

Bottom Line Blurs Veterinary Practices

Reprinted from NewsTarget, Thursday, January 03, 2008 by: Christine Agro

<http://www.NewsTarget.com/022448.html>

(NewsTarget) Imagine if every time you went to the doctor you were given vaccinations that you don't need; vaccinations that offer no benefit but all of the risks of harmful side effects. Or you were given medications with no explanation or information provided. Or tests were being done for no reason. Now imagine that you can't speak and you have no way to tell those who care for you that those vaccinations make you feel sick; you don't want those tests; and the medicine is causing more harm than good.

That's exactly what many of our cat and dog friends experience. We bring our best friend to the veterinarian with unquestioned trust and faith that our vet has our animal's best interest at heart but according to Veterinarian Dr. James Busby, author of "How To Afford Veterinary Care Without Mortgaging the Kids", his profession is suffering from a serious lapse in judgment and ethics that is rooted in making money.

Dr. Busby, who has been a practicing vet since 1966, loves his work and comes from a family of Veterinarians; but admits if he had to practice the way vets practice today he would not enter the profession. Dr. Busby feels "the profession has slowly turned from what was once an honest, caring one to a situation where many clinics and doctors are interested more in the bottom line, than what is necessary and best for your pet."

If you thought the veterinary world had escaped the 'bottom line' mentality of the Medical Community you are wrong. The world of veterinary medicine has become equally entangled with Drug and Insurance Companies. The result is not only rising costs for the animal guardian but also unnecessary treatments, over-the-top testing, and over vaccination for the animals.

Dr. Busby says, "Veterinarians today seem to assume they have the OK to run every test and perform any and every procedure on your animal they can, unless you tell them differently. Then they usually get irate and try to shame you for being a non-loving pet owner."

Veterinarians are great at using guilt and pressure to strip animal guardians of their power. They can be brusque, condescending and intimidating and in the end, the animal guardian, wanting to do whatever they can to support their animal friend, goes along with whatever the vet says. The only way to change this is for animal guardians to become as well informed about their animal's care, as they are about their own. Until recently, Vets have held an unquestionable 'high moral' mark where guardians assumed that whatever a vet wants to do must be in the best interest of the animal, but that unquestionable morality is gone now.

Let's start with vaccinations. The standard operating procedure is for animals to receive a multitude of vaccinations on a regular schedule. Most animal guardians don't question the vaccination schedule. If the vet says it's needed, then it must be. For those who do question it, they are met with hostility or condescension or frightened with the horrors of what will happen if an animal isn't vaccinated regularly. And in several cases, have been asked to find another vet altogether.

But here's the truth about all animal vaccines: The drug manufactures label determines the frequency of revaccination. There is nothing scientific about the current animal vaccination schedule. Neither the FDA nor the USDA requires drug companies to prove the maximum immunity conferred; they only require that immunity be conferred for the duration of their testing, which means if the drug company tests for one year, the label states vaccinate yearly.

This manufacturers' recommendation ultimately influenced rabies laws in each and every state across the country. Those laws are not based in scientific study, but rather on the research done by drug companies necessary to get approval for their drugs.

It has been proven as well that vaccine boosters do not increase immunity. Once the body has immunity, that same immunity will knock out the virus in the vaccine, leaving your animal to experience none of the benefits from the vaccine but all of the risks from the adjuvants; and, leaving the guardian to pay for something that does nothing.

Kris Christine, Founder of The Rabies Challenge Fund Trust and vaccine reform activist, stated during a recent interview on Conscious Animal Radio that this practice fit the definition of fraud. Christine joined this fight when her own dog Meadow developed an injection site sarcoma with the needle mark visible in the center of the tumor. After her vet informed her that Meadow most likely had immunity to rabies for life, and carelessly let it slip that it was the distemper shot Christine should really watch out for as that one had many side effects and was ultimately unnecessary for older dogs, Christine jumped into action.

For the complete article, please visit <http://www.NewsTarget.com/022448.html>

In Memory of Chance

1/2/04 - 1/7/08



Chance.....something that happens unpredictably without discernable human intention or observable cause (as defined by Merriam-Webster).

