

# Pet Parents' Action Group

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## **For the Sake of the Animals**

The Pet Parents' Action Group is a union of pet owners who are disturbed by the poor health of pets in our society. It includes people whose pets have been made ill by veterinary products, people whose animals have died as a result of treatments, veterinary professionals who are upset with what is happening in the veterinary field, and those who seek to preserve animal health in spite of increasing corruption and a failing pet products industry.

Concerned pet parents from the UK, America, Europe, India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa have joined forces with the aim of effecting change. Many of these individuals have been active for years in an effort to get the veterinary medical system to address the causes of our pets' poor health.

If anything is to be done about the epidemic of chronic pet illness, consumers must apply pressure to clean up the corruption in the multi-billion international pet products industry – corruption that allows bad pharmaceuticals, bad veterinary practices and bad government policy.

Billions are spent every year by the multi-billion pet products industry to persuade **you** to buy their products. Unfortunately, despite governments claiming that there are strict regulations to protect our pets, the reality is that the pet products industry goes largely unchecked as governments seek to attract multinationals to their countries to provide jobs, pay taxes and boost the economy.

### **Some important facts you, as a pet parent, need to know:**

1. Hundreds of people joined together in a class action lawsuit after a drug called Rimadyl killed their dogs. In response, the American FDA made Pfizer and other COX 2 inhibitor manufacturers (i.e.,

Metacam, Deramaxx), produce information leaflets for pet owners stating, clearly, that one of the adverse reactions to this class of drugs is death. Outside of America, where the FDA has no say, we are left in the dark about the possible reactions. Don't you think that, if you give a drug to your dog, someone should tell you that he might die as a result?

2. Vets all over the world are vaccinating dogs, cats, horses, ferrets and rabbits annually when there is absolutely NO scientific justification for doing this. Unnecessary vaccines can cause chronic and acute disease in animals, leading to a severely reduced quality of life, and even death. Did you know that an unnecessary vaccine could give your pet cancer, leukaemia, brain damage, epilepsy, arthritis, thyroid disease, skin problems, allergies, and more? Yet no-one, anywhere, will legislate to stop annual shots that aren't needed. Did you know that the core viral vaccines provide lifelong immunity – just as childhood vaccines don't need repeating every year? Do you think someone should tell you this?
3. Many of the processed pet foods – whilst advertised as superior – are made from industrial waste, and cannot and will not sustain health or long life. Many of them, although coming from different companies and with different brand names, are made at the same manufacturing facilities. Did you know that in America, a dodgy ingredient in hundreds of pet food brands killed thousands of dogs and cats?
4. Some of the flea and tick control products can harm your pets. For example, ProHeart6 was taken off the market after thousands of adverse reactions, and 500 deaths, were associated with it. This product later returned to the market, but concerns about its safety remain.

Pet parents, as consumers, have been bamboozled by science and misled by false advertising claims, and veterinarians have been grossly misled by inadequate education.

**No-one is keeping a check on the multi-billion international pet products industry. No-one is truly working to ensure that products for pets are safe, effective, or even necessary.**

# Who Will Protect The Animals?

Our pets are suffering. It is time this stopped.

## **The Pet Parents' Action Group:**

- Brings together a community of people to act as a watchdog for the poorly legislated multi-billion pet products industry.
- Comprises pet owners *and veterinarians* who join together in strength to take practical, positive action to protect the wellbeing of pets.
- Expands awareness and understanding of the multi-billion international pet products industry, and the harm that is being done to pets.
- Raises awareness within the pet owning community to effect positive change on behalf of our pets.

Did you know that the pet food industry is largely self-regulated, or that the wealthy veterinary pharmaceutical industry has revolving-door access to legislators worldwide? Are you aware that government legislators frequently rule in favour of big business - with committee members receiving research and consultancy money from the very industry they are allegedly protecting our animals from? This is why there are harmful products on the market for our pets.

Did you know that veterinary teaching establishments, wealthy animal charities, professional veterinary bodies, government advisors, and research organisations all take financial incentives from big business?

