

Updates on the Protect the Pets Movement: A Special Interview With Dr. John Robb

By Dr. Karen Becker

KB: Dr. Karen Becker

JR: Dr. John Robb

KB: Hi, I'm Dr. Karen Becker. Today I have a repeat wonderful veterinarian joining me, Dr. John Robb, who many of you know, who started the Protect the Pets Movement. I've asked Dr. Robb to please come back and give us an update. Welcome, Dr. Robb.

JR: Thank you, Karen.

KB: You've been here before. But I appreciate you coming back. Actually, you and I are doing this interview by popular request.

JR: That's great. It's always a pleasure and an honor to be on your show. I know you have a tremendous reach because of the work that you've done over the years in helping so many pets. I appreciate being able to touch base with those clients as well. You know, the Protect the Pets Movement was started in 2006. It came out of my heart. I call it my calling because it was just based on a lack of morality in veterinary medicine. I just saw what I was taught in school, then I got out and tried to practice, but there were a lot of roadblocks, especially with the veterinary medicine associations and the old boys' school. It was very difficult just trying to do the right thing and seeming to be prosecuted for it.

But out of my heart came a time where I was – I took a break and I said, “You know what? I'm going to take my life savings and I'm going to start a movement called ‘Protect the Pets’ to transform veterinary medicine and bring morals back.” That was in 2006. I knew of you then and you didn't hear of me because it was kind of a slow going at the beginning in terms of basically educating pet owners how to get pet-safe medicine, how to go into a veterinary hospital and look for red flags, how to tell whether they had the best interest of your pet.

Of course even saying that is sacrilegious to vets. “What do you mean? Every vet hospital has the best interest of pets.” But you and I both know that's not always true, okay? Especially in the road of over-vaccination. We were taught in school, “They do no harm. You just shoot them up. Do it every year.” Then you get the vaccine-associated sarcomas and the immune-mediated hemolytic anemias and all kinds of issues, life-threatening sometimes – acute anaphylaxis, with small pets being overdosed.

The movement kind of took on a whole other road when the Mars Company came after me and terminated my Banfield franchise. They terminated all the Banfield franchises. But with mine, they looked at my records, so I lowered the volume in small dogs, even though I had good titers to support the fact that immunity was achieved. They still went after my license. Then I got in front of the State Board. Of course they said, “Hey. You've got to give a full cc or it'll kill your pet.” Well, that was just nonsense, of course.

We've gone on from there to have 26 states up with Protect the Pets Facebook pages, encouraging pet owners to take action steps to change the law. So far we've had legislation in seven different states. Each year, we get a little farther, a little deeper. But we've come up with opposition. That's the challenge, even among people who you think were friendly. Like Dr. Jean Dodds kind of came against it. The Rabies Challenge Fund came against it. That was really surprising when I'm showing up in New Hampshire and all of a sudden the legislator says, "Well, Dr. Dodds contacted us and they don't think titers are the way to go," even though she's been doing titers for 20 years. You'd have to ask her why that was, but it was wrong. I think it had to do with the Rabies Challenge Fund and them trying to change to make it a longer period of time.

But the truth is, this is very simple stuff, Karen. We vaccinate to produce immunity. We can measure that immunity with a simple blood test called the titer. If you stimulate that immune system, that you have circulating antibodies, you can talk to Dr. Ron Schultz. I know you've interviewed him. He cannot give that pet rabies by challenge.

You know, this is all nonsense when they try to break it down into a million studies. It's simple science. It's the same as the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine in people. You want to go work in a hospital if you're a nurse? They're not even going to ask your vaccine register. They're just going to do an MMR titer. If you're good, then you start work, because they know that means immunity. All this time, this science has been out there. But we continue to shoot these pets up year after year, causing all kinds of issues, completely nonsense. When I testified – I've testified in four different states now – they never present science. They always just use fear tactics. "If we do what Dr. Robb said, everybody's going to die of rabies."

But the legislators are catching on to this. They're seeing me with scientific articles, presenting facts. They're seeing the other side use fear tactics. We're about to break through in the state. I'm not even going to mention the state, because I want to keep it under cover because I don't want too much coming against. Because this particular state, Karen, we got through the House clean. They passed it and it's going to go to the Senate in January. If it passes, it'll be the first state, where if you have a titer that does show protection, that they'll get exempt from the rabies vaccine, even without any medical reason. In other words, the titer by itself is reason.

