

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2004 10:08 AM

**Subject:** TREATED LAWNS AND A CONNECTION WITH BLADDER CANCER

*Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine, Splash NewsBulletin and Allergic Reaction NewsBulletin Members;*

*This quick read below is more of a "public service reminder" for our Dealers and Customers. You will read about the potential connection from fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and bladder cancer in pets. In past Splash NewsBulletins we've reported that a leading source of pollution today is farm runoff whereby entire regions are "slug loaded" with fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.*

*One final point; the article discusses doing a double cross over study of treated and untreated lawns. I certainly hope they are astute enough to look at homes with treated lawns on well water vs. city water and the effects of exposure through ingestion vs. skin contact.*

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*Warmest regards to all...as well, your comments are always welcome and very much appreciated.*

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"Alfie"

Alfred J. Lipshultz, President

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**Reuters**

**Lawn Chemicals Linked to Dog Cancer - U.S. Study**

Tue Apr 20, 5:55 PM ET

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A study that links lawn chemicals to bladder cancer in Scottish terriers could help shed light on whether they cause cancer in some people, U.S. researchers said on Tuesday.

Purdue University researchers surveyed 83 owners of Scottish terriers whose pets had recently been diagnosed with bladder cancer for their report, published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association.

"The risk ... was found to be between four and seven times more likely in exposed animals," said Larry Glickman, professor of epidemiology and environmental medicine in Purdue's School of Veterinary Medicine.

"While we hope to determine which of the many chemicals in lawn treatments are responsible, we also hope the similarity between human and dog genomes will allow us to find the genetic predisposition toward this form of cancer found in both Scotties and certain people."

Glickman and his colleagues earlier found that Scotties are about 20 times more likely to develop bladder cancer than other breeds.

"These dogs are more sensitive to some factors in their environment," Glickman said in a statement. "As pets tend to spend a fair amount of time in contact with plants treated with herbicides and insecticides, we decided to find out whether lawn chemicals were having any effect on cancer frequency."

The National Cancer Institute ([news - web sites](#)) says about 38,000 men and 15,000 women are diagnosed with bladder cancer each year. Humans and animals often share genes that can predispose them to cancer.

"If such a gene exists in dogs, it's likely that it exists in a similar location in the human genome," Glickman said. "Finding the dog gene could save years in the search for it in humans and could also help us determine which kids need to stay away from lawn chemicals."

Glickman's team plans to survey children, as well as dogs, in households that have treated lawns and compare the chemicals in their urine samples with those from households with untreated lawns.

"It's important to find out which lawn chemicals are being taken up by both children and animals," he said.