

July 16, 1974

Mr. Charles E. Kashner
411 South Arch Street
Berwick, Pennsylvania 18603

Dear Mr. Kashner:

Your problem with the litter of pups suspected of having lead poisoning is a bit difficult for me to deal with on the information which you have supplied to me, since I know absolutely nothing about either your veterinarian or the Balare Laboratories.

Let me say that I have not the faintest idea of how your veterinarian makes a presumptive diagnosis of lead poisoning in the case of very young dogs. I am sure that very few practitioners of veterinarian medicine can make such a diagnosis or have any idea at all as to the clinical pattern of the disease in pups. Consequently, I am skeptical.

Moreover, the analysis of various materials for lead is a touchy matter, while all such materials as food in general, and, especially, meat-containing food for dogs, all of such contain lead, and the quantity of lead mentioned in this case is not, in any sense, remarkable. Consequently, I doubt very much if the dog food has any responsibility for being able to induce lead poisoning in dogs. Unfortunately, I have had little experience with dogs, and none with pups, and so I cannot be certain that the quantity referred to is insignificant. I would, therefore, discontinue feeding it and resort to the use of milk (of good quality) for a time.

Since I have spoken so harshly of the vet and the laboratory to which you referred, I would suggest that the vet write to me and tell me of his experience and speak of the analytical procedure employed by the laboratory. He might if he wishes tell me something about the Laboratory, of which I have not heard previously. It would be well if you should look carefully into any other source of lead, such as painted objects in the environment of the pups.

I shall be glad to assist you in any way I can, but I believe you will understand me, in that I have pointed out to you that you have no sound evidence that your pups have or are threatened by lead poisoning.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine

RK:wb