**BAPPG model email to local animal shelter:**

**Audience:** Staff of local animal shelter

**Email to:** Shelter manager (and, if contact available, lead veterinarian)

**Goals:**

(1) To change their use of fipronil- and imidacloprid-based flea products to either a systemically-active topical (such as Bravecto or Revolution) or oral treatments.

(2) To provide public outreach materials for their front desk and the pet adoption baggies.

**Subject Heading:** Request re (Facility) current flea control product(s)

Dear XXX,

I am with the (*Agency Name*). Our agency operates wastewater treatment for (*insert* *communities served*). I want to thank you for everything your shelter does to support our local pet population. (Agency name) in collaboration with the [Bay Area Clean Water Agencies](https://bacwa.org/) (a professional consortium of public wastewater treatment agencies) is partnering with veterinary offices and pet adoption agencies to avoid the use of **fipronil-** or **imidacloprid-based** topical flea and tick control products.

Peer reviewed scientific studies have identified that fipronil and imidacloprid-based pet products travel from households through to wastewater treatment plants before treated wastewater effluent is released to the Bay. Domestic wastewater plants are not designed to remove these pesticides that travel to wastewater facilities after treated pets are bathed, and when hands, clothes and bedding that have been in contact with pet fur are washed. This results in fipronil and imidacloprid being discharged with treated effluent into San Francisco Bay, sometimes at concentrations greater than the toxicity thresholds for aquatic species. (See this [Veterinary Information Network article](https://news.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=210&Id=10033489&sx=230746872&n=6&f5=1) and the attached San Jose Mercury news article). Further, fipronil in topical pet products has recently been found by California’s Department of Pesticide Regulation to be toxic to groomers and other applicators (via dermal and inhalation routes) as well as to children (via oral, dermal and inhalation routes) ([link here](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/active_ingredient/fipronil.htm)).

**We are asking the veterinary community to consider avoiding the use or recommendation of products that contain either of these pesticides unless there are specific constraints where only fipronil or imidacloprid may be a viable option for a particular pet.** There are several topicals that contain different pesticides that, as of yet, are not as problematic, and a growing body of preferred oral medications, many of which also tackle endoparasites.

In addition to avoiding the use or recommendation of imidacloprid or fipronil products, veterinary offices can educate their professional team and clients with one of the no-cost services we provide:

* **For the public:** With the assistance of local veterinarians, we have designed outreach about this concern to share at your front desk and in pet adoption materials (See attached rack card);
* **For veterinary and pet care professionals:**
  + Technical information is available at [baywise.org/business/for-vets/](https://baywise.org/business/for-vets/) which includes relevant research;
  + A one-hour technical presentation and 1.0 unit of AAVSB RACE continuing education units are available for your office team. This is, in most cases, a zoom meeting with (“me,” or “my agency”) and the Bay Area’s technical lead on this project, Stephanie Hughes. Stephanie is a registered Chemical Engineer with more than 25 years of experience regarding water quality issues. Since 2014, she has studied consumer flea and tick control on behalf of Bay Area municipalities and evaluated the efficacy and impacts of both pesticidal and non-pesticidal alternatives. Stephanie will also be speaking about imidacloprid and fipronil concerns at the June 2024 American Veterinary Medical Association in Austin, Texas.

Thank you for your time. I will reach out to you to follow up, and of course, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with requests for presentations, rack cards, or for more information.

Best,

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