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The Rabies Threat

Rabies has existed for millions of years, and it will most likely survive man on this Planet. It is a dreaded and feared disease with a mortality rate that is close to 100% for those that contract it: there are only 7 cases known of survivors - out of 40,000-60,000 cases in total in the World per year.

This provides strong ammunition for those who want to force dog owners to vaccinate their dogs, at their own expense. It is easy to argue this point because rabies is so dangerous; nobody can afford to gamble with this "serious risk"...

On the other side, there is a cost other than financial: the health problems caused by repeated rabies vaccinations are evident! And so is the lack of logic in the reasoning used by those who want the vaccinations to continue!

An increasing number of veterinarians begin to speak up and seriously question the value of the whole vaccination program, like expressed in this article:

THE BIG SCAM: RABIES VACCINATION

By: Dr. John Fudens, D.V.M.

The record of animal control starts in 1964. From 1964 to 1978 there were zero cases of dog rabies in the county. Magically in 1978 rabies vaccine was mandated to be given every year and all dogs tagged and licensed. WHY? Well it seems four veterinarians, with animal control bureaucrats, pushed the county board of supervisors to pass a law mandating rabies vaccination every year. There were three local vets and one professor from the State Veterinary College who were behind this. It was interesting reading their letters pushing this law and the minutes of the county meeting. There was talk of dogs biting people (no actual figures given), dogs running loose, animal overpopulation, rabies on the increase in the U.S. (the increase was in wildlife, not dogs), etc., etc. Not once was the issue discussed that there was no rabies in the county in dogs. To this date there still has not been one case of dog rabies, including the population of dogs whose owners, GOD BLESS THEM, do not vaccinate for rabies. Let's go further.

From 1964 to 1989 there were no cases of rabies in cats in Pinellas County. Magically in 1989 a law was passed mandating rabies vaccination, tags and licenses for all cats. Same tired worn out excuses were used. Since the 1989 law there was one cat with rabies contracted from the bite of a bat. DO YOU READERS REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE JUST STATED? This is standard throughout the Country. No allowance is made for dogs/cats who never leave the house or yard, could never be exposed to rabies under any circumstances, or who are so ill, old or at the end of their life cycle that the rabies vaccine would throw them over the edge. No, all dogs and cats are treated the same because we have the bogeyman, rabies, stalking the streets waiting to strike unprotected dogs and cats.

What are the facts?

First, let's provide some basis or reference we can relate to. We talk about *risk of death*, and we need to associate a *likelihood* to that before we can assess it. So, let's first take a look at some other causes of death - and their likelihood, expressed in ppm/year (= "parts per million per year"), which is the average number of cases every year in a total population of 1 million "average" people.

(Source [Olhhausen & Gann, Acta Chiropterologica, 6\(1\): 163-168, 2004](#) - I added the red ones from other sources, for comparison.)

Various causes of death in the USA, on an average yearly basis: Total of cases and likelihood		
Number of people killed by lightening strikes	90	0.3 ppm
Death from dog attacks (none of them causing rabies!)	15-25	0.07 ppm
Deathly accidents with deer on roads	200	0.7 ppm
Death by vending machines toppling on people	2.4	0.008 ppm
Death by rabies from bats	1.2	0.004 ppm
Death by car accidents	27,000	90 ppm
Death by murder (men only - it is about one third for women)	32,000	108 ppm
Death by influenza or pneumonia (for people older than 91 years)	3,300	11 ppm

Here is an overview of the sources of all known rabies cases in the USA over the past 30 years:

Distribution of origin of human rabies cases in the USA:	
Raccoon bites	44%
Skunk bites	29%
Bat bites	13%
Fox bites	6%
No bite traceable	6%

In North America and Europe together, the total number of rabies cases is less than 5 per year - and not a single one of them have been from dog bites the last 30 years!

In all of the USA's history there are no records of rabies being transferred to people through bites from dogs that are kept as pets. There were a total of 32 cases of rabies in the USA from 1980 to 1996. In 12 of these 32 cases the diagnosis was established only after death. In 7 cases no exposition was known. 21 of the 32 deaths were due to the bat-rabies virus. Only in one of these 21 cases a clearly defined bat bite occurred. Not a single case was related to bites from dogs.

So, this just shows how effective the vaccination programs are, doesn't it?

Wrong. This might have been the case if there had been a lot of rabies in the USA *before* the vaccine hysteria started in the seventies, but that is not the case.... The level was around 100 cases per year at the beginning of the century, and it dropped below 10 during WW II, and has remained down there, continuously dropping, until the huge-scale canine vaccination programs were introduced at a time when human deaths from rabies from dog bites in the USA were already down at zero....

