

To Vaccinate or Not? – Web Thread

[GIULIO MARCOCCIA](#) - Oct 4, 2010 [View](#)

POSTED AN INTERESTING ARTICLE ON VACCINES , YOU CAN VIEW IT IN THE FILE CABINET BELOW . WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ??

[Bob Bollinger](#) - Oct 4, 2010

Excellent thought provoking post Giulio. Since you are interested in thoughts, I will share mine. I hope no-one takes these thoughts the wrong way.

I have heard this type of information before and I think it is absolute and complete hogwash! Of course we want our birds to have good immunity. But, immunity does not help protect against many diseases. In most aspects of medicine, and life, there is a law of averages. However we need to do what is most right and best protects our interests.

Most of us in our generation have not been vaccinated for smallpox or polio. Those diseases have been eradicated by modern medical care and ...VACCINES! Should we assume that everyone who got polio in the past had a weak immune system? When the Spanish came to the Americas the native population was reduced by something like 90% by disease. Were the native Americans weak? 90% of them? No of course not. Thinking back to birds in the 1980's. Does anyone recall what happened when PMV first arrived? I recall one of my mentors carrying out buckets of birds from his loft as they succumbed to the disease. He was too "tough" to say how much it hurt but you could tell he was a broken man. He lost about 80% of his birds. Were they weak, poor immunity, etc?? No! They were hit by a new disease.

So, thinking of the article. I would agree that it is true. There are risks to vaccines. Yes they have preservatives. Yes, if you inject a bird in the wrong manner it could die. But in the end, many of the birds will be protected. I would think of this like seat belts in a car. Should there be a law? Should we wear them? You know, there are statistics out there that show that some people die because of fire or cars being immersed in water where people could not escape their seat belts. Does that mean we should not wear them NO! Statistics show that for the majority of accidents seat belts help. The same is true of vaccines. We are running the law of averages and choosing the path of least risk. (least, not ZERO risk)

Yes, birds should have a healthy immune system. This can be evaluated by the birds susceptibility to respiratory, ecoli, or a long list of other issues. Not vaccinating is not the way to figure it out. I am in the camp of doing what makes most sense! Vaccinate your birds.

[Alan Hill](#) - Oct 5, 2010

Well said Bob, your examples are spot on and completely accurate. Congratulations on this post, I am so pleased to read something well thought through instead of the usual patting each other on the back stuff.

Alan Hill

[GREG BLIVEN](#) - Oct 10, 2010

I've been vaccinated for small pox. Although it is considered eradicated, some countries still have it in their labs and can use it as a weapon. I think the biggest risk is at the shows to get something not from your region that your birds have no immunity built up to. Most vaccines are safer than not getting them. I'm still not sure about the anthrax vaccine. I never had any health problems before we were vaccinated for everything to go to Iraq. Who knows, but probably still better safe than sorry I say

[GIULIO MARCOCCIA](#) - Oct 5, 2010

GLAD TO HEAR SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS TOPIC , IN MY QUEST FOR NEW INFORMATION I RUN ACROSS THESE TYPES OF ARTICLES , THEY MAKE FOR GOOD READING AND KEEP YOUR MIND ACTIVE WITH THE QUESTIONS THEY PRESENT . IT DOES MAKE YOU THINK AND MORE AWARE OF THINGS , GOOD POST BOB

READING FURTHER DOWN THE ARTICLE ,THE AUTHOR GIVES US A LIST OF CHEMICALS THAT ARE TOXIC . TO MY SURPRISE MANY OF THEM ARE LISTED IN THE PRODUCTS WE USE ON OUR BIRDS AND EVEN IN OUR OWN FOOD

[Alan Hill](#) - Oct 7, 2010

My definition of "Toxic" is how much is taken at any one time"! Pure, fresh, clean natural water is toxic if you take too much of it at any one time. A senior lecturer in Chemistry pointed this out to me many years ago now I recall he called it drowning!! LOL

