

According to Julie Stephanus, large animal business manager at Solvay Veterinary, Arthryl was being sold at less than 10 percent of the cost of established, high quality hyaluronic acids such as Equoron.

Dr. Tew, whose laboratory has examined several illicit drugs, says the problem appears to be more prevalent in equine circles than in other areas of animal health.

Why? He offers this candid, philosophical theory:

“Horse racing is an industry of hope. And in an industry of hope, there’s always someone being taken for a ride. People are always looking for a competitive edge — a magic potion that, in their minds, will put their horse one step ahead of the competition.”

Over the past two years, crackdowns by the FDA, FBI, Department of Justice and other government agencies have reduced the availability of these drugs. But ultimately, only consumers can stop the flow.

“Just say no!” Stephanus suggests. “And only buy animal drugs from authorized manufacturers.”

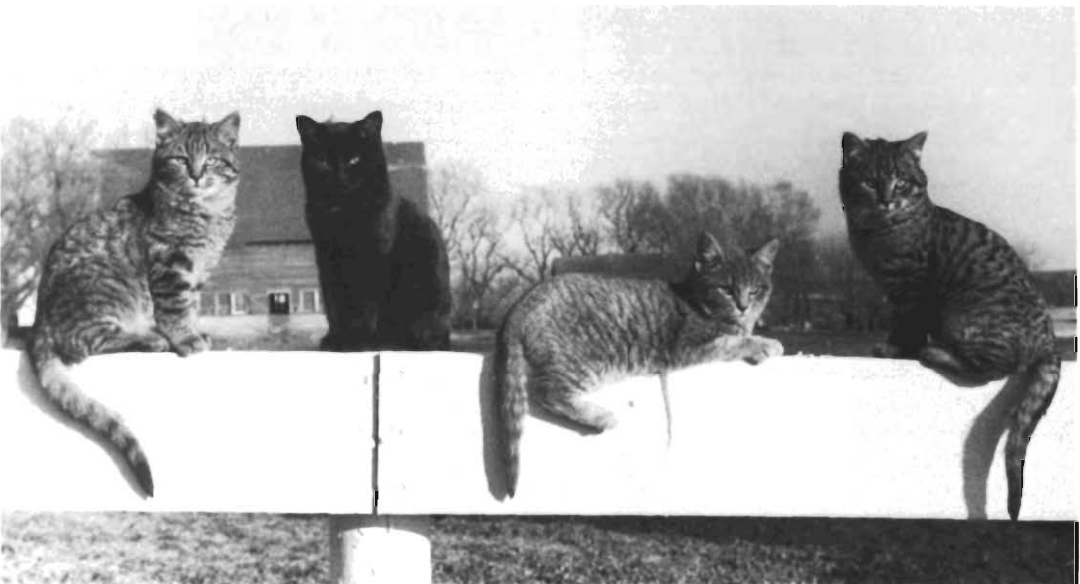
Information on illicit animal drugs or products with defaced labeling should be brought to the attention of the nearest FDA Resident Post or District Office. The telephone number is listed in most local directories. All leads will be kept confidential.

For further information contact Joe Feeks or Julie Nettifee 914-758-2200 or Julie Stephanus, Solvay Veterinary 1-800-524-1645.

## FDA Issues Warning About Defaced Drugs

The Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Veterinary Medicine warns that some animal drugs are being sold at discounted prices in Texas, Colorado, and Kansas in packaging that has been defaced. The practice may not be limited to these three states. According to the information received, some distributors are purchasing legal/approved veterinary drugs and removing the expiration dating, lot numbers, and the original manufacturer/distributor name and address segments from the labeling panels. FDA asks veterinarians to beware of these products. They may not be the bargain they appear to be. Carefully examine packages and containers to be certain they have not been tampered with or defaced. Information on products with defaced labeling should be brought to the attention of the nearest FDA Resident Post or District Office. Your cooperation is the key to stopping this illegal practice. Contact: Mary-Alice Miller, (301) 443-4557.

*Reprinted courtesy of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Public Information Division, 930 North Meacham Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196, (312) 885-8070.*



Louise Beyea