This is in despite of the fact that about 4 million cases of dog bites are medically treated every year, and despite also of the fact that stats tell us that maximum 95% of all dogs in the USA are vaccinated against rabies...

Let us do a little math on that: The 5% unvaccinated dogs of the 4 million dogs that bit people so badly that these people went to see a doctor represent a total of 20,000. Over 30 years, this makes 600,000. This makes the risk of contracting rabies from a dog that is unvaccinated go down below 2 ppm. It could be thousands of times less, but it cannot be any larger. The risk of getting murdered, in the USA, is about 108 ppm for men, just for comparison. The risk of getting killed in a car accident in Canada or Australia is about 30 ppm - at least fifteen times larger.

And now the \$10,000 question: If we seriously consider 32 human deaths over 16 years a serious problem we should protect ourselves against, then **why are we not vaccinating humans against rabies?** The threat is obviously mainly from bats, not from dogs, so vaccinating our *dogs* in order to protect ourselves is utterly, completely, definitely meaningless!

Answer: The estimated cost of this prevention: \$180,000,000, minimum - other estimates say \$3,000,000,000 (three billion dollars) per year...

You see, when we talk about *people*, the government is concerned about the cost - because this involves *everybody* - so it will seriously impact *elections*. For dog owners, it is different. They constitute a minority that will never make a noticeable difference on an election day - so forcing *them* to pay *costs nothing*, politically...

But there are more reasons...

Do the rabies vaccines work?

Well, the unpleasant truth is that we really do not know...

Yes, lots of people, including doctors and the pharmaceutical industry, will want us to believe that. But the unpleasant fact remains that **vaccines are marketed and approved by government for marketing without ever being seriously tested!**

Oh, yeah, the vaccine manufacturers have tested that the vaccine does indeed cause *titers* to develop in most of the tested individuals, generally aiming at 95% or better. Just too bad that we do not know how the development of titers relates to the overall immune protection an individual has! It is a fact that titers often reduce their concentration with time, when the body is not exposed to the disease. But they quickly come back when exposed!

In the specific case of rabies, you can find more about this from this web page on the site of Vaccination Liberation: <http://www.vaclib.org/intro/rabies.htm>. The conclusion of that article is, with perfectly correct use of logic, that there is no proof that the vaccines work - and no proof either that they don't. A very important point that is made is this: it takes far more than *exposure* to the virus to contract the disease! For the virus to do damage to the body, the body must be in bad health with a compromised immune system *and* then be exposed to the virus. The unpleasant dilemma here is that vaccination will *weaken* the immune system and thus promote the disease (or other diseases) instead of preventing it. It remains a fact that this thesis cannot be proven or disproved by the existing data!

What are the known side effects?

For dogs, we have very poor data about the details. We know from Catherine O'Driscoll's Canine Health Consensus that over 70% of all dogs have a reason to visit the vet within 3 months from being vaccinated - if the vaccine had nothing to do with that, the number should be 25%, not over 70%!

But we do have some data for humans:

Allergic reactions are reported mostly after booster doses of rabies vaccines (CDC, 1984; Dreesen et al., 1986). The overall incidence was 11 per 10,000 vaccines (0,11%), but rose to 6% after boosters (Fishbein et al., 1993).

This gives some serious clue as to why we have so many dogs with allergies. A rise from 0.11% to 6% represents a 50-fold increase in the likelihood of serious damage! Using the same math on a second booster (= third vaccination) will make development of allergic reactions *virtually inevitable!* Now, this is very bold math - and not scientifically sustainable. But just a doubling or a tripling of the likelihood with the second booster will be more than sufficient to represent a very serious concern - and a very good explanation of all the allergies we see nowadays in our dogs.

On top of this, some 80% of all people being vaccinated report minor to severe side effects as itchiness and irritation on the vaccinated spot, drowsiness and nausea, headache, breathing problems, etc.

Unfortunately, no research has ever been done to show any possible long-term effects of the vaccines for humans!

Severe and fatal reactions

There are some very interesting data available from W.H.O. on their web page about vaccination safety at

<http://www.vaccinationnews.com/DailyNews/June2002/AdverseEventsRabiesVax20.htm>.

