

### Health Hazard from Dogs and Cats

The Sunday Post – Nairobi of March 18<sup>th</sup> – 1973 has published an article under the heading ‘The Dangers of your Pet’ in which health warning to people who keep pet dogs or cats was quoted from the British Medical Journal.

A case is quoted from the said journal of a 25 year old woman having caught an infection from her dog and was likely to lose her sight. Professor Callbert Philips, who treated the woman, said “I won’t have pet animal in my household and some of my colleagues feel the same way because of having young children. We don’t like what we see in our clinics.”

Professor Philips adds “When I was in Manchester I saw on average three or four cases a year. But eye infections are not the only type of infections which can arise. There is suspicion that stomach trouble and even epilepsy may result from infections caught from animals.

The report in the journal by the said professor and Dr. A. D. Mackenzie from Blackpool Victoria Hospital says “An important factor in the spread of this disease is the widespread practice of keeping dogs and cats. Unfortunately, pets are particularly common in households with young children who also tend to be at increased risk.

Professor Philips warns parents not to let pets eat off plates which are to be used by humans.

Islam has guided us on every aspect of our life. Through numerous rules and regulations, it has shown us how to live a clean healthy life and forewarned us wherever health hazards could arise.

In Islam, a dog is and so is a pig NAJISULAYN i.e. an absolutely impure and unclean animal. In case a dog drinks any liquid thing or licks a pot, the said pot is to be considered NAJIS unclean for human use. It has to be rubbed with wet clean earth and then washed at least two times or preferably seven times before it could be considered clean for use.

According to the tradition, the Prophet of Islam is reported to have said “A house with a dog inside, shall not receive blessings from God”.

It is only recently that medical science has discovered and warned against possible infections from dogs and other animals, whereas the above Islamic rules originated over 1300 years back when scientific equipments were non-existent. Thus it is only the divine revealed religion explained by God-inspired apostles that can truly guide mankind on every aspect of his life.