You know, the challenge for me is there are so many people who are in positions of authority, who know the truth, but they got one foot into the truth and one foot into the system that promotes over-vaccination, that promotes the money with the pharmaceutical companies. You and I both know – and I know you've been a real fighter for the pets and a real blessing to them, because you've always talked about the titers and the over-vaccination issues. You've been right on with it.

The challenge really comes down to so many vet hospitals. This is 100,000 to 200,000 of their base right off the bat. They just can't see how they would survive without it. They can't see it. I understand that. That's a big issue. But I've done only titers here and vaccinated puppies and kittens. I'm doing just fine. I'm working hard at my new hospital because it's about medicine. But isn't that what we're supposed to be doing? But there's no easy money. But that's the challenge, you know?

KB: Dr. Robb, I know that this is by state, because each state has different rabies laws. This is a state-by-state issue. For the seven states that you've had some positive forward motion, how did that happen? Because what I'd like to do is to get the other states on board.

JR: Absolutely.

KB: Tell us how you achieved success in the seven states that you have.

JR: Well, basically, there are various ways it happens, but it always starts with people taking action steps, okay? For the most part, it's been pet owners, educated pet owners. There have been some veterinarians. Like in New Hampshire, a veterinarian who used to be a state senator got me involved to help her write the bill and then got it into the New Hampshire legislator there.

But you know, I have a website. It's really dedicated to changing the rabies law. In that website, we have a generic letter that goes over the science. And then we have petitions to have people sign that they want it changed, the law in their state to honor the titer. And then we have flyers to educate other pet owners. We have all these action steps that people are taking. And then we have the state pages where we have administrators. We were getting together more often. With our work schedule, not so much. But we get together and discuss, "What's working in your state?"

Now, sometimes, Karen, it comes down to, "I grew up with so and so, who is now a legislator and she loves pets. I have a personal connection. That'll make it roll." Then you get people who have had severely vaccinated-injured pets, their dead pets who just – It's in their heart. They're not stopping. They've used their own money, like Al Casapulla in Delaware, to put ads in, tell Maggie's story and just using his own personal finances to get the word out.

Most of the time, what they need is they need somebody like me or somebody like you who has credentials after their name, who've studied it, who can then talk to the legislators and say, "Here is the science." Because when a layperson just says, "Titer equals immunity," they don't know. You need some backing. That's where I come in. It's to come in and show the science, to talk personally with these legislators. It's coming basically by action steps from pet owners, writing their legislators, getting other pet owners involved through the Protect the Pets pages, which we have pages for each state and more to come. And then, you know, the good Lord upstairs who opens the door. That's kind of how it is.

What I'd like to see happen from our chat here today would be to get pet owners continue those action steps. My email is readily available, my office number. When it gets to the point where you've got a legislator who's listening, that's where I can come in and say, "Look. This is real. Here's the science," and break it down for them. That's basically it: action steps, who you know. I mean there are town meetings. Everybody, there are town meetings where a legislator breakfast. Show up and say, "Hey. I want to talk about the rabies law. I want to talk about the fact that we should be blood testing to check a titer. We don't need to give them a shot every year."

And then, of course, you and I who've been vaccinated. If we've got circulating antibodies, we're not going to go in and get another shot, because we'll get sick, like Dr. Link Wellborn said, who's head of the Vaccine Taskforce. He said, "I'm not going to do it if I have a protective titer, because

I'll get sick." And then I say to Dr. Wellborn, "Well what about you go back into the exam room and then you shoot up a pet without checking titer." He goes, "It's the law." It's like what Dr. Dodds said, "You have to give 1 cc to the small pets because it's the law, even though I know they don't need it." You see, that's where I differ.

KB: Right.

JR: I took an oath that's greater than the law. You can't pass a law that would make veterinarians injure their patients for no medical reason. And yet, this is going on right now in exam rooms across this country. It's become commonplace. Where are the vets standing up? That's what I want to say, Karen. You're standing up. I'm standing up. But we've got a petition in Arizona to go to veterinarians now and say, "Listen. You've got to stand up. You've got to start practicing your oath. You've got to do things for the right reasons."