Chance bounded into our lives through ATRA on October 24, 2006. He was a tall, beautiful boy who asked for nothing more than a soft place on the sofa and a few goodies accidentally left on the kitchen counter (they disappeared quickly). Chance was a vigorous, playful, but gentle, Airedale who was good with small children (their little faces were right at licking level) and the two cats that lived here (they, of course, got some good sniffs). Chance played endlessly with the foster dog living here and yet gave only slight misery to our resident senior dale. Chance would loudly announce the arrival of all visitors, but once he knew they were "allowed" in he wanted to be their best friend.

Chance died on January 7, 2008, from tetanus. I had never heard of tetanus in dogs. I missed the very subtle early signs of this infection and I am writing this with the hope of saving another dog of the same terrible death.

Tetanus is a bacterial infection that enters a wound, causing an infection which releases a toxin that attacks the central nervous system. It eventually causes muscle spasms and rigidity that can lead to respiratory paralysis and death. In Chance's case, we found only a small wound on his back likely caused by the rough play he and our foster dog loved so much. How many times have we all found scratches, scrapes or punctures from typical Airedale rough play with no adverse effects? How many of these have even happened and healed undetected? I now know that even these minor injuries must be treated early and thoroughly and not just allowed to heal. Nine times out of ten there is no problem, it only takes that one time for the infection to enter.

The first symptom I noticed in Chance was a "wide-eyed" expression. And, he seemed to be holding his ears back. I thought maybe he had an ear infection. That was at the end of the day, so the next day I called and made an appointment with our vet for Saturday morning. By the time of the appointment he was becoming lethargic, had a couple of incidents and vomiting and seemed to have some stiffness in his back legs. My vet examined him and said he thought it was tetanus. In all his years of practice he had only seen one other dog with tetanus! He was very grim about the outcome and advised me of our options and/or lack of options. He suggested that euthanasia might ultimately become necessary. He set about an entry point; he found the almost healed wound on his back, opened it, thoroughly cleaned it and injected antibiotics directly into the site. He administered the maximum amount of antibiotics by injection and muscle relaxants to make Chance more comfortable. I was given a lesson in how to administer both of these medications throughout the weekend and planned to return early Monday morning for re-evaluation. I stayed near Chance day and night through the weekend. His condition continued to deteriorate and by early Monday morning he began to have difficulty breathing. I knew then it was time. I carried him to the car and drove to the animal emergency clinic. By the time we arrived there he was starting to have seizures.

I had to say goodbye to Chance on that horrible morning. It was too late to save my beautiful boy but perhaps his gift to us all will be helping to prevent this from happening to another animal. I didn't know, but now you do. Do the research. Know what the subtle signs and symptoms are! Don't wait until "the first available appointment" to seek medical care for any questionable symptoms. Don't ever ignore even the most minor injury.

Sandy Check
ATRA Indiana Co-coordinator
Indianapolis

Ever wonder about what you're feeding your dog.

Check out these links.

http://www.oes.org/page2/9674~Grade_Your_Dog_Food.html and <http://www.dogfoodanalysis.com>

Notice Beneful, especially. It is NOT what you think it is and it is NOT what you should feed your dog. Check out the good ones. Of course they will cost more but quality always does. Diet is so important to the over all health of our dogs - we should all be reading labels and feed the best food we can afford. You may have to spend a little more money on the high quality food but you will save money at the vet!!

Bits & Pieces

We all know that chocolate is not good for our dogs. Here's a link to a National Geographic magazine article that charts chocolate's effect on a dog based on the weight of the dog. A word of caution, do not take the information given to mean that if chocolate is given in small amounts that it may be okay. Dogs should NOT eat chocolate, regardless of the amount!

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/2007-10/chocolate-chart.html>



This is pretty simple... Please tell ten friends to tell ten today! The Animal Rescue Site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota of getting free food donated every day to abused and neglected animals. It takes less than a minute (How about 20 seconds) to go to their site and click on the purple box 'fund food for animals' for free. This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate food to abandoned/neglected animals in exchange for advertising. Here's the web site! Pass it along to people you know.

<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/>

Dog Owner's Prayer

O Lord, don't let me once forget how I love my trusty pet. Shield my neighbor's cat from view
guide my steps around the doo.