Cheers Helmeteers

[Bob Bollinger](#) - Oct 7, 2010

Alan, I completely agree wrt toxic. It all goes back to the risk benefit analysis. Chemotherapy is by definition toxic but if I had cancer I would be first in line for anything to help cure me. In fact most drugs we use could be considered toxic and we wouldn't take them if the benefits didn't outweigh the risks. As thoughtful people I believe we need to be aware of toxic issues and minimize our exposure where practical. But as we look at our hobby, I think vaccinations are worth the risk, using certain pesticides to get rid of mites and bugs are worth the risk, choiceful use of rat bait under the loft is worth the risk and so on

[DENNIS MANNING](#) - Oct 5, 2010

Sorry G didn't quite get to the end of the article, I've heard the speech before. It is not a new concept actually there have been groups preaching form this book for many years. This author didn't discover a new idea he pretty much just spewed the same position line. The most dramatic practitioner of this I ever encountered was a 30 something "nature path" who set out to cure his father of cancer with diet and herbs. it didn't go well. He had breast cancer and his wife (whom I worked with) was told too late that if treated in time his cancer would have been completely treatable. It was never a happy family again.

I too hauled birds out in buckets in the late 80s but more importantly many of my friends in Wash State did so just a couple years ago. We were at the same shows, our birds were judged in the same pens and theirs died while birds from my loft sent there a year earlier were just fine. The difference??? mine were vaccinated.

From a human perspective all of the anti-vaccine crowd that I have encountered were all vaccinated as children against a lot of diseases but campaign hard to keep your children from receiving the same protection out of a politically correct and sometimes religious notion that I do NOT respect.

[Fadiel Hendricks](#) - Oct 6, 2010

Hi Guys, Thanks for the great posts, this is my penny in the box. I'm all for natural herb products. I have had more success supplementing my water with herbal remedies than with the scientific stuff, But Vaccinate you MUST. In South Africa we had an explosion of different deceases because of the influx of all the different countries pigeons that participate in the sun city million dollar race each year.

[Alan Hill](#) - Oct 7, 2010

The world is such a small place now Fadiel.

[Fadiel Hendricks](#) - Oct 7, 2010

Very Small Alan, the fact that we can communicate and keep each other informed on and hourly bases is proof of that. Because we are part of the racing pigeon association SANPO in SA, They make it it compulsory to vaccinate so we have just followed suit. Our club issue vaccination certificates each year that must be signed by and executive member of the club, and it must be done 3 weeks before the show season starts.

[Pavel Lutsenko](#) - Oct 8, 2010

Dennis, the Russians in your area (stara-veri) do not vaccinate or use medicine. They are known to be extremely resistant to diseases. This was brought about from the fact that when they were in Russia and Northern China the young children that were not strong died like flies while the strong or the ones that lived in cleaner surroundings lived. I am not against Vaccines but the best way to build immunity is to let the system fight the disease. Mercury is used as a preservative and is known to cause SIDS or cradle death. However, Mercury is being replaced by other preservatives but you will still find Mercury in vaccines that have multiple-vaccines in one shot. I personally vaccinate my birds, but I check every vaccine that is given to my children and I always refuse the multiple vaccine in one shot and make them give my kids vaccines one disease at a time. There are many vaccines that are totally not needed for the Human. Remember measles? well kids don't get measles anymore... because they get vaccinated for measles, total hogwash. I had measles and so did every other kid in school and we are stronger for it.

DENNIS MANNING - Oct 7, 2010

I like that Fadiel, I would not mind having something like that here. Not driven by the State but compulsory as part of the sponsoring club's show rules.

DENNIS MANNING - Oct 10, 2010

If you leave your loft un-vaccinated eventually only the strong will survive. no doubt. We all had measles when I was a kid and it did no more than make me weak for a couple days no biggy. Billy White in my neighborhood on the other hand lived the remainder of his short life in an iron lung where he died of polio but some kids were only crippled for life. I got the sugar cube and never had to worry about it..

Alan Hill - Oct 11, 2010

Congratulations Giulio, this has been a very stimulating topic. I have enjoyed reading all the responses by such a diverse group of pigeon folk.

Fadiel Hendricks - Oct 12, 2010

I ditto that Alan.