitimate, reputable pharmacies, says Martine Hartogensis, D.V.M., deputy director of the Office of Surveillance and Compliance in FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM). But others are fronts for unscrupulous businesses operating against the law.

FDA has found companies that sell unapproved pet drugs and counterfeit pet products, make fraudulent claims, dispense prescription drugs without requiring a prescription, and sell expired drugs.

Pet owners who purchase drugs from these companies may think they are saving money, says Hartogensis, but in reality, they may be short-changing their pet's health and putting its life at risk.

CVM regulates the manufacture and distribution of animal drugs, while individual state pharmacy boards regulate the dispensing of prescription veterinary products.

Red Flags

Some foreign Internet pharmacies advertise that veterinary prescription drugs are available to U.S. citizens without a prescription. But, says Hartogensis, "There is a risk of the drugs not being FDA-approved."

A foreign or domestic pharmacy may claim that one of its veterinarians on staff will "evaluate" the pet after looking over a form filled out by the pet owner, and then prescribe the drug. "A veterinarian should physically examine an animal prior to making a diagnosis to determine the appropriate therapy," says Hartogensis.

CVM is especially concerned that pet owners are going online to buy two types of commonly used prescription veterinary drugs—nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and heartworm preventives.

"Both drugs can be dangerous if there is no professional involvement," says Hartogensis. "It's not generally a concern if the owner uses a legitimate online pharmacy and mails in a prescription from their veterinarian, who is monitoring the animal. But if there is no veterinarian–client–patient relationship, it's a dangerous practice."

NSAIDs and Heartworm Preventives

Veterinarians often prescribe NSAIDs to relieve pain in dogs. NSAIDs should not be purchased on the Internet without a veterinarian's involvement because

- dogs should undergo blood testing and a thorough physical examination before starting NSAIDs
- dogs should be monitored by a veterinarian while they are taking NSAIDs
- veterinarians should discuss possible side effects of NSAIDs with the owner
- the prescription should be accompanied by a Client Information Sheet that explains important safety information to the owner

Heartworm disease is a potentially fatal condition transmitted by the bite of a mosquito that is carrying infected larvae of the heartworm parasite. Dogs, cats, and ferrets can get heartworm. Heartworm preventives, given daily, monthly, or semiannually, depending on the product, kill the larvae before they become adult worms.

The American Heartworm Society recommends

- using heartworm medication for dogs year-round, no matter where you live in the United States
- getting dogs tested yearly to make sure they're not infected with heartworm

"Testing is important even in dogs regularly treated with heartworm preventive products due to the occasional reports of product ineffectiveness," says Hartogensis. An Internet pharmacy veterinarian cannot draw blood from the animal to perform the test. If the test isn't done, a pet owner could be giving heartworm preventives to a dog that has heartworms, potentially leading to severe reactions.

Tips for Buying Pet Drugs Online

- **Order from a Web site that belongs to a Vet-VIPPS accredited pharmacy.** Vet-VIPPS—the Veterinary-Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites—is a voluntary accreditation program of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). NABP gives the Vet-VIPPS seal to online pharmacies that dispense prescription animal drugs and comply with NABP's strict criteria, including federal and state licensing and inspection requirements, protecting patient confidentiality, quality assurance, and validity of prescription orders. Look for the Vet-VIPPS seal displayed on a pharmacy's Web site or check with [NABP](#)⁵ (click on "Accreditation Programs") to find out if a pharmacy is Vet-VIPPS accredited. Because this is a new program, begun in 2009, a small number of pharmacies are currently Vet-VIPPS accredited.
- **Order from an outsourced prescription management service that your veterinarian uses.** These state-licensed Internet pharmacy services work directly with the veterinarian, require that a prescription be written by the veterinarian, and support the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Ask your veterinary hospital if it uses an Internet pharmacy service.

This article appears on [FDA's Consumer Health Information Web page](#)⁶, which features the latest on all FDA-regulated products.