

Press Release

"Pet Vaccine Industry Needs Independent Regulating" Professor Richard Lacey exposes lack of control over pet vaccine manufacturers

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> Professor Richard Lacey, one of the UK's most eminent scientists and the man who exposed the BSE problem to the world, has lent his weight to the Canine Health Census campaign which seeks to protect dogs from unnecessary and harmful vaccine practices.

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> Professor Lacey, who served on the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) between 1986 and 1989, told the CHC that veterinary vaccine manufacturers are totally without proper control. "The Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the VPC are reliant upon data supplied by the manufacturers themselves," reveals Professor Lacey, "but no-one makes them supply that information. It is my belief that serious side-effects are far greater than the number reported. There is no proper monitoring system, no independent check, and there should be."

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> Professor Lacey has confirmed to the CHC that only vaccine manufacturers are able to test vaccines, which means that if there are any problems, no-one except the vaccine manufacturers need know about them. Professor Lacey further confirmed that bovine products are used in vaccine manufacture which, he believes, "could certainly pose a risk of cross-species spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)."

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> Once again, the vaccine industry goes unchecked in this respect. "All pharmaceutical companies providing material for human use have been instructed since 1989 not to use bovine material where BSE is prevalent," he says, "but this isn't a legal requirement, it's only advisory." At the end of last month (July), Schering-Plough Animal Health recalled older stocks of Intrac canine Bordetella bronchiseptica vaccines containing bovine serum. The recall was prompted by unstable bacterial counts in the affected batches.

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> Professor Lacey echoes statements from top US veterinary immunologists that once immunity to a virus exists, it generally exists for the lifetime of an animal. "Vets and kennels are demanding that pets are vaccinated unnecessarily," he says, "and the owners are being fleeced. The veterinary profession and the vaccine manufacturers should be subject to adequate

> external monitoring."

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> Professor Lacey's comments follow the release of the CHC's interim vaccine
> survey findings which show that a high percentage of dogs become ill within
> three months of vaccination. "Vaccines are decimating the dog population,"
> says Catherine O'Driscoll of the CHC. "It is time the veterinary profession
> took notice of the evidence on a medical rather than financial basis.
> Professor Lacey is one of the most eminent scientists in the world - we
> should surely listen to him. We urge dog lovers to inform themselves where
> vaccines are concerned, and think seriously before putting their dogs' lives
> at risk with unnecessary and costly annual vaccinations."

> ends

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