We're hitting it from all sides: the vets, the clients, the researchers, but then people like Susan Moore, Dr. Dodds. They have pull. They have to stop with the one-foot-in, one-foot-out, okay? You know, you can't do things for money. You've got to do things for the heart. Money will follow. You know what I'm saying.

KB: I do. I think part of integrative researchers, like Dr. Dodds, their statement is we would have – And I get it. They want a double-blind placebo controlled trial of quarter-dose vaccines to prove that. And then it's fantastic. But that is maybe phase 3 of Protect the Pets. I mean it takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to do testing to prove that a reduced dose is equally as effective. You and I have proved that by underdosing. We know that because we've done our own system of testing. But in order to scale that, to be able to show our professional peers, they're going to want to study. It is incredibly frustrating.

John, how often are you being hit with – People are so confused between wisely vaccinated pets and anti-vaxxers. I have been called an anti-vaxxer. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

JR: Right, right, right.

KB: The second you bring up any question pertaining to vaccines, you're kind of all up into that anti-vaxxer category. That's something that you are plagued with?

JR: We know it's just propaganda. We know that those who come against, they take a little bit of the truth, and then they manipulate it to make it what it's not. We know that's exactly what that is. I might say one sentence. I might make one statement, but I basically ignore them and call it what it is. You know, "You're just manipulating the truth." We're talking about vaccinating appropriately for rabies, distemper and parvo, which are the only vaccines I believe we should do. Vaccinate appropriately means smallest volume to produce a titer and then measure it and never vaccinate again as long as it stays protective. You're right.

But here's the thing. See, I don't agree with this idea of having to do a double-blind study with it. First of all, if the pharmaceutical companies had a heart for the pets, they would have done it before they even started. They would have just said – But here's the thing. You know, there was a good

write-up in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) about six years ago. It basically said, “What we veterinarians in the field have to do in the field is we have to take multiple scientific studies and put them together to get the conclusion, okay?” That’s really how it is. I’ve done that. I have multiple studies.

For instance, there’s a study that shows the titer goes up as the weight goes down, all getting 1 cc. Okay. So there you go. That tells you it’s dose-dependent right there. Titer goes up as the weight goes down if they get 1 cc. And then you have a study out of Sweden where it was rabies titers and they recommended revaccinating the Labrador who weighed 100 pounds, because his titer was lower. Rather than he had a good titer, lower the dose for the smallish pet instead of giving the Lab 2 ccs. You see what I’m saying? That study told us that, okay?

And then you have the challenge studies, the French study 25 years ago, which showed by challenge that if they had circulating antibodies, you couldn’t give them rabies. We know by the challenge studies that it works. We know it’s dose-dependent because of the titers. We put these articles together. And then you talk about adverse events and how often – Well, forget about how often. Let’s just agree they occur. If they occur –

KB: That’s also because that veterinarians don’t report them. Veterinarians, we are all exhausted. We all pee in 12 hours. All of us have seen adverse events that we have not reported, all of us. The number of adverse events are far greater than what’s reported – for flea and tick, for vaccine, for all of the chemicals we’re using in veterinary medicine. Hardly any veterinarians report it, unless the client’s threatening a lawsuit.

JR: Right. You’re absolutely right. That’s another thing that we’ve launched. Patty Coyne out of Arizona again helped get that off the ground. We’ve outlined on the website exactly how you report it, because you don’t trust that your veterinarian’s going to do it. They’re not. In any way, we don’t want to be the bad guys. We gave something. They’re reporting it. We want it to go away. That’s understandable.

You’re right. I didn’t report vaccine reactions for years. But at the same time, I will tell you this. Talk about hemolytic anemia. Just a quick anecdotal story. When Mars was suing me, when they took my hospital away because I lowered my volume, I was allowed to ask interrogatory. The question I asked, “Your 899 hospitals, how many pets die of hemolytic anemia every year compared to my hospital?” It was astronomically different, okay? They had like 3,000 deaths, and I had one. I can tell you right there, hemolytic anemia is real. It’s caused by overdosing and over-vaccination. But these things are kept out of the mainstream. But I know and I’ve seen enough and I get enough reports. These reactions occur.