Do you appreciate that this leaves our pets largely unprotected from multinationals that wish to make money out of us, irrespective of the harm being done to the animals? No-one is truly being kept in check.

### **The government regulator has no ears, and no teeth**

Consider this: For the past few years, the founders of the Pet Parents' Action Group have been corresponding with the British

Veterinary Medicines Directorate which licenses veterinary drugs. We asked for the withdrawal of one-year vaccines against the core canine diseases, since it is known that there is no justification for vaccinating annually. This government licensing department consistently refused to do this. Its then chief executive – Steve Dean – insisted that dogs should be vaccinated **at least** every three years, which is in itself contrary to World Small Animal Veterinary Association guidelines.

But once Steve Dean retired, he wrote publicly in Dog World:

***“Whatever you choose for your dog, the minimum immunisation in the form of a course of puppy vaccines, offers protection that could prove life-long.”***

Official government policy differs from the actual science! Someone, or some powerful lobby, is manipulating the government to protect vaccine industry income. Despite writing to our political representatives, no-one is prepared to legislate to prevent over-vaccination.

### **This is unfair on the veterinary profession**

Veterinarians leave college largely unaware of the scientific studies relating to vaccine adverse effects – because the colleges rely upon vaccine industry funding. They continue to vaccinate annually because this is something the profession has ‘always done’. Neither are vets educated impartially with regard to diet. Most veterinary colleges allow commercial pet food companies to ‘teach’ this vital subject to trainee vets. This is like allowing sugar manufacturers to teach nutrition to medical doctors. And due to the financial power of the veterinary pharmaceutical industry, student vets are discouraged from investigating complementary therapies, and natural nutrition, which might improve health without the side-effects of drugs.

### **Direct Practical Action**

Although there are now thousands of pet owners who no longer over-vaccinate or give toxic food, chemicals and drugs to their pets, there are still too many pet parents who are unaware of the risks associated with the products they assume are okay.

Pet owners rely upon their vets' advice. The **Pet Parents' Action Group** plans to write to every veterinary practice in the UK to:

- Update vets on World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) guidelines on vaccine frequency.
- Update vets on the duration of immunity studies (the fact that vaccines against the core dog and cat diseases have been shown to protect for up to the lifetime of the animal).
- Update vets on the science of vaccine adverse effects.
- We do this so that every pet owner can visit their vet, free from pressure to vaccinate more often than is scientifically necessary – on a worldwide basis.
- We will work as a cohesive whole to achieve our aims. If you are a pet parent, please get behind this initiative and make it practically possible.
- We will extend the initiative and write to boarding kennels, animal charities, and other pet-related organisations, so that no-one can be unaware of the current science.

**We believe that if vets truly knew the damage caused by over-vaccination, they wouldn't do it.**

*If you are a dog or cat lover, and you are reading this newsletter for the first time, please bear in mind that the information within this Update is based upon current science.*

## Why over-vaccination is a problem – the scientific facts

Despite spending years researching and communicating directly to dog lovers, and years lobbying government, veterinarians, and the pet industry itself, there are still too many vets vaccinating annually worldwide, and still too many dog lovers who are being misled into over-vaccinating their friends.

The result is that there are too many dogs, cats and horses suffering from vaccine-induced diseases. Here is the list of adverse events known to be induced by vaccines (Schultz, 2007):

## **Common Reactions:**

- Lethargy
- Hair Loss, hair color change at injection site
- Fever
- Soreness, stiffness
- Refusal to eat
- Conjunctivitis
- Sneezing
- Oral ulcers

## **Moderate Reactions:**

- Immunosuppression
- Behavioral changes
- Vitiligo (skin reactions)
- Weight loss (Cachexia)
- Reduced milk production
- Lameness
- Granulomas/Abscesses
- Hives
- Facial Edema (swelling)
- Atopy (hereditary allergies)
- Respiratory disease
- Allergic Uveitis (Blue Eye)

