

For your information.....

#### Warning to Dog Owners – following Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Incidents

Dogs owners are being warned to make sure their pets don't eat anything found on the beach – after a number of recent pet deaths.

It has now been confirmed that the death of a Siberian Husky after eating a shore crab at Felixstowe Ferry, Suffolk, earlier this month is highly likely to have been because of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning. This follows similar findings in relation to the Golden Retriever that died after eating fish on the beach at Cley in North Norfolk on New Year's Eve. Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) is a naturally occurring marine biotoxin.

While there is no risk to people or pets from seawater, recreational users of the coast, in particular dog walkers, are advised to take simple precautions to prevent their pets from consuming anything found on a beach. This may include keeping their pets under close control, on leads or muzzled, if considered appropriate, while walking along the coast.

Dr Andrew Turner, from Cefas, said: "There is no risk to people or animals from the seawater. The only risk is from ingesting PSP-contaminated animals found on the beach, so simple precautions should be followed to ensure that pets and people do not eat anything they find on the beach."

For full details, see: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/paralytic-shellfish-poisoning-incidents/>  
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