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Man finds arsenic in well water

Posted: May 26, 2011 - 3:54pm



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By **BY KELLIE BRAMLET**

AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

When the Terrell family dog suddenly went blind, Dr. Jason Terrell decided look for causes. He and the family's veterinarian had discussed that the blindness was likely caused by a brain tumor or poison.

Fearing it was the later, Terrell, who owns a lab test company, decided to test his well water. He found levels of arsenic four times higher than

Environmental Agency recommendations.

Terrell discovered arsenic levels of 41.22 parts per billion in the well water near his home just north of Woodrow road. The EPA recommends arsenic levels not exceed 10 parts per billion.

"Once I got these results, I was worried about my family," said Terrell, the father of two daughters, KateIn, 11 and Kylie, 6.

The Terrells do not drink the well water unless it has been filtered through a reverse osmosis system, but Dr. Terrell wanted to make sure the water they use for cooking and cleaning wasn't affecting his family.

He tested his own blood, urine and hair. Because he had been out of town, the blood and urine tests were negative, but the hair test, which shows exposure from months prior showed arsenic exposure.

Terrell believes the water is the source of the arsenic in his hair, although it's difficult to draw that conclusion scientifically at this point.

His wife and children completed hair tests today, and will have results sometime next week.

In the mean time, Terrell contacted Ronald Kendall, director of the Texas Tech Institute of Environmental and Human Health, and George Cobb, the institute's branch leader for Environment Health and Toxicology.

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Kendall and Cobb said they are very interested in finding out more about the test results Terrell presented.

"There are issues that need to be further investigated," Kendall said.

Arsenic is common in this area, Cobb explained but residents need not worry. Lubbock city water is safe to drink.

The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal will update this article as it develops.

To comment on this story:

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Check the dog

By james999 | 05/26/11 - 04:48 pm

for diabetes. It's been known for a long time that arsenic appears naturally in our water and is removed during treatment in larger municipal water systems.

You can bathe in the arsenic pool at Ojo Caliente NM for a small fee of about \$20.

Was the dog a rescue mutt or abandoned out at the farm to be adopted by the farm family? The genetics in the mongrel dogs sold by rescue operations are unknown and can result in very expensive health problems such as diabetes and the behavior of mixed breed dogs is always an unknown. Ever notice how they never know their supposed own name on the hoaxy TV news shows trying to sucker people into taking those animals?

Can't trust anything out of the EPA anymore.

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Breeder, Eh?

By carpbreath | 05/26/11 - 04:51 pm

I gather you're a breeder of some type of dog?

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I've long said that, since I've moved back to Lubbock,

By jeffross | 05/26/11 - 06:43 pm

I've felt like I take a dollop of arsenic with my tea every morning.

I thought I was kidding.

"Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own." Jonathan Swift "I don't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members." Groucho Marx

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What a shock!

By logicalthinker | 05/26/11 - 07:37 pm

Maybe tomorrow I can get the AJ to run a story "Man Finds Carbon Dioxide in Air!". Any one who drinks well water from the Ogallala should probably do a little research first. Natural arsenic level in this area common reach 7 to 8 times the EPA standard.

[http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/GroundWaterReports/GWReports/R342/R342.p](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/GroundWaterReports/GWReports/R342/R342.pdf)

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