## **Severe Reactions triggered by Vaccines:**

- Vaccine injection site sarcomas (cancer)
- Anaphylaxis (rapidly progressing life-threatening allergic reaction)
- Arthritis, polyarthritis
- HOD hypertrophy osteodystrophy
- Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia
- Immune Mediated Thrombocytopenia (IMTP)
- Hemolytic disease of the newborn (Neonatal Isoerythrolysis)
- Thyroiditis
- Glomerulonephritis
- Disease or enhanced disease which the vaccine was designed to prevent
- Myocarditis

- Post vaccinal Encephalitis or polyneuritis (brain damage)
- Seizures
- Abortion, congenital anomalies, embryonic/fetal death, failure to conceive

A real problem, as stated earlier, is that vets are not educated about these possible adverse reactions in college. Many reactions happen days, months or even years after a vaccine is given. Vets are not told about this, and therefore they are largely unaware of the damage caused by over-vaccination. As a result, they can't see the real reasons for change.

The truth is that vaccines can, and do, provoke serious and life-threatening adverse reactions that are not easily connected to the vaccine itself, although scientific research does point towards the trends. The fact is, there is no test to show whether an individual dog or cat has had a vaccine reaction. To make a connection, vets must tie the onset of the disease in with a recent vaccine event, and understand the science: they need to know what vaccines have been scientifically shown to do. The fact is, mostly all of the illnesses experienced by dogs and cats have the potential to be vaccine-related.

Unless you know that vaccines can cause arthritis, for example, you may not connect a vaccine with arthritis arising months after an animal is vaccinated. You may not know that vaccines can trigger leukaemia or cancer months, or even years, down the line. You might not realise that your dog's brain damage, involving sudden aggression, epilepsy, and/or fearfulness, can be vaccine-induced. Few people understand the science to say that skin and digestive problems can also be vaccine-induced, or that diabetes, thyroid disease, organ failure or genetic faults can be caused by vaccines.

Not knowing all this, vets continue to vaccinate annually as if it were a harmless procedure.

**The Pet Parents' Action Group will send vets the scientific references so that they can satisfy themselves that vaccines can indeed create these diseases.**

For example, a paper published last year showed that a number of dog and cat vaccine brands in the UK are contaminated with RD-114, a feline retrovirus. Retroviruses are associated with the development of autoimmunity, cancer and leukaemia, but it can take

around five years for the cancer to show itself. Five years! No-one will connect the dots unless they are educated to do so.

The British Veterinary Medicines Directorate (the government licensing body) and its European counterparts voted to allow RD-114 to stay in pet vaccines, possibly for years. Removal is technically easy – but it would take years to re-license the clean products, which means years of lost revenue for the vaccine industry. As usual, government legislators vote in favour of big business to the detriment of our pets.

## **Vaccines are good for life!**

Perhaps you don't know this. Perhaps you are being persuaded to spend money unnecessarily on preventive healthcare for your pets ... when they are already protected!

During the 1970s – nearly forty years ago – a scientist called Dr Ronald D Schultz asked why we were vaccinating dogs annually when he wasn't being told to vaccinate his children every year. Heading the pathology lab at Wisconsin University, Dr Schultz had the means to conduct duration of immunity studies. This is where puppies are vaccinated, and then challenged every year with the diseases they were vaccinated against to see how long immunity lasts from one vaccine.

He found that the puppies remained protected for many years. He also measured antibody levels and found that:

### **Once immune to viral disease, dogs remain immune for years and usually for life**

There is no need to vaccinate annually, or even three-yearly. Puppy shots against parvovirus, distemper and adenovirus/hepatitis are likely to provide lifelong protection.

Vaccines for other diseases, like kennel cough and leptospirosis, are termed 'non-core' by the WSAVA, and many of the world's top experts, including Dr Schultz and Dr Jean Dodds, do not recommend their use. Dr Schultz does not recommend the lepto vaccine at all due to its dangers, and says: "*Kennel Cough is not a vaccinatable disease*".

The same holds true for cat vaccines: they do not need to be given every year, either.

This has been known for so long that annual vaccination is an absolute scandal!



Although it has been known since the 1970s that ‘once immunity to a virus exists, it persists for years or life’, the veterinary profession has not taken it on board, and the veterinary pharmaceutical industry still tries to convince pet owners that annual shots are needed. Most shamefully in the UK, dog and cat owners are still being persuaded to bring their friends in for boosters if they have ‘lapsed’ by 18 months under Intervet’s National Vaccination Month, also called ‘Vaccine Amnesty’.

