

As We See It... Is Your Pet Really Healthy? – Part 2

In my thirty-five plus years in the pet and animal health field, I've seen thousands of new and exciting products introduced that make our pets happier and healthier and make their care much easier on us. I'm saddened to say that we believe veterinary medicine is falling behind in several areas.

The veterinary industry is presently engaged in a debate over the use, but more importantly, the overuse of vaccinations and their effectiveness to prevent disease and make our pets healthier. I recall several years ago an announcement by a major vaccine manufacturer and a leading group representing veterinarians advising that the frequency of boosters be changed from once a year to every six months with the main objective to bring you and your pet into the animal hospital more often. The idea presented to justify this idea was if you were there more often, they MAY be able to detect problems earlier.

The problems with this approach were many. As I've previously mentioned, all vaccines have side effects, many of which actually can be harmful to many pets. All vaccines carry not only an altered form of the disease of which they are trying to prevent, but an array of preservatives, toxic

chemicals, and heavy metals. We know these can cause what is referred to today as vaccinosis. Symptoms have been observed as quickly as the initial series of puppy shots. The drug companies have no published studies available that indicate long term effects of their products.

For the sake of simplicity, let's look at a single disease, canine distemper, a close cousin to human measles. As kids, most of us received our measles vaccination, singular. It was to provide the ability of the body to protect us from this disease for our entire lifetime. Now, look at what we do to our cute fuzzy puppies. They are routinely given three vaccinations by the breeders' veterinarian before the age of sixteen weeks. They usually are given another complete series by your veterinarian when you adopt your puppy. They are then revaccinated annually throughout their lifetime. The average puppy is vaccinated for distemper eight times by his first birthday.

We have been vaccinating for canine distemper for generations and yet we are told that it's still a serious problem. Shouldn't our technology be advanced enough to eliminate most of these shots? If one shot is effective with us, why not with our puppies? Remember,

those vaccinations also contain those preservatives, toxic chemicals, and heavy metals. Most times they are also combined with many other antigens (diseases) in the same shot. The body has to fight all these at the same time.

The premise of the vaccination program is to build immunity to these diseases. How can the body do this effectively if we continue to attack the pets' immune system with these vaccinations and the poisons they carry?

In researching this article, this research project seemed to sum up our thinking. "Recent editions of the Senior Dogs Project's newsletter have reported on the ever-broadening trend of eliminating vaccinations for adult dogs, except for rabies, where required by state law. We have now had a report that all 27 veterinary schools in North America are in the process of changing their protocols for vaccinating dogs and cats. Here, in a nutshell, are the new guidelines under consideration: "Dogs and cats immune systems mature fully at 6 months. If a modified live virus (MLV) vaccine is given after 6 months of age, it produces immunity, which is good for the life of the pet (i.e., canine distemper, parvo, feline distemper). If another



MLV vaccine is given a year later, the antibodies from the first vaccine neutralize the antigens of the second vaccine and there is little or no effect.

If all the veterinary schools in North America are changing the vaccination protocol, shouldn't your vet be informing you of these health improving changes?

As we stated previously, our mission is to give you tools in which can be used to boost your pets' health and life. In today's information age, you have the ability to search for answers. Your veterinarian should be a partner in your pets' health.

As our research continues, we will continue to discuss and update you through our ongoing columns. As we've stated before, if you can't wait until then, we invite

you to stop by or give us a call. We would also advise you to discuss and question the how's and why's of any treatment, procedure, or recommendation your vet may make. Remember, your pet counts on YOU to provide for their needs. You need to make informed, knowledgeable choices.

As always, it's the way we see it.

Editor's Note: As with human medicine, there are alternative choices for consumers to make in the care of animals. Education about traditional approaches and alternatives approaches is the responsible course to take in that process.

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