But like I said, let’s just say they occur, that they occur 1 in 10, 1 in 100 or 1 in 1 million, why put them at risk if you could do a simple blood test and say, “They’re already immune. They don’t need it.” That’s what upsets me a little bit too with Kansas State. Here are the reasons to check a titer: One, if the pet has a condition, you don’t want to revaccinate. See, I don’t get into all that. If the pet’s already immune, you don’t want to revaccinate.

KB: Yeah.

JR: Period.

KB: Exactly. Like, why are we waiting to create vaccine-induced disease to write an exemption, right?

JR: Right.

KB: Proactive wellness means, “Yeah. My pet is fine. I’m not going to put them at risk of additional vaccine.” Yeah.

JR: It’s really simple. They complicate it. That’s what they do. They complicate it. They use medical terms that complicate it. The average person gets lost but it’s really simple. We know we vaccinate to produce antibodies. That’s the response of the immune system. We know the C cells, the B cells. One gets it, record it, and then the B cells produce. If you can measure any, you’ve done it. The immune system is now primed and ready to defend itself against that virus. End of story. Like Dr. Schultz said, we shouldn’t even put a number out. It shouldn’t be 13, 12 or 0.1. It should be any measurable, just as a pregnancy test. You are or you’re not. We’re confusing people with the levels, how long they last. You and I, I don’t know about you, but I’m out 34 years and I’m still good on my titers. Come on now.

KB: Are you tittered? I don’t go for titers every year. I know we’re supposed to, but I don’t know. Do you titer yourself every year?

JR: Not every year. I think I probably titer myself six or seven times. Often at a California Veterinary Medical Foundation (CVMF) event, they’ll have a little tent there where you can go in and get your titer done.

KB: Exactly.

JR: And I’ll pop in and do it. I did it like five years ago. It was the highest it could be.

KB: Exactly.

JR: I’m not even worried about it. But the point is –

KB: That’s the other thing. It’s that for me – I was vaccinated at 13 because I did wildlife rehabilitations. When I was standing in like my second day of orientation at the Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine, it was the day that all the kids got vaccinated. Thank God. For some reason I was at the back of the line and they were like, “Hey. Has anyone here ever been vaccinated before?” I raised my hand and they said, “Step out of line. This is damaging.” I thought, “Isn’t it interesting that they respected my immune system enough to recognize I needed to be tittered for rabies? But we don’t extend that same courtesy to our pets, right?”

JR: That was a lot of years ago.

KB: It was.

JR: Not that you don't look young still.

KB: That's the other thing. That people are now nervous that they're missing their annual rabies titer. Yes, of course, titer annually for rabies. That's fine. But the truth is, protective immunity doesn't wear off for the vast majority of cases. There are instances sometimes where weird things happen, but all in all, most mammals carry protection for life in most instances. That's something that I feel like our profession either doesn't want to recognize or has decided not to recognize, in lieu of the fact that, like you said, this is a foundational moneymaker for the vast majority of the veterinarians.

JR: Let's face it. Vets look the other way. I'm telling you. My last stint at another hospital, which I won't name, I'm not allowed to give the rabies shot because I did the evil thing of lowering the volume for a smaller pet and finding out via titer that it was good. But I'm okay with that. That's a whole other story with Mars. They're really the nemesis now because they're just coming into this whole profession just to make money. They are just trying to take over. They're indoctrinating veterinarians with all kinds of tests they have to run and levels they have to get. We've got to do something about that too.

But the point is, in terms of working at a hospital and watching other vets and see how they dealt with the reactions that they saw – Small dog, two vaccines, goes home, face swells up, they come in and they say, “Well. You know, probably got stung by a bee or could have been this.” You know what I'm saying? And then they're saying, “Well, it could be an infection.” But they always get that cortisone shot in there, because they know what's really going on, but they don't want to say it. This is what's going on out there. If we know these are happening, especially the anaphylaxis when they die, I mean there are so many cases of anaphylaxis where the pet dies. That's very sad. But you know, the vet still, they kind of know what's going on, but they just don't want to admit it. I don't get it.

I mean, it took me a while. Don't get me wrong. I was brought into that system. I had to see it. I had to stop. But the Protect the Pets Movement started because it's a calling. I would say it's a calling from God. I have to say that. People may not like that, but He's set this whole thing up, even with Mars.