Although Canine Health Concern has vigorously brought the annual vaccination travesty to the attention of legislators, they will not act. Why? Because, worldwide, licensing bodies appear to act as a wing of the pharmaceutical industry. This doesn’t just apply to the UK – the problem is international.

## Expert Guidelines - How often do we need to vaccinate?

Research conducted by Dr Ronald Schultz, in which dogs were exposed to distemper and parvovirus, showed that **every single dog was protected when exposed to the viruses – up to 11 years after they were first vaccinated.**

Based on this research, Dr Schultz recommended triennial revaccination instead of annual revaccination. (He now suggests that one puppy shot is all that is needed.)

In 1994, Canine Health Concern was founded by Catherine O’Driscoll after two of her dogs died of vaccine-induced illness. She campaigned to end over-vaccination and wrote two best selling books on the subject (What Vets Don’t Tell You About Vaccines, and Shock to the System, available from Amazon).

In 2003, American Animal Hospital Association to Vaccine Task Force evaluated the data and, while noting that the core vaccines had a minimum duration of immunity of at least seven years, they **compromised** with the statement that “revaccination every three years is considered protective”.

Task force member Dr. Richard Ford, Professor of Medicine, North Carolina State University, said that the decision to recommend a three year revaccination schedule for core vaccines was “completely arbitrary.... I will say there is no science behind the three-year recommendation...”

After the 2003 task force, all of the major veterinary vaccine manufacturers completed their own studies showing a minimum three

year duration of immunity (DOI) on the core vaccines. Why didn't they do this sooner? Because no-one had asked them to. The veterinary drug licensing bodies only asked for proof of efficacy for one year! This was their license to over-vaccinate.

Dr Schultz continued with his work and by 2006, had performed seven additional DOI studies on over 1,000 dogs and repeated the same results over and over again, effectively showing that dogs were protected for much longer than three years and most likely for the life of the dog.

In fact, so sure was Dr. Schultz of his work, that his vaccination protocol for his own dogs was one shot of distemper, parvo and adenovirus - and none thereafter.

## Sponsorship – a real problem

It must be noted that whilst these (and other) veterinary bodies say we should vaccinate against the core diseases 'no more than every three years', the experts (including Dr Schultz and Dr W Jean Dodds) make it clear that it is not necessary to vaccinate three-yearly. They tell us that once immune to viral disease, dogs and cats remain immune for years or life.

Why would veterinary bodies give us this three-yearly revaccination guidance, rather than state the plain fact that core vaccines provide lifelong protection? Apart from the fact that booster income represents a major part of the profitability of veterinary practices, could it be because the professional bodies receive funds from the veterinary vaccine industry?

The AAHA is sponsored by four vaccine manufacturers: Merck, Merial, Pfizer and Boehringer Ingelheim. The WSAVA Vaccine Guidelines Group is sponsored by Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health. Scratch beneath the surface of any veterinary body, and industry sponsorship is there.

Sponsorship is a real and serious problem afflicting the pet world. Apart from the teaching establishments – which rely upon industry money for research, bursaries, academic salaries, new buildings, and so on – vets in practice receive their mandatory further education via industry dinners, seminars, and overseas trips.

Animal charities are also grateful to receive free food for their kennels and the odd few thousand pounds to help them achieve their aims.

The problem is that all of these organisations must avoid saying anything that will cause their sponsors to withhold funding.

So – according to the experts – most puppies will be protected against distemper, parvovirus and adenovirus for life from their puppy shots. Most cats will also develop lifelong immunity to the core feline viral diseases. But without the pet owners speaking the truth most pet parents are unlikely ever to hear it.

## **What about the other vaccines?**

Leptospirosis vaccine is used routinely by the veterinary profession, heavily influenced by the veterinary vaccine industry. However, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association deems this a non-core (optional) vaccine and cautions that it should be used only if there is a serious disease threat in the area.

