

Working with Your Vet

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As you probably understand by now, you could be in for some conflicts with your veterinarian about "this idea of feeding your dog a natural, raw diet". I would like to give you some hints about how you deal with those.

You might be so lucky that you can find a holistic veterinarian close to where you live. If so, celebrate! Enjoy the discussions you can have with him/her about feeding and suck up as much information and support you can!

If not, then try to keep a low profile about the feeding issue and avoid confrontation.

(I suggest you take a look at this web page if you either are looking for a holistic veterinarian or are knowing of one you can recommend to others: <http://k9joy.com/education/vets.html>. I hope you can help me develop this page into a true resource so that others can benefit also from these references, so please use the on-line form to add any veterinarian you feel deserves to be on that list!)

Possible conflicts of interest

When you try to understand the possible reasons for your vet to not approve of your idea of feeding natural, it becomes easier to maintain a good

**Excerpt from Mogens Eliassen's book:
"Raw Food For Dogs - the Ultimate Guide for Dog Owners"**

relationship with your vet. One day, you might need that relationship, so don't destroy it!

Also, please understand that most veterinarians choose their profession out of love for animals. Very few of them had any clue at the start of their career that they would be facing such huge conflicts of interest that quickly can turn their passion for animals into a financial nightmare.

What the government educates veterinarians for...

First of all, you must understand that the government does not offer years of education for veterinarians in order to produce "pet doctors". **The government's purpose with educating veterinarians is to protect our human food sources!** Since we do not eat cats and dogs, the government sees no reason for including anything serious about cats and dogs in the curriculum of a veterinarian's education. Veterinarians get educated to keep cattle, pigs, chickens, and other herbivores fit for slaughter. They don't get educated to care for sick pets. Yes - it was quite a wake-up call for me when a Department Head from Agriculture Canada told me that! And it did not get better when I was told the same from the FDA in the US.

Your vet will therefore not necessarily have any valuable education whatsoever in carnivore nutrition and feeding of a canine. By reading this book, you will know far more about this than he/she did when graduating!

Many responsible veterinarians do supplement their education, though, and many operators of animal hospitals and clinics do acknowledge their lack of education in certain areas, so they will supplement their wisdom. But they have no obligation to do so - their license to run the animal hospital has no clauses to that effect at all!

Unfortunately, veterinarians that run pet hospitals are all being bombarded with information on a daily basis. Sales reps from all kinds of businesses want to sell them stuff. Marketers want them to endorse their products or buy them for resale. The government wants them to read bulletins, regulations, and guidelines. The Veterinarian Associations want them to read all kinds of broadcast information. There is no way a human being can read all that information. It is even too much just to *skim*.

The result is that most of them pick *what interests them the most* - and that might not be bad. Unfortunately, it isn't really good either, because there is probably nothing about carnivore nutrition in all that information... Neither the government, the associations, the pet food industry, the medical industry,

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nor any other business representatives have so far demonstrated any serious interest in educating veterinarians about natural feeding!

Getting *that* information takes personal research and effort! If your vet has done that, you are very lucky! If not, don't despair. You just need to fill in the gaps yourself...

Why veterinarians cannot always enjoy the rights of free speech

Next problem is that, even though your veterinarian might be convinced that feeding natural is the best for your dog, there are still some very significant obstacles between this and an open and positive support to you.

You have the Veterinarian Associations. You must realise that those associations are *powerful unions with government privileges*. They have the authority to put any of their members out of business any time, by simply pulling the license to practice or by cancelling the membership. Whatever *they* want cannot be objected to by a veterinarian, who wants to keep his business. Right or wrong does not always matter here. It is a question of being alive or dead, financially.

The associations have a huge interest in securing the welfare of their members. They are *trade unions!* This means that they will not allow any member to spread information or opinions that could harm the potential income of other members. Because the governments gave them the powers of issuing licences to practice for *all* veterinarians, they have the ability to shut down a veterinarian's business any time they find any reason to do so - and the veterinarian has no appeal possibilities, other than taking them to court! In the meantime, until he can get a judgement, he has no license to practise - so he will be without income for all the time it takes to reach a verdict.

So, if the association recommends certain practises, your veterinarian cannot publicly object to that or support a different opinion, no matter how much he might be convinced of a different practice being better and more appropriate. Unless he accept the risk of his livelihood.

(To be continued)