



Immune Confusion

(What It Is & Why You Want to AVOID IT)



What in the World IS Immune Confusion?

This is a term I use a lot, and it bears explanation. First, a few examples to get you recognizing that you probably already know what I'm talking about here.

Here are some common forms of immune confusion in animals and man:

- **Allergies**

This is the commonest example in pets and is probably something you either live with yourself or you have friends who complain of allergies.

Let's talk animals, though, as that's why we're here in a homeopathic vet's report, after all.

Allergies, for well over a decade in the U.S., has been the #1 reason dogs are brought to vets. We have insurance data to prove this. That usually manifests as itchy skin, inflamed ears, or both.

(I'm being brief here, but these allergies are bothersome, expensive to treat, treatments are fraught with serious side effects, and these diseases can never be truly cured by meds. In other words, don't think allergies are a picnic.)

In a nutshell, allergies means the canine (or cat, horse, human...) immune system is wildly over reacting to normal things it comes in contact with, for example:

- a bite of chicken
- the bite of a flea
- a pollen grain
- a certain tree or grass that's blooming

Allergies are getting so common, we forget what normal looks like!

Normal responses to the above example list would be *no reaction at all*.

Or, if there was a huge mass of biting fleas, there would be some scratching. Certainly not chewing the feet to bloody or making “hot spots” of oozing serum and redness that keeps Sadie licking and chewing for hours on end. That often persists until she finally gets a drug to make all those nasty itchy symptoms “disappear.”

(The quotes are there because the disease hasn't been cured by the drug. No, the symptoms were merely covered over, a bit like putting black electrical tape over your car's low oil warning light. <Ahem.>)

- **Autoimmune diseases**

These are far more dangerous than allergies and are becoming more common in both animals and man.

Here, instead of a wild over reaction to things *outside* the body, all the confusion of immune reaction is directed to *one's own organs*!

Immune mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) is getting more common in dogs, either after vaccination or certain drugs in the heartworm preventative class. And this one is life threatening.

Your dog, if she lands in this horrible diagnostic bin, will be vigorously attacking her own red blood cells as if they were foreign viruses. Sadie's immune system, in this confused state, breaks these cells down and Sadie is left with a 50:50 chance of surviving!

That 50% chance is after huge expense and heroics are spent trying to save her very life. Thousand of dollars are spent on the ER, often multiple transfusions, and costly drugs to suppress this confused immune system.

The dogs with this disease can get better after treatment (remember, 50:50 chance of this, according to research) only to have a recurrence later. Sometimes sooner, sometimes much later, and seemingly without warning.

A variant of this is called “immune mediated thrombocytopenia” (IMTP) and instead of the red blood cells being wrongly attacked, this time the cells that help clot the blood (thrombocytes or platelets) are under the gun.

If the disease runs away with Sadie on this one, she can bleed to death from a brief scratching at a flea or just bruise badly over her entire belly from tiny bleeds just below the surface of the skin.

Needless to point out, but you can’t live long with either of these conditions tearing your cells apart.

Inflammatory bowel disease, autoimmune thyroiditis, Crohn’s in humans and many others are all autoimmune in nature. Not a disease I’d wish on my worst enemy!

• Cancer

What is cancer? It’s another form of immune system dysfunction. Confusion, yes, in the sense that the job description of the immune system is “seeing” foreigners that could bring down the kingdom (the body, in this case, regardless of species).

A working, normally functioning “smart” immune system recognizes cancer cells as foreign and takes them out before they can become tumors or worse, malignancy, where the cancer can spread body-wide.

Immunologists have recognized for decades now that we ALL have cancer cells arising in our bodies on a regular basis. The only reason we aren’t all walking tumors headed for the grave is because our immune system recognizes these strange cells and deals them a death blow.

When immune confusion reigns instead of normal function, these cancer cells are missed and allowed to do their rapid reproduction dance that soon becomes a solid tumor.

The WHY of Immune Confusion

This is conjecture but if you follow my logic, I think it fits what we have been seeing for some years now.

Why drugs cause autoimmune disease is a bit more mysterious, but I think I can surmise why vaccination causes this kind of illness and has a tie in to allergies and cancer as well.

First we have to know what a normally functioning immune response looks like. Even without knowing 100% about this complex entity called an immune system (ask any honest scientist: “complex” doesn’t do it justice!), we do know how Nature has evolved to respond to a foreign invader.

We’ll use parvovirus for an example, as it’s thought to be widely dispersed and basically present in any environment that dogs have congregated in.

Normal Response to Parvovirus Exposure

Parvovirus comes out in the stool, often in the form of diarrhea from the affected dog. And, it’s known to persist in the environment for long periods of time.