Leptospirosis is a rare disease, and the vaccine is associated with severe adverse reactions, especially neurological (brain damage). Small dogs are at greatest risk from this vaccine. Further, there are hundreds of strains of leptospirosis, and only two or three in a vaccine, so the vaccine isn't terribly protective.

Please ask your vet how many dogs he or she has treated with confirmed leptospirosis in the last six months. As this vaccine is associated with extreme side-effects, his or her answer will help you to decide whether you wish to give your dogs this optional vaccine.

Kennel cough vaccine is also non-core (optional) but routinely given. Please note that the datasheets accompanying kennel cough vaccines state that humans with compromised immune systems must avoid contact with vaccinated dogs for up to seven weeks. The vaccine can cause kennel cough in dogs and infect humans and other dogs. This can give rise to epidemics in boarding kennels.

Kennel cough is rarely life-threatening to dogs, but the shed vaccine poses a serious risk to immunocompromised humans.

## **Enlightened veterinary opinion**

Here are some of the statements about veterinary training from some of the vets we questioned. You can see the full 16-page article via [www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com](http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com):

**Dr Arthur Freedman:** “When I received my training, little was known about duration of immunity and vaccines. I was not informed about possible short term or long term adverse effects of vaccination.”

**Dr Stephen Blake:** “I emphatically do not believe that I was taught adequately with regard to the vaccine issue. I was taught to believe vaccinations were synonymous with immunization. They are two separate entities.

“I was taught vaccines were safe and it was implied there had been safety studies done on them before they were used on the general public. They are not safe and there have not been any safety studies done on any of them.

“I was taught that if something adverse happens within a few hours after immunization it was related to the vaccines but, if it happened later than that period of time, it had nothing to do with the vaccines. The truth of the matter is vaccines can set up a latent condition that may show up within a few hours or years after immunization.

“I was taught you needed to vaccinate every year to boost animals’ immune systems. There are no studies to show that annual boosters are ever indicated or that there is any science to support annual vaccines to boost an animal’s immune system. I was never taught that mercury and aluminium hydroxide, which are in the vaccines, can cause cancer, are neurotoxins, and can trigger autoimmune disease.”

**Dr Jeff Feinman:** “My training in vet school was not complete with regard to the harmful effects that vaccines have on the immune system. The scientific evidence was not properly explored by the eighties. Vaccines were designed to help stimulate immunity. Current research is proving just the opposite however. Even my graduate school immunology course (attended mainly by MD students) was incomplete.”

**Mark Carpenter MRCVS** says: “Vaccination in college was skimmed over with little discussion of potential risks involved. In practice I have seen what I believe to be vaccine related problems of skin disease (allergic); inflammatory bowel disease; and epilepsy which appear to have been triggered or coincided with vaccination.”

**Dr Michael Dym:** “Our training in veterinary school was not adequate with regards to immune system reactions in our animals. We were taught a one size fits all vaccination program. There was nothing taught about the chronic immune reactions that can occur weeks, months or years later after vaccination in certain susceptible animals. From personal conversation with Ron Schultz, renowned veterinary immunologist, I learned that these important concepts are not taught in modern veterinary schools.”

**Dr Erin Zamzow:** “The science on vaccination in dogs, cats and horses was not fully explored or taught at the time we were in school. I graduated in 1990. At that time, Dr. Ron Schulz had already done the research showing that there was no scientific basis for yearly vaccination in dogs and cats. Why was this not emphasized? For years I questioned this practice, knowing that there could not be any reason other than fear and financial gain for yearly or even every three year vaccines in dogs and cats. Part of my disillusionment with veterinary school is due to this obvious oversight in teaching about the science of vaccines and the immune system interactions and what is best for our patients.”

**Dr Patricia Jordan,** holistic veterinarian and vaccine researcher: “We had no training on vaccination - even those teaching us didn't know. I wasn't taught very much in immunology either. This is why Dr. Ron Schultz says, and I agree with him, that veterinary medical doctors have no business making vaccine recommendations as they do not have enough education in vaccinology or immunology. Unfortunately that also goes for those teaching the senior students! I would carry this over to the medical doctors and pediatricians. None of them should be making vaccine recommendations. I wouldn't allow the vaccine companies to make the call either. Nor the regulatory agencies since they don't even know what it is they are regulating/licensing. This is the inconvenient truth.”

