

Vaccinosis: An Issue Worth Pondering

By Nancy Camp

I used to be a dyed-in-the-wool allopathic traditionalist in the care of my animals. I worked at a vet office that served both small and large animals for 11 years. I believed in the miracles of vaccinations and vaccinated early rather than run the risk of being even one day late with my animals' shots. I diligently sent out vaccination reminders from the clinic and scorned delinquent owners. When I first heard the term "vaccinosis" in 1996, I was certain that the people disseminating ideas that vaccines were ineffective and causing illness, had most certainly lost their minds. Had they ever heard of distemper? Had they ever seen a puppy suffering from parvovirus? How could they possibly suggest that I stop vaccinating my animals?

In the first article I read on the subject, Dr. Richard Pitcairn, DVM said that for some readers the very idea that vaccines are anything but wonderful and life saving may come as a surprise. That pretty much summed up my position. I was unreceptive to notions about vaccine dangers for four more years. During those four years, a number of traditional paradigms in animal care crashed down around me and aroused my curiosity about the vaccination debate.

I now feel an urgent need to invite fellow animal lovers to take a close look at the possible dangers of vaccinations; the practice of over vaccinating, and how concerned caregivers might go about repairing damage done.¹

Here's some of what I've learned. As early as 1884, the effectiveness and safety of vaccines came under suspicion.² Clinical studies led many holistic doc-

tors to believe that laboratory modification of a natural disease agent into a vaccine strain that is "safe" to introduce into the body, actually establishes a chronic form of that disease with symptoms not necessarily seen in the disease itself. These symptoms develop because the body's response to the vaccination strain is believed to be different than its response would be to the actual disease.

So, in a nutshell, not only are vaccines less effective than the disease agent itself in bolstering a body's protection should it come into contact with the disease agent, they can be ineffective and counterproductive as well. This most certainly is not the definition of vaccination that I grew up with. My understanding was that vaccinations were harmless and had the effect of stimulating the body to create antibodies to protect the body should it encounter the disease in the future. So, if this basic premise is flawed, where does that leave our belief system?³

Vaccinosis is the term used to describe the multitude of manifestations of a disease that appear in a vaccinated animal. Since these symptoms are rarely acknowledged as related to a vaccine, as they exist in a chronic form rather than the recognizable acute form of the disease, they are dealt with, and often not very effectively, as isolated occurrences. Just one example to get your wheels turning: Dr. Pitcairn suggests that an appetite disorder in a dog or cat that has been vaccinated for rabies could be the chronic manifestation of 'loss of appetite,' the acute symptom that occurs naturally in a rabid animal.⁴ This is a very difficult

correlation for most people, including veterinarians, to make.

To complicate matters, the strength and stability of each individual's immune system will dictate a different degree of severity or number of responses to a vaccine. So there's no way to predict how much danger your animal is in from being exposed to the actual vaccine 'disease' ingredient, or the many other toxic ingredients in a shot. For example, the manufacturing process uses disinfectants, stabilizers, preservatives such as sodium hydroxide (lye), formaldehyde (a neurotoxin and carcinogen), hydrochloric acid (found in aluminum cleaners and rust removers), aluminum (toxic, carcinogenic), and, until recently, thimerosal (a derivative of mercury), just to name a few of the most common additives found in popular vaccines.

In addition, the dam of a horse may contribute heavy metal/chemical toxicity to her nursing or unborn foal's system. When the toxicity of the dam is

passed on in utero the metals and chemicals are laid down in the developing central nervous system and the problems of the offspring are increased dramatically. So, things like the health and medical history of parents and other unknowns that you may never be able to calculate are factors in the effectiveness and risk of vaccination.⁵ Whatever those variables may be, when vaccinating your animal, there is no way to protect your friend from the combined ill effects.

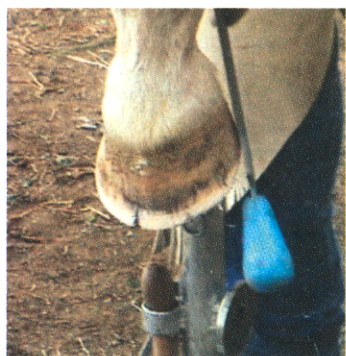
Reeling from all of this information, I began wondering about health issues that have plagued my animals and that never made sense to their healthcare professionals or me. The clearest example is the poor condition of my Thoroughbred gelding's feet. He, like so many horses, had thin, soft soles and weak walls. Standard practice says that movement; proper trimming and nutrition can be employed to improve the quality of a horse's hooves. I believe that if the poor quality of a hoof is due



Without a history of Purchase Power's feet, these pictures may appear horrifying. They were taken in May of 2005 when Power was twenty-five years old and they show his feet in the best state they ever achieved prior to clearing the vaccine damage. At age seven or seventeen, this horse was ouchy on gravel even with shoes, and the loss of a front shoe resulted in what I termed a "medical emergency". I figured I had about two hours to get a boot or half a roll of duct tape on the bared foot or I'd have a horse laid up with a stone bruise for anywhere from two weeks to six months. Note: All single feet are the left front.