Help me learn to disregard canine craters in my yard. Train me not to curse and scowl
when it's puppy's night to howl.

Show me how to be a buddy even when my sofa's muddy. Grant I shan't awake in fear
with a cold nose in my ear.

Don't allow my pooch to munch postal carriers for lunch. Give me patience without end-
Help me be 'A Dog's Best Friend'!

• Author Unknown

Just for fun: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsULOKCIc48&feature=related>

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.
you don't like pets, be on your way.
They share my home, my food, my space
this is their home, this is their place.

You will find dog hair on the floor,
they will alert you're at the door.
They may request a little pat,
a simple 'no' will settle that.

It gripes me when I hear you say
'just how is it you live this way?'
They smell, they shed, they're in the way.'
"WHO ASKED YOU?" is all I can say.

They love me more than anyone,
my voice is like the rising sun,
They merely have to hear me say
'C'mon, time to go and play'.

Then tails wag and faces grin,
they bounce and hop and make a din.
They never say 'no time for you',
they're always there, to GO and DO.

And if I'm sad? They're by my side
and if I'm mad? They circle wide.
And if I laugh, they laugh with me
they understand, they always see.

So once again, I say to you
come visit me, but know this too...

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.
You don't like pets, be on your way.
They share my home, my food, my space
this is their home, this is THEIR PLACE.

- Author Unknown

Prayer of a Stray

Dear God, Send me somebody who'll care!
I'm tired of running, I'm sick with despair.
My body is aching, it's so racked with pain,
And Dear God, I pray as I run in the rain

That someone will love me and give me a home,
A warm cozy bed and a big juicy bone.
My last owner tied me all day in the yard
Sometimes with no water, and God, that was hard!

So I chewed my leash, God, and I ran away
To rummage in garbage and live as a stray.
But now, God, I'm tired and hungry and cold
And I'm so afraid that I'll never grow old.

They've chased me with sticks and hit me with stones
While I run the streets just looking for bones!
I'm not really bad, God, and I'm ridden with fleas.
And all that I want is an owner to please!

If you find one for me, God, I'll try to be good
And I won't chew their shoes, but I'll do as I should.
I'll love them, protect them, and try to obey
When they tell me to sit, lie down or stay.

I don't think I'll make it too long on my own
Cause I'm getting so weak and I'm so all alone.
Each night as I sleep in the bushes, I cry
Cause I'm so afraid, God, that I'm gonna die.

And I've got so much love and devotion to give
That I should be given a new chance to live.
So, Dear God, please, please answer my prayer,
And send me someone who will really care.

- Author Unknown

***** FOSTER HOMES DESPERATELY NEEDED *****

PLEASE, we need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes you probably would not have gotten your dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for Rescue so we can save lives like we saved your dog's life!! PLEASE give a warm home to a dog that can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and be ready for a new home. PLEASE help us and the dogs so that others might have a dog that is well socialized, trained, and ready to love. PLEASE think about this.... Dalmatians are everywhere and are literally dying to meet you or someone willing to give them a "spot" to be until their forever home comes along. PLEASE be a spot for us... and for them?

We thank you and you know any dog you help us save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help us and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Davon

5 Years Old, Liver Male, Neutered, Stray
Other Shelter, Vernon, TX.

FOSTER HOME NEEDED DESPERATELY!!

Davon is a lucky boy...lucky in that he ONLY spent NINE months in a shelter. Lucky that he wasn't put to sleep long before. What a nice boy he must be, huh? Davon was coming from TX the weekend of 1/26 but the ride has been delayed. He is still looking for a foster home or a FOREVER home where he can romp and play and be a happy dawg. His previous owners kept him on a chain and when he got loose and had a good time running around, they didn't want him any more. Nine months later he's coming to



Colorado and hopefully to a home where can run, romp, and love. Any takers? Notice he is that designer color we've not had lately...liver (brown) and white. Yep, he's for real... a real liver Dalmatian. Davon will need a 6' fence and a very loving home because he has suffered long enough!

Xena

10 Years Old, Black Female, Spayed, Stray
Foster Home, Fort Collins, Colorado

FOSTER HOME NEEDED DESPERATELY!!