**Dr Ronna S Kabler:** “My training on the vaccine issue was completely inadequate. We learned the science of immunology and how vaccines work, but **no** science as relates to the actual practice of vaccinating animals. As a new vet in private practice, it was like one was brainwashed or on autopilot. It was as if any immunology training was quickly forgotten. There was no thought that we were possibly doing any damage.”

**Dr Liz Fernandez:** “We weren't taught adequately about vaccines in vet school. We were told that we could not over-vaccinate: ‘better safe than sorry’. We were given information on virology but not on how vaccines actually work or any studies or rigorous research data. We did get the information on hive like reactions in a very small subset of the population.

“In retrospect, vaccine reactions were staring right at me. However, I was very brainwashed into believing that they were safe (except for the obvious type 1 hypersensitivity reaction) so I did not connect the dots.”

**Dr Ihor Basko:** “We weren't taught adequately on immunology; immunology is very difficult to understand. Vaccine companies influence how this is taught.”

**Dr Christina Chambreau:** “Our training was incomplete and confusing. We learned about long lasting immunity in immunology, but later in clinics were told to give yearly. We were not taught to learn and question - just to memorize. Since becoming an integrative veterinarian, I can say there is no disease that I have not connected to vaccines in certain animals.”

**Dr Judy Jasek:** “My training was different to what I have come to believe is appropriate in my own practice. We were trained in vaccination protocols per veterinary school and manufacturer recommendations. We were not, however, educated in the potential long-term effects of vaccinations.”

**Dorothea Hofman BVSc (Hons) IVAS:** “I don’t believe my training in vaccination was adequate at college. Other options and the side effects of vaccination were never mentioned – only the ‘benefits’ of vaccination were ever discussed.”

What is clear is that vets have been misled by their training, and by colleges which rely upon industry funding. The colleges themselves are being let down by governments which make it necessary for them to rely upon industry funding. It’s time we pet owners stood up for the animals.

## Vaccines Save Lives

– so it’s hard to pay attention to the flip side

There are very few subjects that can cause so much controversy, anger and enmity than the vaccine issue. If you’ve seen a dog suffer from distemper or parvovirus, you’re unlikely to want to even hear from people who warn of the dangers of over-vaccination.

But the honest truth is that your dog could be suffering from a vaccine reaction now, or have died from a vaccine adverse effect, without you even knowing it. We, having studied the science, believe that vaccine-induced disease is more of an epidemic than any viral disease.

Dr W Jean Dodds is one of the world’s foremost veterinary vaccine researchers, with a career spanning over 40 years. She is highly respected within the veterinary profession. Dr Dodds writes:

“Whilst I was always a clinical research scientist, veterinary colleagues and pet owners would tell me about malaise and illness that appeared shortly after pet animals were vaccinated. This was in addition to the rare case of anaphylaxis induced by vaccination. They spoke about irritability, low-grade or even high fever, anorexia,

stiffness, occasional seizure-like episodes. These usually occurred from 2-10 days post-vaccination, sometimes longer (up to 45 days).

“The clinical signs associated with vaccine reactions typically include fever, stiffness, sore joints and abdominal tenderness, susceptibility to infections, neurological disorders and encephalitis, collapse with autoagglutinated red blood cells and icterus (autoimmune hemolytic anemia) (AIHA), or generalized petechiae and ecchymotic hemorrhages (immune-mediated thrombocytopenia) (ITP).<sup>1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13</sup>

“Hepatic enzymes may be markedly elevated, and liver or kidney failure may occur by itself or accompany bone marrow suppression. Furthermore, MLV vaccination has been associated with the development of transient seizures in puppies and adult dogs of breeds or cross-breeds susceptible to immune-mediated diseases especially those involving hematologic or endocrine tissues (e.g. AIHA, ITP, autoimmune thyroiditis).<sup>1,7,10</sup> Post-vaccinal polyneuropathy is a recognized entity associated occasionally with the use of distemper, parvovirus, rabies and presumably other vaccines.<sup>2, 3, 7</sup> This can result in various clinical signs including muscular atrophy, inhibition or interruption of neuronal control of tissue and organ function, muscular excitation, incoordination and weakness, as well as seizures.<sup>7</sup>