I mean I had Art Antin over my house for dinner back in the '80s. They started VCA, Art and Bob. I know Dr. Jack Stephens who started the pet insurance. I know all the players. Mars, I owned a Banfield, so I dealt with them. I kind of know all the players on a personal level, which really gave me the big picture of what's going on in my industry, so that I could drive the change. Nobody could pull the wool over my eyes. When I speak to pet owners in the public, they're getting the truth and they know it.

No matter what they want to do, like you said, in terms of labelling me anti-vaxxer or saying it's – They said, “He lowered the volume so he could double the doses of the rabies to make more money.” They say whatever they want to say. You know what I mean. But the truth is the truth no matter what. It sticks because it's real and the lies always eventually come to the top. We're just going to keep on going. We will breakthrough. We will breakthrough soon in one state, and then it will roll down and everything will change. It is coming.

KB: The fact that you made good legislative inroads in seven states is also no small feat. I mean that is hard. It's hard to change law. It's hard to change regulations. It's hard to shift people. It's hard to reeducate people into a healthier choice.

JR: Yes.

KB: Absolutely, it's hard. It's hard to help veterinarians understand that you can make money being a proactive veterinarian. You don't have to rely on disease and degeneration. People will actually pay you to keep their pets well. That's a shift in mindset. But that's –

JR: Right. Without vaccinating.

KB: Without vaccinating. That's right.

JR: And then animals are always going to get sick. That's where my focus is. You're always going to have a job. Again, it's hard work. These people love them. It's life-and-death situations. We're always on – I don't know about you, but I make diagnoses at 3 in the morning because my mind is still going, because you can never let a case go until you've solved it or you've made them better. But you're absolutely right.

But one of the things I'll take is, yes, "What drives a change? How are we doing this?" In one state, where the Veterinary Medical Association came in with the first year, the state vet came in with all fear tactics, but I was there giving real numbers, handing articles. The second year, a senator who heard me speak and saw the number of pet owners who came in to testify, there were more than 100. They came in one by one and gave their story, okay? Then that senator contacted the Veterinary Medical Association and said, "Lay off." Contacted the state vets and said, "Stay out." The second year, they didn't show up. You see? Sometimes, it's somebody who's got power and who you know. When they start asserting it, that's when things happen.

That's a state where I hope we're going to break through this year. We've got it through the house. We're going to the senate in December or January. If it goes through there, again, it's going to be an exemption. But the exemption will simply say, "If they have a good titer, they don't need the rabies shot. It won't have anything to do with health." Once that titer is recognized for what it is, indicating immunity, then it's going to snowball into, "Hey. We should be doing titers."

I've been writing certificates for a long time now. I write rabies immunity certificates. I make them sign a statement saying, "It's not a lawful document, but it's a true document, and it should be, but you're welcome to use as you will." People have been using it for various things. I write the distemper parvo certificates that helps them at grooming facilities, et cetera. And then I've been doing titers very inexpensively. At first I was doing it below cost. But now, I make a 20-dollar margin. But we've done close to 3,000 of them, okay? Kansas State, a couple of years ago – these aren't the exact numbers, but let's say they did a 1,000 two years ago. Now they're doing 11,000.

The number of vet hospitals that are signing up – Because I don't want to be doing these titers by myself. People go and they say, "Listen. If you sign up with a diagnostic account at Kansas State, your cost will be 27 for distemper, parvo, adeno, and for rabies, 35. And you get a free shipping

label. It's all done online. Sign up and offer reasonable titers." The ones who won't do it are the ones who don't want to do it. Because let's face it, if they start doing titers, Karen, and they start seeing they're immune, they can't walk into the next room and not offer them a titer. That's why they won't do it. But the ones who are doing it are coming in record numbers. Kansas State has had to hire more people.

It's happening. If you and I never talked about this again, I'll call a runaway train. The people know the truth and they're going to go forward. But I'm still in it. You're still in it. I'm going to keep pushing this until we get it done.

KB: Fantastic. I think one of the most important things you mentioned is that you've had to show up multiple years in a row. This is not –

JR: That's right.

KB: You just are keeping at it, slow but consistent, moving towards the goal.

JR: That's right.

KB: I think that that says a lot.

JR: That's the key right there. It's that people say, "It didn't pass." Well, so what? We have the truth. Don't forget, so many people are taking action steps in terms of getting titers and stuff, that pet lives are being saved by the hundreds of thousands from the movement already, especially when it comes to distemper/parvo and getting rid of Lyme and leptospirosis vaccines, which don't work.

