

Companion-Animal Advocate Launches Crusade Against Over Vaccination

DENVER, Aug. 6, 2002 /PRNewswire/ -- James D. Schwartz, a recognized reformer of the financial planning industry, now is launching a crusade to change the vaccination practices of veterinarians -- and once again is receiving national attention. Schwartz's beloved standard poodle Moolah developed autoimmune disease and died after receiving an annual rabies shot.

"What happened to Moolah need not -- should not -- happen to another dog," says Schwartz. "Unfortunately, it has happened to thousands of dogs and cats knowingly, willingly, systemically at the hands of economically motivated professionals."

Schwartz says, "In my opinion, some vets ignore research about vaccine risks for financial reasons." The former Financial Planner of the Year has researched veterinarian-practice economics, performed financial analyses, and believes many veterinary practices would not be very profitable without the income generated through annual rabies shots and related office visits.

"Evidence is building that annual vaccination of dogs and cats -- performed for diseases such as rabies, distemper and parvovirus -- may not be necessary and could even be harmful," states a Wall Street Journal article, published July 31, 2002. "Vaccines licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture are tested to ensure they protect pets against disease, usually for one year. But the tests don't detect long-term side effects, or measure the duration of a vaccine's effectiveness."

Schwartz is calling upon veterinarians to change their vaccination practices and to provide pet guardians with the opportunity for "informed consent" by briefing guardians about the possible dangers and questionable benefits of annual vaccination shots.

"Vaccine manufacturers' labels warn veterinarians that these medications should only be administered to healthy animals," says Schwartz, a warning that is often ignored.

The now-retired financial planner, who resides near Denver, CO, has established the Next To Kin Foundation to promote education and research into issues such as over-vaccination and the legal standing of -- what he prefers to call -- "companion animals."

On the Next To Kin website (www.next2kin.org), visitors can consider Schwartz's financial analysis; see the official position of the American Veterinary Medical Association on vaccination; find questions to ask their own vet about his or her vaccination practices; and ponder Next To Kin's contention that companion animals have value "beyond mere property" that should be recognized under law.

For further information, contact Next To Kin: 303-850-9166, e-mail: info@next2kin.org, or write: Next To Kin Foundation, 8547 East Arapahoe Rd. J197, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80112-1430.

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