Despite Power's history, every farrier prior to Doug Frazier pared out his sole with a hoof knife whenever he was trimmed. From the bottom, Doug only nipped heels if they started to fold in and he kept the pressure off the quarters. He came every 6 – 7 weeks, and even with the flares filed every couple of weeks, the feet spread like this.



With the foot on the stand, Doug minimized the flares. He'd shake his head and marvel that feet that looked so awful could work for this horse, but Power could walk on these feet better than any he ever had before Doug took over their care. It is important to note that this amount of flaring existed even with filing maintenance every week and a half to two weeks between Doug's visits. And, probably more important, Doug is the only farrier Power ever trusted.

to a lack of nutrients, once the nutrients are supplied, the lack should subside and there should be a noticeable improvement. Over a period of twelve years, I tried at least twenty supplements, from biotin to micronutrients, all to no avail. In 1997 I found a farrier who was able to keep the horse sound. With natural balance trimming and continued supplementation, by 2003, the by then retired horse was able to go barefoot for the first time in his life but no one would call his feet good. The tendency of the hooves to flare was extreme. My farrier taught me how to maintain the feet between his visits. I usually had to chase flares every seven to ten days depending on weather and where he was living. This taught me how important environment is to healthy hooves, but there

was still something missing.

I began to wonder if the poor quality of his feet could be from damage done by vaccinating or over-vaccinating my horse. I had heard of a woman in Oregon, Carolyn Libby, who works with vibrational remedies to clear vaccinosis. She uses an approach similar to naturopathy and researches causes and cures for autism linked to vaccines in human children. She also loves animals and has horses. Our paths had crossed before. I had consulted her about a dog with heart problems and a horse with breathing problems, but I had not, at the time, been interested in vaccinosis. Now I understood why one of Carolyn's primary concerns is clearing disease patterns that result from vaccines. Foremost among her concerns

is the heavy metal and chemical toxicities that result from vaccinations and other standard veterinary and owner practices, since these exacerbate the situation.

Carolyn notes that vaccination damage occurs throughout the equine body. How many horses do you recognize in the following list of some chronic manifestations of acute symptoms, aka vaccinosis?⁶

- Tetanus and Western or Eastern Encephalitis vaccines have a harmful effect on the GI system, disrupting the mucosal lining of the GI tract and allowing ulcer formation. Carbohydrate digestion is diminished so that fatty acid production is compromised; therefore glycogen storage in the muscles is reduced. This condition is currently known as EPSM, a form of muscle atrophy based upon muscle biopsy and the absence of sufficient amounts of glycogen stored there. Usually the right hind will be delayed/late or simulate lameness.

- Tetanus and Western or Eastern Encephalitis vaccines may be followed by problems in the brain, creating a hyper-reactivity to sensory input. The horse can be called grouchy, temperamental, lazy, unwilling, etc. The horse will be sensitive to touch in the muscles along his back and present a deteriorating topline. The sole of the foot will be flat as well.

- West Nile vaccinations tend to



Here, we see Power's feet in January 2007. It is important to note that I purposely did not touch them with a rasp since Doug's last visit seven weeks prior in October. I usually chase the flares about every week and a half to two weeks. You can see his walls look stronger and he has less flaring. Doug indicates with his thumb a place where a piece of the false sole is flecked out and you can see that the foot is actually concave with a nice pad of sole tissue that keeps this horse sound and able to go barefoot.

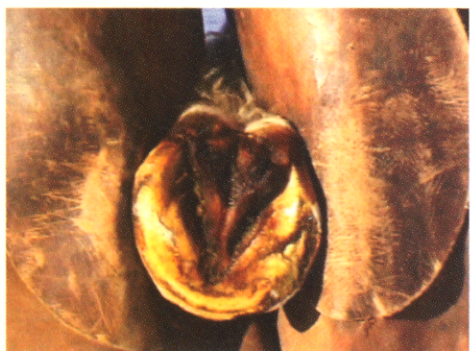
be followed by problems in the muscles, making them thicker and less responsive. Remember, the heart is a muscle.