The information is quite technical of nature, but it is a relevant reference for drawing some important conclusions. Let me extract the essence here for you, keeping in mind that this is still *human* vaccine we talk about:

A patient may suffer from serious and often fatal illness after nerve tissue vaccine - which is what rabies vaccine is. All types of vaccines containing adult mammalian nervous tissues (which all rabies vaccine does) show similar abilities to induce neuromuscular reactions (= causing nerve lameness, which can lead to lameness or death, subject to which nerves it will affect). The neuromuscular reactions usually develop between the 13th and the 15th days of treatment and may assume one of the following three forms:

1. **"Landry type"**. In this type of accident, the patient rapidly suffers pain in the back. Then comes paralysis of legs and, within one day, the arms become paralysed. Later, the paralysis spreads to the face, tongue, and other muscles. **The fatality rate is about 30%**; in the remaining 70%, recovery usually occurs rapidly.
2. **"Dorsolumbar type"**. Less severe than Landry type, this is the most common form of neuromuscular accident. The patient may be febrile and feel weak, with paralysis of the lower limbs, diminished sensation and other disturbances. **The fatality rate does not exceed 5%**.
3. **"Neuritis type"**. In this type of accident, the patient usually shows a temporary paralysis of the face and the control of the eyes. No mortality reported for this form.

The incidence of these reactions varies widely from 0.0011% to 0.44% and is definitely lower in people receiving properly manufactured vaccine of newborn rodent brain (which is too expensive for *dog* vaccine...)

So, what can we get from these numbers?

The most common of three cases is likely to cover about 50% of the total. Those 50% gave us a mortality rate of "maximum 5%". That's an overall contribution of 2.5% mortality. The more severe form had a 30% mortality. If this form covers about 10% of the total cases, this will give us an overall contribution of 3% to the mortality. Because this form *could* cover up to about 40% of the cases (but not more, because then it would become the largest contributor of the three), this contribution could be as high as 12%.

Adding those two mortalities of 2.5% and 3% gives us about 5.5%, with a possible maximum around 15%, if the 3% truly becomes 12%.

This is all restricted to the case of *getting* these neurologic reactions from a vaccination.

As already stated, the likelihood of that ranges from 0.0011% and up to 0.44%. This gives us an overall death risk from receiving a rabies vaccination that is maximum $0.44\% * 5.5\% = 0.0242\% = 242 \text{ ppm}$, and possibly only $0.0011\% * 5.5\% = 0.6 \text{ ppm}$.

What is the uncertainty on these numbers? Well, we could be easily be off by a factor of 2 or 3 - so our risk could be anything between 0.2 ppm and 700 ppm...

Is this acceptable?

That certainly depends... If we consider that rabies is deadly if contracted and not dealt with prior to the onset of clinical symptoms, then a death risk of 0.2-700 ppm from vaccination is a very attractive bet indeed! But the risk of contracting rabies depends on two factors that dramatically reduce that apparently "certain death sentence":

First, what is the chance of getting bitten, in the first place? Next, what is the chance of the disease developing if you do get bitten?

Let's take the worst case known: India. India has some 600,000,000 people - and about 30,000 die every year because of rabies. That gives you odds of $600,000,000:30,000 = 20,000:1$ of *not* contracting the disease - or $1/20,000 = 50 \text{ ppm}$ for dying from it.

Folks, this is less than the risk of getting killed in traffic in the USA. And it is one third of the risk of getting murdered in the USA.... And worse yet: with the vaccine having a risk that *could* be more than 10 times larger, vaccination is not at all a proven secure way of dealing with the problem... Sure, the vaccination could also be some 250 times safer - but reality is that we do not know!

Now, for people who are extraordinarily exposed to the possibility of getting bitten by rabid animals, vaccination might be a diligent choice. But, as you see, it depends *a lot* on what the likelihood of getting bitten is! And it must be *at least 100 times larger than average* before vaccination becomes an obvious choice...

What can we conclude for dogs from this?

First of all: it will be naive to expect that dog vaccines are made safer (and more expensive) than human vaccines. The worst-case scenario of negative side effects of the human vaccine is therefore a realistic minimum for the canine vaccine...

This does not speak in favor of vaccinating your dog... *unless* your dog is extraordinarily exposed to possible contact with wild animals that could transfer the disease through biting.

Besides, there is zero scientific evidence, not even anecdotal, that dogs that have been vaccinated cannot transfer the disease to a human.... In other words: we do not know if vaccinating our dogs does anything whatsoever to protect people! A

vaccinated dog could, in principle, very well transfer the virus to a human as a non-vaccinated dog could!

On this basis, to create a legal requirement for dog owners that they must vaccinate their dogs every year or every third year is nothing but illegitimate misuse of political power; there is no justification for tolerating that kind of power abuse in a democratic society that values human rights and personal freedom of choice.

The threat is not rabies. The threat is the lawmakers and commercial interests that want to use fear of rabies to strip us from our constitutional rights to make our own personal choices.

What you can do?

Thanks for asking. Donate any amount you planned to use for vaccination to **THE RABIES CHALLENGE FUND, c/o Hemopet, 11330 Markon Drive, Garden Grove, California 92841 USA.**

More information about this new Foundation at

<http://www.zbirdbrain.com/PetAdvocatesTownHallCisSupport.htm>

Sincerely,

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