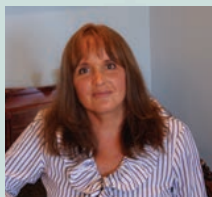


ARE WE CANCER PIMPS?



Since beginning her holistically oriented veterinary practice over 30 years ago, Deva Khalsa VMD has been incorporating homeopathy, acupuncture, Chinese herbs, nutritional advice, and allergy elimination techniques such as Allergy Elimination and JMT into her approach. Today her work is a blend of sophisticated holistic techniques and traditional veterinary medicine designed to best enhance the natural strengths and attributes of her patient. She is available for worldwide consults by contacting her online at doctordeva.com

Cancer is the leading cause of death in our dogs. It's all the more heart-breaking because after spending hundreds and thousands of dollars on treatments, we learn it's often an incurable disease.

Cancer develops over a long period of time. The potential for cancer begins when carcinogens damage and alter the DNA in a cell. With every passing decade the number and concentrations of carcinogens our dogs are exposed to escalates. While it's impossible to avoid every carcinogen, we can certainly work to decrease our pets' exposure to these toxins.

We have to ask ourselves why cancer is so much more prevalent than it was decades ago. Then we can learn to make changes in how we care for our dogs to lessen their risk. We can also become more discerning in what we give our dogs and what we put into the environment around them. There

are many toxic products we believe are safe, often because we're told this is so, that are powerfully carcinogenic.

Inadvertently we've somehow become cancer pimps while trying to do the best for our dogs as we're directed toward costly products that we believe are helpful. But are they?

POISON BOMBS

Let's start with flea and tick prevention. We don't want our dogs to get fleas and ticks and we want to avoid tick-borne diseases. Yet we are making our dogs poison bombs as we give them oral and spot-on flea products that stay in their systems – for months! The concentration of these insecticides in your dog's body for this time period is so high that even at the end of the month or three-month period a flea or tick drops dead within seconds of nibbling on your dog.

That's impressive! But if that's what it's doing to the fleas and ticks, what's it doing to your dog? These powerful poisons circulate through your dog day in and day out. It's also important to know just how carcinogenic they are. Established research has repeatedly proven the carcinogenic effect of the ingredients in these products. There are now natural, non-toxic products that are 100 percent effective so there's no reason to have to use these toxic products on your dog.

ALLERGIES AND IMMUNITY

In addition to encouraging cancer by carcinogen exposure we have the reduction in your dog's immune system's ability to fight cancer. Allergies are becoming more and more common in dogs and new products are now widely used that I don't recommend at all.

Fighting cancer is often a losing battle with a high cost as immune-suppressing drugs and damaging products are pushed in the name of prevention and protection.



Let's take a second to summarize allergies. They are an inappropriate reaction to a substance. Think about a kid with peanut allergies. All his friends take peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch and he'll go into anaphylactic shock if he contacts a tiny bit of peanut dust. Is the problem the peanut? Or is it that his immune system is overreacting to the substance.

Yes, it's the overreaction of his immune system. That's why conventional drugs treat allergies by suppressing the immune system's reactions.

In the old days, holistic veterinarians objected to the overuse of steroids such as prednisolone. The new stuff that's now routinely used is way worse. One product called Atopica is cyclosporine and is used for skin allergies. The immunosuppressive effects of cyclosporine were discovered in Switzerland in 1972. It was used successfully in preventing organ rejection in organ transplants. Cyclosporine is also used to treat a variety of skin conditions in pets using powerful immune suppression. Believe it or not, in my clinical opinion there's a product that's even

more dangerous. It's called Apoquel and it seems to have superseded Atopica.

Apoquel works by destroying the communication system that cells need to recognize and destroy cancer cells. Kinases are important signaling compounds cells use to communicate with each other. An Australian chemist discovered some new ones called JAK1, JAK2, JAK3 and TKY2.

These particular kinases did several jobs: policing the body against tumor formation; controlling body growth and development; forming white and red blood cells;

providing immunity with proper functioning of the antibody-producing cells and the policing cells (called T-cells); creating inflammation.

APOQUEL DANGERS

Pharmaceutical companies locked on to the immune suppressing and anti-inflammatory effects, seeing it as a perfect way to treat allergies. Apoquel was created with this goal. It neutralizes cytokines which act as messengers for the JAKs (kinases). This interrupts and stops the JAKs from communicating and so they simply stop working. But this communication system is the same system that your dog's body uses to search out cancer cells and prevent cancer. Apoquel stops cancer-preventing JAKs in their tracks.