- Rhino vaccinations or sprays may be followed by skin sensitivity. Owners of horses that have been given the rhino shots will frequently state that their horse doesn't really like to be brushed.

The most damaging effect of these types of vaccinations occurs in the brain, where they create a paralysis of the sensory- and motor-processing centers. Visual and/or auditory processing may be impaired, but visual-motor processing is always impaired. Often, the vaccine damage is revealed when, by its clearing, the horse's gaits improve dramatically and the ability to focus also improves. Clearing is accomplished by administering vibrational remedies that target and neutralize the vibrational waves of existing diseases, whether they are manifest or not.^{6,7} I have now witnessed such changes in fifteen horses.

The job of the immune system is to meet the challenge of any incoming pathogen. When the horse is repeatedly vaccinated, the immune system tends to become depressed and unresponsive. Once vaccine damage is cleared, changes in the well being of the horse are obvious and noticeable; the immune system is repaired and fully capable of meeting challenges appropriately. This turned out to





Here is the foot after the trim. All Doug has to do is remove a bit of wall tissue that would create leverage and cause the foot to chip and break. Doug notes the sole has a well-formed callus and a nice natural pad.



Nothing has changed in Power's diet, environment, or in the approach to trimming his feet to precipitate these improvements, yet his walls look stronger, smoother and he has less flaring. After two months of clearing vaccinosis by the use of vibrational remedies (started in April of 2006), the changes were significant enough to draw comment from Power's farrier.



be the missing piece in improving the quality of my Thoroughbred's feet. After three months of clearing vaccinosis, my now 26-year-old gelding's feet have cupped soles, strong walls, and little tendency to flare. He steps out with as much confidence on gravel as he does on sand. He is retired now, so his usefulness isn't affected, but his comfort certainly is, and my farrier has noticed marked improvement in the feet of other horses in my care.

I know this information is a stretch for many people; I've been there. So, just consider a possibility for a moment. In fiction writing, authors play a little game with themselves called, "What if..." because posing the question stimulates the imagination. Try this one: What if many of the aberrant personality disorders, health concerns, and 'behavioral' issues we commonly associate with horses, are present only in vaccinated horses? To borrow a quote by Fred Alan Wolf, PhD, from the movie *What the Bleep Do We Know*: "Ponder that for a while."

Footnotes:

¹For more information about vaccinosis, I encourage you to go to Dr. Pitcairn's web site, www.dpitcairn.com, where you will find published articles and a bibliography of references. See also: Dr. Mercola's website, www.mercola.com. Even though the information is about people, the same truths apply.

²Vaccinosis and Its Cure by Thuja with Remarks on Homeoprophylaxis by J. Compton Burnett, M.D., London 1884 (First Edition)

³One of many available articles that report on the dangers of some vaccines and standard practices of administering them is **Adverse Vaccine Reactions**, W. Jean Dodds, DVM, Hemopet/Hemolife, 938 Stanford Street, Santa Monica, CA. This article also has an extensive bibliography.

⁴Dr. Pitcairn, www.dpitcairn.com

⁵Ongoing clinical observation and research conducted by Carolyn Libby, www.purplechanges.com

⁶Learn more at Carolyn Libby's website, www.purplechanges.com

⁷For more information about this approach and the remedies used, investigate the Healers Who Share network headed by David Alan Slater in Westminster, CO at www.healerswhoshare.com

About the author:

Nancy Camp specializes in rehabilitating horses that are breaking down within the paradigm of traditional horse management. She teaches classes in High Touch® Jin Shin for horses and EquiMotion, Feldenkrais® Integrated Riding. For information about Nancy's classes, visit www.wholehorsetraining.com or email her at info@wholehorsetraining.com.

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Mar 3-4 2007	Gainesville, TX
Apr 14-15 2007	Belle Center, OH
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Apr 28-29 2007	Glide, OR
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Jun 9-10 2007	Hamburg, PA
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July 7-8 2007	Hampshire, IL
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Nov 10-11 2007	Valley Center, CA

^{*}Course meets the requirements for 20.00 hours of continuing education credit for veterinarians and 20.00 hours of continuing education credit for veterinary technicians in jurisdictions which recognize AAVSB's RACE approval program, including California.