



Unpleasant diseases; painful death

It is not a matter of whether artificial pet foods and food-induced periodontal disease give rise to ill health; it's more a matter of which disease, when and how.

Puppies and kittens develop an interest in solid food at the same time they cut their deciduous teeth. In nature the first solid meal would likely be a small prey animal, for example a rabbit. (Puppies in the wild eat regurgitated foodstuffs from the mother's stomach for a couple of weeks until strong enough to chew on whole carcasses.) Chewing on whole prey takes time. Gums and erupting teeth are massaged and polished in a flow of antibody-rich saliva. The main point at issue for competing wild litter mates is whether they each receive enough raw food.

For pets raised on artificial food, biologically appropriate nutrients are, alas, in short supply. Feeding is accomplished quickly with minimum flow of saliva. Teeth are never cleaned. The situation steadily worsens with a crisis period, between four and six months of age, when the permanent teeth erupt. During this time of rapid growth the immune system is still not mature and immunity gained from the mother's milk declines. Conditions tip in favour of plaque organisms and the risk of infectious viral and bacterial disease increases.

Even if the young animal does not show outward signs of ill health, it is reasonable to assume that many diseases of old age have their genesis at this time. Early intense pressure on the immune system is a likely prelude for hyper, hypo and auto immunity of later life. Artificial dietary chemicals and periodontal toxins perfuse the major organs with likely long-term effects. The same pertains for young people who consume too many cigarettes and beers. In each