If contacted, it would be via your dog’s snooping nose or perhaps mouth. For example, if she were hiking through a Parvo-laden area and later sat to groom her paws, the virus could get in.

The immune system of this healthy dog starts getting alerted immediately when the virus touches any mucus membrane. In our oral exposure example, we know IgA (a common surface antibody) is often a first defense, right at the area the intruder (the virus) first enters.

Those IgA antibodies try to contain the infection, but there are simultaneously alerts to the immune system that a foreign threat has entered. Call in the reinforcements!

Inflammatory cells, like white blood cells (too many to name, like lymphocytes, neutrophils, natural killer (NK) cells) start pouring out of the local blood vessels, now signaled to arrive by chemical messengers.

Remember: this is all an orchestrated response to contain the infection and thereby preserve little Sadie from dying. The response was dialed in and formed over millennia of animals surviving infectious threats like this. It's no newcomer on the block, there's a long, long history of formation of any immune system and its response to threats.

Deeper forays if defenses fail

If the invading virus isn't stopped in the mouth, the tonsils and regional lymph nodes are now swelling and readying for another containment effort. If you've ever noticed, when you have a flu or cold, the glands beneath your jaw often swell. That's a sign of a response by your immune system.

Fever may also play a role here, but that's more common in respiratory viruses.

If the tonsils and regional lymph nodes are unable to contain the viral trespassers, the lining of the gut also is rich in immune system components of various types and names. That is all part of the well-oiled machine of immunity to disallow the foreign virus from taking over and turning Sadie's cells into parvovirus factories.

The race is on! Specialized cells, elaborate chemical message systems, more chemicals being dumped on the viruses to help stop them, antibodies, transfer factors, and on and on, the goal is always the same: **Save This Animal** from invasion and death.

If all those coordinated defenses fail, what happens then?

The virus wins, gaining access to the blood stream, to spread anywhere and everywhere it can set up housekeeping. Normal cells are then taken over by viruses, who make the native cells produce more virus and, well, you can see where this is going:

Virus 1, puppy 0.

Wait. We'll Just Bypass All This Wisdom!

... said the conventional medicine doc, with his syringe full of viruses, awaiting injection.

We're now contrasting mankind's method vs. Mother Nature's long evolved and adapted strategies to keep animals and people safe from infectious disease.

Somehow, the idea came about that we'd be smart to inject viruses, whether killed or modified in some way, as a means of preventing disease.

Let's compare that kind of event with Sadie's natural exposure response discussed earlier.

What do we do in the act of vaccination?

1. First, in the name of efficiency, we fill our syringe not just with parvovirus. No, we can gain "protection" for many more things than just parvo! So, we mix in distemper virus, and hepatitis and parainfluenza viruses, and add leptospirosis and maybe Lyme and coronavirus and ask, "How many can we fit? Can we make a 5-way, a 7-way, or more-way vaccine?" You bet. Just call up your local PetSmart and see what they've got in store for you!
2. Then, how to get this all in to Sadie's body? She may not want to lap this stuff up, probably tastes bad with all the preservatives (mercury, formalin, gentamicin antibiotics, etc).
3. We're good with needles... We could just inject it! Brilliant!
4. Net result: Sadie's immune system is now inundated, not just with parvovirus but a multitude of others. This *never happens* in the natural world, by the way. It'd be one threat at a time, never 5 or 7 or more.
5. Not only has this combo wombo been slid in with a needle, but in so doing, Sadie's now been invaded at the deepest level possible: right into her blood stream in about 30", and her immune system had zero chance to stop that incursion.

It's at this point that I imagine bells and whistles going off, figuratively, in that well designed immune system she was born with. The one that was fine tuned over the millennia to deal with the most serious challenges in the world of infectious disease.

And now you know why I use the term Immune Confusion so frequently. This, without doubt in my mind, is the inner state that we see so prominently today in what ever species you look at.

- The over reaction to normal things (fleas, foods, pollen, peanuts)...
- The attacks on ones own self tissues (red blood cells, platelets, thyroid, kidney, bowels, etc.)
- And the unawareness of the ultimately sneaky cancer cells that used to be Sadie's normal tissues but that are now transformed into runaway reproduction factories that take over and, ultimately, spell her demise if not caught and effectively treated.

Such is the state of far too many innocents as seen by doctors of all stripes and attended by family members, themselves confused about what brought this on and what can be done at this late stage.

What's the Answer to Prevent All This Immune Confusion?

What can we do to stop this runaway?

We can start by viewing "prevention" very critically.

And judiciously saying NO more often to what Dr. WhiteCoat would have us think is in our loving Sadie's best interests.

That's why I'm here. I aim to help you change the world, one Vital Animal at a time...

Thanks for joining me on the journey. I couldn't do it without you.