

CREATE VITAL ANIMALS !

Course One: Vaccinations

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FAVORITE PLOYS TO INTIMIDATE YOU INTO VACCINATIONS FOR YOUR PETS

This list of ploys is based on comments told to me by clients who felt they were pressured into vaccinating their companion animals by their veterinarians, city/county officials and communities. Many of these professionals are well-intentioned but unfortunately have fallen prey to what I call 'the vaccine addiction'. Too many animal professionals are not up-to-date on current immunological information and push heavily for a prevention model more reliant on vaccinations instead of on the support of natural protective mechanisms.

I have listed 10 ploys you may have heard or might hear in the future. Being aware of what may happen could save your animal's life.

I. INTIMIDATION AND COERCION: Usually this is the receptionist who first hits you between the eyes. This person is the gargoyle of the office and will not let you step into their office without vaccinations. Crazy isn't it, since your animal is ill and you know they should not be vaccinated? You wonder why the vet doesn't know this! If you agree to the vaccinations they will let you bring your animal in, which seems odd since they just said you cannot bring an unvaccinated animal into their clinic. The receptionist is also the person who reminds you that you are a very irresponsible 'owner', if you don't vaccinate. Either you are really dumb or aliens took your brain and haven't brought it back! At any rate, you have just been intimidated and succumb to their wishes and vaccinate.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: You are very proud of the fact that you never tell a lie or break the law. You are law abiding and would never think of breaking a law! You are told the vaccines are required by law and are sent post cards to remind you to comply with the law. You march your beloved animal into the vets office and you comply. You are never told **the only vaccine required by law is rabies**. You are told that he needs **all** his shots - you comply. You are never told about any potential harmful effects. You uphold the law and your animal suffers. You suffer. You are law abiding.

3. SUGAR COATING: You are told the vaccines can cause no harm at all, and can be repeated frequently. You are made to believe that vaccines are benign substances, routine, and completely harmless. Anyone can buy them on-line, so they must be harmless. You can get them for your kids at Safeway, and your bananas, so they must be harmless! You are told you can give as many as nine vaccines (usually with three actual shots) in one day. I have beach front property in New Mexico I'd like to sell you!

4. OUTRIGHT LIES AND SCARE TACTICS: You are told there is a huge resurgence of a particular disease. You are so concerned and have been taught that vaccines protect against these diseases that you actually ask for more - you've remembered what you saw on TV, read or heard somewhere about these scary diseases. You are told by the breeder of your soon-to-be new family member that your puppy must start his vaccinations at 6 weeks. The breeder is happy to start these vaccines and in fact, insists on doing so before the dog leaves his facility. You are never told the maternal antibodies are probably doing a better job of protection than any vaccine. You are terrified, your new puppy, a fresh new addition to your life could die! You are operating out of fear, good old fashioned, pure, undiluted FEAR!

5. NO ADMISSION INTO SCHOOLS: You want to take your new puppy to classes. You want him to be a socialized, well-behaved member of doggie society. They tell you he must have numerous vaccinations or he cannot attend. You vaccinate rather than risking your dog to becoming a juvenile delinquent.

6. NO ADMISSION INTO THE KENNELS: The same is true if you need to kennel your dog or cat. No exceptions! Even if your animal is old or sick - no exceptions. You must take that trip to see your family - you vaccinate. But how did your dog come home with kennel cough even though he was vaccinated? They forgot to tell you that the kennel cough vaccine doesn't always work, doesn't start working for weeks and doesn't last very long! These aren't great odds to take to Vegas, are they?

7. SURPRISE ATTACK: You are at the vets office for x-rays because he hasn't been eating for 4 days, they take your dog to the back room to perform needed procedures. You are out of sight. They vaccinate your dog because they see he hasn't had his vaccines this year. You are never asked if you desire the vaccinations. It is assumed you want them. You are ambushed! You never knew what hit you! You never suspected this attack. They think they are doing you and your dog a favor. Not only are you not prepared for the fee, but your animal is ill and your common sense tells you this is not the time for vaccines. Too late!

8. QUICK AND DIRTY SHOT CLINICS: "They make it so easy, so cheap, so fast! It can't possibly be bad and I'm getting such a deal. I have 5 cats and I can't afford the vets

fee, this is cheaper." Not only is it cheap and easy, but you get what you pay for. You do not get a thorough examination and you could be vaccinating an animal with illnesses that will be exacerbated by the vaccines. Buyer beware!

9. DENIAL: You ask the vets office about 'side effects' of the vaccines. By the way, there is nothing 'side effective' about vaccines, *every effect is a direct effect*. The term side effect is just a euphemism. Anyway, you ask about side effects. The vet tells you they rarely see side effects. That is because they think only anaphylactic shock, vaccine induced sarcomas in cats and hemolytic anemia in some dog breeds are recognized side effects. The dots are never connected. Never underestimate the power of denial especially when it's attached to a bank account.

10. THE GUILT TRIP: This one often plays on your emotions the biggest. It's sort of a mega combination of the above ploys. If you are a susceptible person who often feels guilty for everything and everyone, then you will fall prey here. Remember the rest of the world's animal health depends on you subjecting your perfectly healthy kitten and filling it with vaccines and known carcinogens and heavy metals, and then, but only then will the rest of the world (and your animal) be safe! Whew!

This sarcastic, but very true essay has been stolen and modified from my colleague in vaccine education, Neil Miller of New Atlantean Press. Please visit his web site: www.thinktwice.com. He is an inspiration and a wonderful balance to a world filled with propaganda and fear.