“Certain breeds or families of dogs appear to be more susceptible to adverse vaccine reactions, particularly post-vaccinal seizures, high fevers, and painful episodes of hypertrophic osteodystrophy (HOD).<sup>7,9</sup> Vaccination of pet and research dogs with polyvalent vaccines containing rabies virus or rabies vaccine alone was recently shown to induce production of antithyroglobulin autoantibodies, a provocative and important finding with implications for the subsequent development of hypothyroidism.<sup>10</sup>

“Furthermore, injection site fibrosarcomas have recently been documented in dogs as well as cats, and other cancers such as leukemia have been vaccine-associated.”<sup>7,18</sup>

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Dr Dodds continues: “If I was in private practice today, I would only use a conservative puppy or kitten series (2-3 doses only) of vaccines: one before 12 weeks in puppies and 10 weeks in kittens; and a second between 14-16 weeks in puppies and 12-14 weeks in kittens. All vaccines should be 3-4 weeks apart. I would not vaccinate beyond the puppy and kitten series, and I would not worry about income impact, regardless, as our veterinary oath requires that we “do no harm”. Judicious use of vaccines is paramount.”

**If your vet wants you to vaccinate your pets annually, please feel free to show him or her this leaflet.**

## **Uniting the Pet World**

Sadly, the vast majority of pet owners rely upon their vets' advice, but their vets' advice on boosters is frequently outdated. Most vets believe that they rarely see vaccine reactions – but this belief is only possible because veterinarians haven't been educated to correlate specific vaccine-associated illnesses with previous vaccine events. Vets need to be made aware of the science.

We are therefore asking the knowledgeable dog-owning public to join the **Pet Parents Action Group** and be part of a future that boasts healthy long-lived dogs. We also have a 'Vets We Love' page on our website, and we're happy to add and support other vets who understand vaccine science and refrain from over-vaccinating.

When you join the **Pet Parents Action Group**, you'll receive email updates to keep you abreast of **PPAG** initiatives, and you'll be at the cutting edge of canine healthcare research. You'll also be actively supporting the aim to share information that will help pet to live longer, healthier lives. If you have the resources to help financially and make a donation, we will be grateful for it – you could make all the difference.

- We are not asking you for a fee to join the **Pet Parents' Action Group** – we wish to remove any barriers that might prevent you from adding your voice to this pet owners' lobby. But we do need funds to complete the work – to print letters and information sheets, to pay telephone bills, to buy veterinary mailing lists, and to cover associated costs. If you are able to donate, please go to our website and press the donate button, or send us a cheque. Every small amount will help - and thank you!
  - Please take part in our veterinary vaccine survey - details at [www.PetParentsActionGroup.org](http://www.PetParentsActionGroup.org) (please contact us for printed forms if you don't have access to the web). Your support with the survey will provide the first ever accurate picture of vaccine use by vets.
  - Help us raise the funds to follow this campaign through and achieve its aims. You can:
    - Become an active supporter of the new **Pet Parents' Action Group** by adding your name to the List of Supporters on the website given below – and tell others about the initiative. This is entirely free.
    - If you can, please make a donation - either online on the campaign website [www.PetParentsActionGroup.org](http://www.PetParentsActionGroup.org), or by sending a cheque payable to CHC to the address on page 1. Please note: your moral and active support is every bit as important as any donation you can or cannot make.
    - Use the EasyFundraising scheme (details at [www.PetParentsActionGroup.org](http://www.PetParentsActionGroup.org)) where you can make your normal online purchases, look for the best prices, and generate a donation to Canine Health Concern without paying any extra for your purchase.
    - Contact us for more of these booklets and give them to your pet loving friends. Email version also available.
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**[www.petparentsactiongroup.org](http://www.petparentsactiongroup.org)**