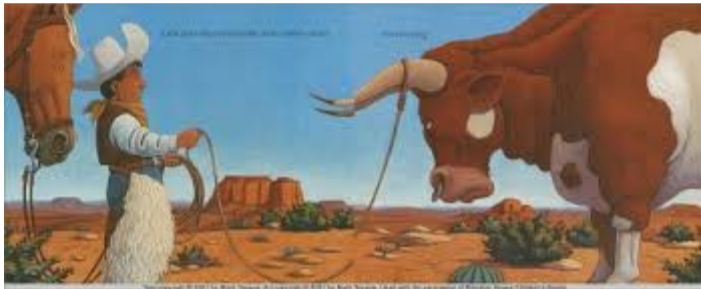


Puppy Love

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Newsletter of *Belle Amore Dachshunds*

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Rollin' Rollin' Rollin' Keep them Doggies Rollin' Rawhide

If you are a fan of old western television series that were popular in the 50's and 60's you will recognize the theme song above adapted from the popular television series *Rawhide*.

During our country's economic history the desire for beef as a staple in our diet became more common place as the average family's income continued to rise. This was a profitable industry making many cattle ranchers wealthy. The by-products developed from the hide of slaughtered cattle (rawhide) also developed into profitable enterprises for other businesses.

In today's economy the pet supply business is a multi-billion dollar industry and consumption products for dogs shares a big chunk of the annual profits. Rawhide is a very popular product pet parents routinely buy not realizing the hazards that accompany the consumption of these products.

Just consider the chemical process alone to produce rawhide dog chews. It comes from the underside hide of a cow's hide and it contains arsenic and formaldehyde, and it is soaked in lye and a bleach solution for a number of days. Then it is dried and formed into cute shapes or made to look like a natural product which of course it is not. There are even rawhide chews with added pleasant flavoring to make them more appealing to dogs.

And the Doctor Says...



Rawhide is made from animal hide, which is NOT digestible. If your little doxie swallows a large piece of rawhide it can become a choking hazard. Additional problems can occur when swallowed rawhide cannot be digested and it travels through your dog's digestive tract where sharp edges of undigested rawhide can cause internal damage. It is not uncommon for veterinarians to examine x-rays of a dog in distress and find internal obstructions from rawhide. In some cases surgery is required to remove the rawhide. Consider the potential risks for your little doxie before you purchase products made from rawhide.



The pet supply business is booming during the Christmas season as pet parents buy special gifts for their dogs. We are naturally drawn to the cute Christmas items.

Unfortunately, many of these gifts are made out of rawhide. Be sure to check the ingredients and where the rawhide came from before you make a purchase. Many rawhide products are sold under the brand name of an American company but were actually made overseas where there are no restrictions on the quality of products produced. They can contain bacteria that can be fatal.