

COVID-19 Vaccination and the Veterinary Lesson

Dear Readers,

I am happy to publish the first journal of the IJVM for 2021. The year 2020 has really been wicked. Still, we can say that with the medical technology acquired over the years, through research, inquiry and investigation, mankind has been put into an advantageous position to overcome this terrible upheaval. With our erudite knowledge of genetics, scientists have been able to develop an efficacious and successful vaccine in a relatively short period time, which has saved and will save so many lives.

Still the devastation has been enormous with over half a million deaths in the USA alone. With all our scientific advancements we were not prepared for the social implications of this disease. This covered spheres such as denial of the severity of the disease, the inability to heed basic hygienic regulations in order to protect each other and those about us and also the vaccination opponents and sceptics who have caused so much damage and even deaths. The anti-vaccination dissemination has been exacerbated by the use of networking by the propagation of anti-vaccination ideas.

Anti-vaccination philosophies has been a growing and threatening tendency over the years which has largely been ignored, resulting in an increase of the risk of disease outbreaks and actually defeating health authorities' approaches to limiting and combatting devastating health issue such as we are experiencing in our time.

A lesson to be learnt for us veterinarians should be that we must be cautious that anti-vaccination philosophies do not spread to adversely affect our profession and our patients.

Peculiarly, the example of the human COVID-19 vaccination success may be a fitting model to convince those pet owners in doubt, that vaccination is strongly advised to protect the health of their pets.

Wishing all our readers good health,

Dr. Trevor (Tuvia) Waner

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