

Friday, October 26, 2007

- News
- Are Vet Costs Scary?
- Do you have kids?
- Contact information

News

I have had a request to improve my punctuation and grammar in this newsletter. All I have to say is I am not an English major, so if out of the goodness of your heart you would like to be an editor and you can edit this newsletter in about 1 hour on Friday when I finally get around to it, then step up have I got an unpaid job for you. Otherwise, I will take this under advisement and try to improve my grammatical skills.

Are Vet Costs Scary?

It is Halloween so we are suppose to be thinking and talking about things that are scary. Some people find veterinary costs on the rise to be very scary. Veterinary costs in general can be very scary. One of the things that can increase vet costs dramatically are unnecessary procedures. James L Busby DVM a 65 year old vet understands the fear and he has a concern for his profession with unnecessary procedures being done nearly for the money. In his own words he says - "I'm 65 and am still in very active practice, but am disgruntled over the way my profession is pricing routine (and often unjustified) procedures beyond the reach of middle- and lower-class pet owners. Many of these are not only unnecessary, but some even border on being unethical in my opinion." He has written a book called "How to Afford Veterinary Care without Mortgaging the Kids" You can purchase this book at his website.
<http://www.oldcountryvet.com>

Withthis said let me tell you two stories about unnecessary procedures which will demonstrate what the real world vet deals with and how unnecessary procedures end up happening.

The first is a story straight from the internet. I have had a couple emails telling this story or variations of and a couple

of websites that have posted this similar story. A man came home to find his dog flat out laying on the floor not breathing. He picked the dog up and drove to the vet. He ran in with the lifeless dog in his arms and announced, "I believe my dog is dead!" The waiting room went silent as one of the vet techs grabbed the dog and brought it to the back. The tech reemerged a couple minutes later to explain that the dog had suffered a heart attack. And then asked, "Do you want us to do CPR?" The man tried bring himself to say "How much are you going to charge me to do CPR on my dead dog?" but, instead, he told them to go ahead, and took a seat. Several times the techs came out to report that neither CPR nor drugs were bringing the dog back, but we will keep trying. The man wanted to say, "Well the dog has been dead for an hour!", but continued to sit quietly in the waiting room. Then finally, the vet came out and told the man that they could not revive the dog and any further treatment was not going to make a difference. The man thanked him for trying and then sat back down and waited for his bill. The bill to try and revive a dead dog was \$300! (A bargain in some places)

Now I ask was that all necessary? The dog was dead on arrival and may have been dead for awhile the man found the dog dead in his home, who knows how long the dog had been laying there. This however is a story that is being passed around the internet so who knows if it is even true or not, but it is plausible.

The second stroy is true I know the veterinarian that it happened to and I will tell it as he related the story to me. This vet worked in an emergency clinic. One night a man brought in a dead dog. He could see that it most likely was dead. The man explained that it was his dog and he accidentally ran over it. The vet said I am sorry but your dog is already dead. The man said well could you look at him to be sure. The vet said OK and he did a very thorough exam on a dead dog and confirmed to the man that the dog indeed was dead. The man obviously distraught and getting angry said "Well can't you do something?" The vet said, "I am sorry he is dead what would you like me to do?" The man replied back rather insisently, "Well you are a vet you could give fluids and drugs and CPR can't you?" Obviously, the man was not going to take no for an answer, so my friend quickly put in an IV catheter (basically just stuck it into the dogs forearm because there was no way of getting a vein), hooked up a bag of fluids and started CPR. He then told the man that he was going to bring the dog into the back to try and revive the dog there because he had more help back there. He told the man to wait in the room. He brought the dog into the back, asked another vet to examine the dog. That vet said why do you want me to examine a dead dog. However he did and also confirmed that indeed the dog was dead. They waited 15 minutes then my friend went back into the room and told the man that they were unsuccessful. The man thanked him as they were leaving the room the man asked for his bill. My friend tried to tell him no charge

but the man insisted on paying, so my friend made up a bill of the initial exam, catheter, and 5 minutes of CPR. The bill came to just under \$300. The man paid it and the disposal fee and quietly left the clinic.

Now I ask again was that all necessary? This dog also was dead on arrival. However the man was not ready to let the dog go and wanted to know that even though he hit the dog that he did everything he could do to keep it alive.

The common theme in both these stories is not that the dog was brought into a vet clinic already dead but rather the owners in the story have the say in the matters. Both men could have told the vet to stop. Both men had the power to say no. It is your responsibility as an owner to stick up for your dog and know when to say when. Most of the problems with veterinarians over doing procedures is the owners inability to tell the vet to stop or at least to ask the question is that really necessary. Ask what do you hope to gain from doing that test or that procedure? Have the vet spell it out for you. Have the vet explain why they need a certain blood test, or a certain vaccine, or any procedure...you have the final say, it is your dog and you know what is best for your dog. Your vet is there to help you make correct decisions, they may know more about medicine which is why you should ask them why they are doing what they are doing so you get a better understanding, so you know when to say when.

Do you have kids?

Halloween is for kids and for adults that love being a kid. In the spirit of being a kid myself, I would have to with four of my own. It is the only way to stay sane. If you can't beat them join them. ANYway in the spirit of being a kid, I made a post on the horse blog (<http://www.horsekinetics.com/horses-for-kids>) that needs repeating here, because I know some of you do not read the blog regularly. I found a website! If you have kids with any interest in horses at all you need to share this website with them...OR...if you are like me you will find this site very cool yourself. You need to check out - <http://www.equimania.ca> It is a website designed and hosted by the University of Guelph in conjunction with their Horse Health website. This site is fantastic it has plenty of cool internet computer tricks such as when reading one of the online books you have to physically turn the page with the mouse. It has several areas that you have to click and read and learn. There are games to be played - be sure to try and beat my high score in the grooming box game. I was able to put all the tools back into the box in 5.9 seconds. there are many other areas that you really need to

check out on this site. It is very informative and kids learn while having fun.

Here are a few other websites for kids about horses -

<http://horses4kids.com>

<http://www.horsefun.com>

<http://kids.discovery.com/cams/horse.html>

http://www.ultimatehorsesite.com/fun/free_horse_games.html

<http://www.horseland.com>

and here are a couple of sites for older kids in which they can be a horse trainer, trader, have a horse business, basically join the virtual world of the horse industry -

<http://www.avirtualhorse.com/>

<http://www.virtualhorseranch.com/>

But of course for all your horse health information needs there is only one site you need to go to -

<http://www.horsekinetics.com>

or maybe 2 sites - <http://www.evetclinic.com>

By the way if you have a question about horse health you would like addressed in this newsletter go ahead and email me. You may find your answer in the next newsletter.

Thanks for reading,

Daniel Beatty, DVM

drdan@evetclinic.com

<http://www.evetclinic.com>

Contact information

FORWARD THIS TO A FRIEND or

Have them Subscribe at <http://www.evetclinic.com>