Poll - Proctor

Medical Dept., A2SA

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There is a good probability that one of the questions we will be asked concerning the PCB/fish meal episode is, "Is there any hazard to eating chickens with PCB in their tissues?" While it would be more appropriate for this question to be referred to the Medical Department, in many instances it would probably create a better impression if the question were answered immediately.

We do not know what levels may be found in these chickens but if we assume the very high level of 100 ppm, I think we can unequivocally state there is no hazard unless humans were to eat such a diet for months. The dose to cause lethal effects in rats is between 5 and 7 g/kg. In a 100 pound woman this would be about 4 ounces of PCB.

Rats have been fed 100 ppm in their diet for 24 months with no ill effect. Dogs have, likewise, had the same amount for the same time with no ill effect. It should be brought out that the danger in PCB relates to fowl, inasmuch as it disturbs their egg laying and hatchability characteristics. Further, any possible effects to humans would be associated with very extended periods of ingestion and not for a period of one or two weeks.

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