Golden Retrievers in the United States are known to have an unusually high rate of cancer. That's because Golden Retrievers in the United States have gene mutations that affect the immune system's ability to search for tumor cells. Cancer will become

the cause of death in almost 70 percent of this breed.

Guess what? We're creating a similar problem in our dogs when we give them Apoquel for their allergies. In fact, just yesterday I consulted on two different dogs that had developed cancer. Both had rapidly growing, rare and invasive cancers after being on Apoquel. One dog had a readily observable lipoma on her side, which, after three months on Apoquel, began to grow rapidly into an unusual and deadly tumor. When these two families went to their respective oncologists they were told to stop the Apoquel immediately!

VACCINES

It's only my opinion but I think that giving dogs vaccines that they never needed in the first place is criminal. Not only do vaccines irreparably damage your dog's immune system, they also carry cancer viruses. Vaccine associated sarcoma (VAS) is a highly aggressive, deadly fibrosarcoma tumor that was commonly appearing at the site of rabies injections. Now, many veterinary schools are actually advocating that the rabies vaccination be given in the end of the tail for easy amputation. How is that solving the problem of higher incidences of cancer?

While fibrosarcoma is the most common vaccine associated sarcoma, other tumor

types include rhabdomyosarcoma, myxosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, malignant histiocytoma and undifferentiated sarcoma. These tumors are characterized as highly invasive, rapidly growing and malignant. Often the cancer spreads to the lungs and may spread to the regional lymph nodes as well. In my opinion, no vaccination is safe.

DON'T BE IN A HURRY TO SPAY OR NEUTER

Neutering and spaying your dog early increases their risk of cancer. In the past, veterinarians have commonly stated that early spaying and neutering would protect dogs from mammary and prostate cancer. Studies now find that early spay and neuter are actually increasing cancer rates. At least two studies showed that early sterilization doubled the risk of bone cancer (Cooley et al, *Endogenous gonadal hormone exposure and bone sarcoma risk*, Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev, Nov 2002; and Ru G et al, *Host related risk factors for canine osteosarcoma*, Vet J 1998). A study in 2012 found no evidence to indicate that early spaying prevented mammary cancer (W Beauvais et al, *The effect of neutering on the risk of mammary tumours in dogs – a systematic review*, JSAP, June 2012).

I've personally found prostate cancer to be more prevalent in neutered male dogs over intact dogs. All the data points to waiting



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to spay or neuter your dog until he is 18 to 24 months of age. It may be inconvenient but it has been shown to have a significant impact on reducing cancer risk. Actually, in my more than 30 years of practice, I've always convinced owners of mild mannered males to leave them intact and have found that they stay stronger and healthier as they age.

LAWN AND HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

While we all know that limiting chemicals, pesticides and toxins reduces the risk of cancer in our pets, we often forget about lawn care. Lawn chemicals have been shown to increase the risk of both bladder cancer and lymphosarcoma in dogs. These are studies of specific types of cancer. I would submit that lawn chemicals, in general, increase the risk of many cancers.

When it rains, the lawn products we buy and religiously apply to the grass actually rise up into a fine mist sitting a few feet over the lawn. Our dogs (and our children!) run through this mist and the chemicals soak in through their feet; they're also inhaled into their lungs and absorbed by their mucous membranes. Every day they run around at home and in parks and these carcinogens are added into their systems.

Marketers tell us we can't have a clean home without all these products and cleaners so we stock up. These same cleaning products and particularly deodorizers are not healthy for you or your dogs. Dryer sheets and room and carpet deodorizers should be totally avoided. For next to nothing, you can formulate healthy household cleaners with vinegar and baking soda, both safe and effective. Remember, our dogs are lying on that carpet sprayed with Febreze, which contains carcinogenic chemicals like acetaldehyde and propylene glycol.

LYING LABELS

The labels don't correctly represent all the ingredients. A recent investigation of 14 common air fresheners by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) found hormone-disrupting chemicals known as phthalates in 12 products including some fresheners marketed as "all-natural" and "unscented." None of the air fresheners listed phthalates on their labels. Today air fresheners come in the form of aerosol, wall plugs, car fresheners, potpourri wood chips and flower petals. Just about all are heavily sprayed with coal tar fragrances. Coal contains many compounds including hydrocarbons and phenols.

With every passing decade, the number and concentration of carcinogens our dogs are exposed to increases. While it's

impossible to avoid every carcinogen, we can certainly work to decrease our pets' exposure to these toxins, chemicals, insecticides and vaccines. With all of this exposure it's no wonder the incidence of cancer has significantly increased in our dogs over these past few decades. It's time for all of us to stop being cancer pimps. 🌱

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