Xena means "Precious"... She's that and also such a sweetheart. Now she needs a new foster home or a new forever home. She is just not active enough for the family that is fostering her. Xena is mellow, goes with the flow yet still active enough to show a zest for life. She would rather go for a walk or a trot behind a bike than chase a ball. Xena truly enjoys her 'snuggle' time, too. She does great with small children and is inquisitive about other animals. She does not show any aggression about food, toys, treats or affection. She knows the commands "sit", "Lay down", "roll over", "spin", and "shake", and she is not a dominant personality. Xena would be a great pet for somebody who wants a dog who really just wants to hang out with their human but who also has some spirit. She is currently living with two kids, 6 and 8, and is lovely with them and so good in the house. Early in life she lost the use of one eye due to an accident, but she has adapted very well and hopes to soon be seeing the mountains from a new location!



SPECIAL NOTE: We are VERY happy to announce that both of last month's Featured Dals have been adopted! Leroy, the deaf boy, went to live in a very special home with Robin in Aurora, CO. And FreedomA found a wonderful home with Kelly in Miles City, Montana. We look forward to sharing their Happy Beginning Stories with you SOON!

Featured Happy Beginning Stories

Chubbs

Hello my name is Chubbs, the Dalmatian.....or almost!

My new friends, BJ and Dave, don't know my whole story except that I was left abandoned in a yard and if it were not for Beth and Dalmatian Rescue, I would probably not be in my new forever home. They had just lost their Dalmatian of 16 years, Barney and could not stand to be without another friend. They came to Longmont and we have been friends ever since.

Right after BJ and Dave took me home BJ got very sick and was in the hospital and I could not visit until I was trained to be a Delta Dog. This required me to go to some specialized training and testing to make sure my manners were good enough to visit people with special needs. Now I visit BJ and many of her friends in the assisted living center and hospital where she was staying.

Lately, because of my graduation I am allowed to visit schools and the many children that are working on their learning skills. I even had my favorite arty-room teacher do a whistle sculpture of me which you can see with my picture. I love to travel with my new family and see new things. So, as you can see I now have a new forever home, have learned new skills, and made many new friends.

Thank you Dalmatian Rescue, BJ, and Dave for saving me!!

🐾 Chubbs 🐾



Sunshine (formerly Laverne)



Our family has included well-loved Dalmatian family members since 1986 and was sad to say good-bye to our nearly 15-year-old Daisy last January. In May I started checking around for a young female Dalmatian to join us and our 7-year-old liver spotted Dal, Cosmo. Our daughter was also anxious to help us find a dog. One evening in October we both found a posting at the same time and emailed each other about it. I filled out the adoption application that evening and started the ball rolling for Sunshine to come and join our family, which happened November 1st, 2007.

It only took Cosmo about 10 minutes to decide that she could stay. He let her share his bed with in hours. We changed her name to Sunshine and that just perfectly matches her personality. She is lively and energetic and always ready to play. She loves to pile all her toys and blankets up and then lies on top of the pile. She and Cosmo like to wrestle on the floor or even in the doghouse. She races around the back yard and enjoys our morning walks. She is now 6 months old

and is doing a great job of learning the rules of the house, sit, stay and heel. She is great at fetch and has even made tentative friends with one of our cats.

Sunshine is a beautiful little girl with a great personality. We thank the Dalmatian Rescue group for taking her in and nursing her back to health. We look forward to many years of camping, hiking, walking, and just sharing life together.

Craig and Ramona J.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sunshine is one of our GREAT success stories of last year having survived a bad case of canine parvovirus. Sadly, her sister (Shirley) and a couple other pups succumbed to the deadly disease last year. I hope everyone is as thrilled as I am to see how well Sunshine is doing! I was her foster dad, and I cannot put into words how truly excited I am that she is flourishing in her new home with Cosmo, Ramona and Craig, their children and cats. A truly remarkable HAPPY BEGINNING!!!

Please don't forget... if you haven't sent in your Happy Beginnings Story yet, why not do it right now while it's fresh in your mind! It's never too late to see your story in print!!

NewSpots is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots will be the 25th of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!!

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<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>
