

What is your response to the EPA reporting 1700 pet deaths, as well as tens of thousands more adverse reactions linked to the Seresto Flea Collar?

The EPA is not reporting the collar caused 1,700 pet deaths. The documents referenced are the raw data from the incident reports to the EPA, and do not reflect causality or post-investigation findings. If a dog were to be wearing a collar and experienced any sort of health issue, the collar would be mentioned in the resulting report as required. For example, if a dog were to pass away from a car accident, and was wearing a Seresto collar, that would meet the criteria to be included in these reports, even if the collar was very obviously not the source of the issue.

This is important, because it is not the job of the person making the report to determine cause, but rather, to provide information as presented. Further investigation and assessment is required to determine cause, often a veterinary exam or necropsy, as well as continuously monitoring the data for signals or trends. That further investigation has shown there is no established link between exposure to the active ingredients in Seresto and pet deaths. These active ingredients have been used for decades.

The Center for Bio-Diversity claims that the EPA has been well aware of the link between this collar and pet deaths and injuries, and feel there are many more unreported incidents. What is your response?

As I mentioned above, the documents referenced are the raw data from the incident reports to the EPA, and do not reflect causality or post-investigation findings. As a globally marketed product, more than 80 regulatory authorities around the world, including the US EPA, rigorously reviewed the safety data collected over the course of Seresto's development prior to registration. The safety and efficacy of Seresto are continuously monitored and scrutinized by global regulatory bodies as well as via internal processes. Specific to the EPA, registration review is conducted on all registered pesticides on a regular basis (every 15 years), taking into consideration all available data and assessing risk to human, environmental (including off-target species), and, in the case of pet products, animal health. The active ingredients contained in Seresto, are in the final stages of re-review with no findings indicative of an issue for pets or people related to use of the collar. Since its approval, the reporting rate for all incidents related to Seresto is less than 0.2% globally. The majority of these incidents relate to non-serious effects such as temporary hair loss and mild skin irritation around the application site. It is important to make sure the collar is not fitted too tightly around an animal's neck. We recommend the collar be snug while still being able to fit 2 to 3 fingers under it.

We spoke to a pet owner who contends that her dog died one day after she put the Seresto Collar on him, and claims that vet she took him too is the one who made that correlation. There are also groups on social media that share information regarding adverse affects from this product. What do you say to them?

As pet lovers, our hearts always go out to any pet owner on the loss of their companion. However, correlation and causation are two very different things. If any pet owner perceives an adverse event related to Seresto, we encourage them to report it by calling 800-255-6826. Elanco will work with the pet owner's veterinarian to determine an appropriate course of action. The number is answered by a medical professional 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

You said there is "no established link in the data" linking Seresto to the reported pet deaths and injuries. But this is a significant number of anecdotal incidents. Shouldn't that be a cause for concern regarding the safety of your product?

The health and wellbeing of pets using Seresto, and all our products, is our number one priority at Elanco. The safety and efficacy of Seresto are continuously monitored and scrutinized by regulatory bodies around the world as well as via internal processes. I said there's no established link between the active ingredients in Seresto and pet death. Our label states: "Rarely, mild application site reactions may occur, such as scratching, redness and hair loss, which usually recover within 12 weeks without the need for collar removal. In some cases, temporary collar removal and bathing may be recommended until symptoms have disappeared. In very rare cases, application site reactions such as dermatitis, inflammation, eczema or lesions may occur. In these instances, collar removal is recommended. If signs persist or become more severe, consult a veterinarian immediately." It is important to make sure the collar is not fitted too tightly around an animal's neck. We recommend the collar be snug while still being able to fit 2 to 3 fingers under it, which is also shown in our label.

What is Elanco protocol when they hear from a consumer who claims their pet has had an adverse reaction possibly linked to the Seresto Collar. The pet owner whose dog died claims they received a form letter with no offer of follow-up and they would "have to drop the claim."

The pet owner you spoke to contacted Elanco on June 9th stating the pet had passed away on June 1st. We took what information the pet owner was able to provide, but this did not include any medical reports, exams, or necropsy report. Unfortunately, given the length of time that had passed between the pet's death and notification to Elanco, we didn't have any options to work with the veterinarian to conduct a necropsy. Further, we did not receive any notification from the veterinarian reporting this case as a suspected adverse event to Elanco. We did receive the lot number of the Seresto collar and did a review for any potential manufacturing or quality issues with that production lot. Finding none, we sent the pet owner a letter notifying her that with no further information expected on the case, we would be closing the case. Like every adverse event, this case was entered into our global database and reported to the appropriate regulatory authorities.

Generally, when a pet owner contacts Elanco to report an adverse event, we capture as much information as possible about the patient's recent medical history. We always encourage a pet owner to visit their veterinarian for any concerning adverse event, and we offer to support the cost of an examination or any appropriate diagnostics that are required to determine what's happening. We also offer to contact the pet owner's veterinarian to discuss the case further, if the pet owner provides permission to do so. In the case of a pet death, we recommend a necropsy and we support the cost of that so we can clearly determine the pet's cause of death. Every adverse event we receive, regardless of potential cause, is entered into our global database which is regularly reported to multiple regulatory authorities around the world. We continually review this data for any signals or trends that would warrant further examination.