



FIESTA PET DELI

As We See It... Veterinarians...Business or Profession? The rest of the Story

We last looked at a small part of the Veterinarians' professional duty in our last article. I feel we must look at what their interest is... your pet or their bank account.

Has your pet, dog, cat, or exotic ever experienced a bout of DIARRHEA???

Let me take you through the usual vet response. Oh, by the way, if you have children, you may notice some stark differences in the protocol and the expense.

If you call your vet because your pet has diarrhea, you will be told that the situation is critical, life threatening and that you must go to the emergency clinic immediately. (Did your pediatrician tell you this?)

Your vet then tells you, after you prepay the emergency fee; you need a blood test, MRI, and X-Rays to determine the problem.

First, I know on-going X-rays are dangerous, adding to any problem that may already exist. The same is true, but to a lesser degree of the MRI.

The most common diagnosis is inconclusive but let's prescribe antibiotics (useless unless we are fighting a biological infection which the test does not show), an anti-diuretic which keeps the toxins inside the body caus-

ing other problems, and fluid therapy as we are most likely feeding a dehydrating dry pet food that actually caused the problem.

You may ask at this point, "What should I do?"

What did you do with your kids? You put them on a fasting diet, then introduce easy to digest foods like eggs, cottage cheese, and maybe use Kaopectate.

Cost of the home cure equals everyday cost plus a bottle of meds to stop "the runs". Cost of your "emergency" run to the vet, equals \$1500 - \$4000. Results.... The same!

So why does your vet make diarrhea a disease and YOUR doctor a symptom?

I guess we need to start asking our vets to explain the hows and whys of what they do. I had a client just this week that asked her vet a question about the treatment he wanted to follow. His answer was, "are you questioning my judgment, since I have an advanced degree in this discipline."

Should we ever accept an answer that focuses on qualifications instead of knowledge?

My education in animals included studies in genetics, nutrition, pathology, as well as the other things animal

health professionals should know. Sadly, vet schools no longer include many of these studies in their general programs, leaving our vets with missing gaps in their abilities to assist us.

Instead of giving us the straight answers we need, we are subject to the fact that "first we pay the rent" then we help our clients.

If your vet does not give you definitive direction, but says "let's try this", get a new vet! They may seem like they care, but if they can't fix the condition, then question why!

I have a very general, but very direct question for all doctors... MD's, DVM's, and all the others, "if I need a treatment (i.e... drug, procedure, etc), I want the one that will CURE me, not the one that treats symptoms for the rest of my life!

And as I see it, I want the cure, not the drugs!

Bill Piechocki and Diane Suddath are co-owners of Fiesta Pet Deli in Festival Flea Market Mall at 2900 W. Sample Road, Pompano. Bill Piechocki has a degree in animal science and 40 years experience in the pet industry including working as a pet nutritionist. He has raised show dogs and also trained dogs. Dr. Diane Suddath has a DVM as well as master's degree in Parasitology and Public Health. She also served as a Veterinary Medical Officer for the FDA and USDA for 10 years. Currently she consults for the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries. You can contact them at: 954-971-2500, petdeli@BioVanceAH.com or www.realfood4pets.com