

## Vaccines 'are making our dogs sick as vets cash in'

By ALISON SMITH SQUIRE  
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Vaccines given to dogs are making them ill, a pet charity claimed yesterday.

Profit-hungry drug companies and vets are 'frightening' dog owners into inoculating their pets more often than necessary, according to Canine Health Concern.

Some puppies have developed conditions including autism and epilepsy after a raft of injections, it warns.

Catherine O'Driscoll, from the charity, said: 'We are not anti-vaccination. What we are saying is that currently our pets are receiving far too many.'

The latest scientific research shows that after the first course of injections as a puppy most dogs are immune against these diseases for at least seven years, if not for life.

'Every year pet vaccination companies hold National Vaccination Month, a national campaign when pet owners whose boosters have lapsed by 18 months or more are terrified into having their pet jabbed.

'While the vast majority of vets might simply not be aware of the latest scientific research, we are concerned that for a few undoubtedly doing multiple jabs is a way of making more money from worried pet owners.'

Puppies are vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis and parainfluenza up to three times by the age of four months.

They may also be immunised against coronavirus, rabies, Lyme disease and bordetella or kennel cough. Booster shots are given every year or every three or four years.

But some have suffered dramatic changes in behaviour or been diagnosed with cancer within months of the injections, Canine Health Concern says.

In a letter backed by 17 vets and other pet experts, the charity has called on the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, which monitors animal vaccines, to issue new advice on their use.

Mrs O'Driscoll, who believes cats and rabbits could also be at risk, added that a simple blood test would determine whether an animal needed a booster shot.

Richard Allport, a Hertfordshire vet who has signed the letter to the VMD, said he was 'constantly' seeing animals that had developed 'worrying symptoms' after vaccination.

But other animal charities said vaccination was vital. The Dogs Trust said all jabs were thoroughly tested for safety and warned that blood tests were not completely reliable. Its veterinary director, Chris Laurence, said a study looking for a connection between jabs and sudden ill-health failed to find a link.

Professor Steve Dean, chief executive of the VMD, said: 'Many veterinary surgeons can remember the devastating effects these once common-diseases had on our pets, their owners and families, and the huge benefit vaccines have had on improving the health and welfare of the canine population should be recognised.'

A spokesman added that the 80million-plus doses of vaccine since 1985 had generated fewer than 7,000 reports of side effects.



Aggressive: Charlie the spaniel with owner Niki Davis

### CHARLIE, THE 'AUTISTIC' SPANIEL

**CHARLIE** the springer spaniel went from fun and loving to withdrawn and aggressive within weeks of being vaccinated.

His owner Niki Davis, 51, believes some of his symptoms mirror those of autism.

She said: 'Shutting a door or moving the washing basket terrified him. Then sometimes, despite calling his name, he wouldn't look at you or even come to you.' Charlie, three, even bit Mrs

Davis on the face and her husband Chris on the hand.

'I simply cannot think of any other explanation for the sudden change in his personality,' said Mrs Davis, an office manager from Chichester, West Sussex.

'It is almost as if since he was vaccinated he has developed learning difficulties. In fact, life is very hard with Charlie as he looks sweet but can be very aggressive.'

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|---|--------|------------|-------------|
| <a href="#">View all</a>  |        |            |             |
| very interesting article & some brilliant comments. my dog WONT be going for hes boosters next week now.  |        |            |             |
| - the lady..., who sees it as it is, 06/3/2010 12:37  |        |            |             |
| <a href="#">Report abuse</a> <a href="#">Click to rate</a> <a href="#">Rating</a> <b>40</b>   |        |            |             |
| As a qualified vet nurse I cannot stress enough the importance of vaccinating your pets. Of you who have commented that your pet has never been vaccinated and are fine, you are very lucky. The thing people dont see are the pets that come into my practice in serious pain dying and its heartbreaking knowing that it could have been prevented. The annual vaccination does not just offer the opportunity to vaccinate them it gives them a general health check by a veterinary surgeon, vets are skilled clinicians and they can pick up of things at the earliest possible opportunity, lumps and bumps you may not have noticed etc. I urge you to consider the risk you are taking by not vaccinating your pets these diseases are painful and they are deadly! |        |            |             |
| - char, derby, 06/3/2010 12:26  |        |            |             |
| <a href="#">Report abuse</a> <a href="#">Click to rate</a> <a href="#">Rating</a> <b>39</b>   |        |            |             |
| I am a vet nurse and cannot stress enough the importance of vaccination. Yes some animals may be ok for years but the general public don't see the animals that could have been protected but weren't and then are often fatally ill. Yearly vaccination also gives the opportunity for checking the general health of the pet, any lumps and bumps etc. not everything is noticeable immediately and can take a skilled clinician to pick it up at the earliest possible opportunity.  |        |            |             |
| - Smegslayer, Kent, UK, 06/3/2010 12:11   |        |            |             |
| <a href="#">Report abuse</a> <a href="#">Click to rate</a> <a href="#">Rating</a> <b>57</b>   |        |            |             |
| I was advised by a vet several years ago that most of the yearly vaccinations are not necessary, and that 3 yearly boosters was sufficient. The only exception was leptospirosis, as my dog regularly visited a family member's garden that had a stream going through it, and rats were seen there. But, as there are rats everywhere, I am wondering whether that would still be needed, anyway. Do humans at risk of well's disease have yearly jabs?  |        |            |             |
| - Annca, Devon, 06/3/2010 12:09   |        |            |             |
| <a href="#">Report abuse</a> <a href="#">Click to rate</a> <a href="#">Rating</a> <b>104</b>  |        |            |             |
| Vets, We recently had our dog operated on for cherry eye a common condition under the insurance plan cost over 1,000 pounds. Our friends had the same operation at another vets they never had insurance cost?...120.00 pounds vets are out to squeeze every last red cent outa people insurance companies get conned. I am not at all surprised by this. It cost us 45 quid to have a rabbit destroyed ridiculous. Yes and the kennels who usually are run by business people not vets are so insistent on these yearly injections it's a joke where's the animals record they ask. Clueless.  |        |            |             |
| - colin, huddersfield, 06/3/2010 12:05  |        |            |             |
| <a href="#">Report abuse</a> <a href="#">Click to rate</a> <a href="#">Rating</a> <b>101</b>  |        |            |             |
| just another bunch of racketeers.   |        |            |             |
| - rick, southend england, 06/3/2010 11:57   |        |            |             |
| <a href="#">Report abuse</a> <a href="#">Click to rate</a> <a href="#">Rating</a> <b>111</b>  |        |            |             |
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Katie left show smiling
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Corrie actress attended Man Utd's Unicef dinner
- I'm giving up my job to be Kate Middleton's double: Lookalike just has to shed her Midlands accent**  
Kate Bevan has seen a business opportunity
- Now Jennifer Aniston models a black bikini as she continues Mexican jaunt**  
She drew attention from onlookers impressed with her physique
- 'My body is back and I want to show it off,' says former Playmate Kendra Wilkinson**  
After 11 months of diet and exercise she's happy with her body
- Fully made-up beach babe Brooke Hogan strikes a pose in a tiger print bikini**  
Less than impromptu photoshoot in Miami
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Swedish actress confirmed what public are thinking
- Nicole Scherzinger makes her debut solo performance on X Factor... and says she wants to duet with 'super fly' Cher**  
Lloyd Pussycat Doll stunned
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