We're saving lives while the movement's going on. Certainly, the end result of changing the rabies law will be the ultimate, but we're saving lives while we go forward. You're right. There's no stopping. I don't care if I'm 90 and it hasn't gone through and it's 35 years from now. I'm still knocking on the door and say, "You guys, let's do this." There's no giving up.

People listen. We walk without fear. We're walking in the truth. We don't stop no matter what. If you have that attitude, we win. Period. People need to stand up. They do a titer. Their dog's immune. The city is saying you've got to do this? Sue the city. Get in front of a judge. The judge hears the information. "Why would I have to give my pet an injection that has no medical benefit and could kill him? Tell me. Why? I'm not doing this." Make noise. That's what drives the change, not sitting there and being a victim and saying, "I guess I have to do it." No. You don't have to do it. I wouldn't be in front of you if I just did it, you know what I'm saying? We don't sell out and we don't negotiate. There's no negotiation.

KB: I think that, Dr. Robb, that is probably one of the biggest attributes to the movement that you started. It's that you have empowered pet parents to realize, "I really wish I had a backing but there's no one behind me. I'm going to do this myself."

JR: There you go.

KB: I think that that has been incredibly not just empowering to pet parents, but your entire grass roots movement has been built on pet parents deciding if they don't open their mouths and become a part of this, more pets are just going to die. The great thing is that I think sometimes the pet parents are kind of soliciting their integrative veterinarians, so their holistic vet's saying, "Listen. I'm going to do this. You need to come with me." I think that that's another really important piece. We need to work on staying holistic, that veterinary medical associations will stay integrative, medical associations involved. I think that that's a great collaborative effort.

JR: Yeah. You're right. The vets should really be the driving force behind this movement. Because we know the science and we know the truth. It's a shame that we are not – You and I are, but we're just two. There are others, but really, the holistic vets are the ones that are making the effort. The mainstream vets are just staying behind the scenes. And then you have so many associates who know the truth, but their jobs depends on them doing it.

KB: Yes, of course.

JR: You know what I'm saying? I understand all that. But I was in that position. Believe me, I was terminated. I took a hit. I was in front of the State Board. I could have gone on probation for a year and just said, "Yeah. I did wrong." But I had to put my license on the line. I still have it. Thanks to the good Lord, I still have it. But then people know, "This guy is real. Why would he do this? He's not making any money. What is he doing this for?" Because it's my calling. I thank God that when I die, I'm going to leave a legacy, right? That's what we should be trying to do: Leave a legacy of doing good. In my profession, changing the rabies law is the legacy that I'd like to leave. I mean I'm not done there. I've got a few years left.

KB: That's a really good start.

JR: But it's a good start. I'm really thankful. I hope this encourages pet owners, like you said, to continue to go in and challenge their veterinarians with the science and say, "Look. I won't do that." We hit mainstream. There was a – I forget which journal it was. It's one of the business journals. But a vet wrote a nice article. I published it. It said, "Listen. You guys need to wake up. People want titers, okay? If you don't wake up soon, you're going to lose clients because they're going to go elsewhere." When I saw that in mainstream, I said, "We're getting there. We are on our way here. Thank God."

KB: If you just think about the fact that you've had seven states in just a decade, you're doing actually remarkably well. It may not feel as fast as you would like it to go, but really, you've had noticeable shifts in culture and education laws.

JR: Yes.

KB: You're getting it done one step at a time. I love this update. I also hope that this inspires pet parents to recognize that even if you don't have an integrative veterinarian where you live, it is our job as guardians of the animals that live in our home to make the best immunologic decisions for them.

JR: Yeah.

KB: The vet may not understand why you want this, but that's okay. It's your pets, not their pets. Your job is to make the best decisions for the animals in your care. If you believe that additional vaccines are totally unnecessary and could harm your pet, especially if you have an animal that's aging, any medical condition whatsoever, the worst thing you could actually consider doing is wantonly going in and getting any vaccine. I think when pet parents hear this, it resonates with them because it's commonsense. We don't go in every year for our MMR until the day we die. It's commonsense.

JR: There you go.

KB: Once people start thinking about it, they logically want to ask questions. If your vet can't answer the questions, then by default, I guess you will agree to titer until your vet can answer the questions. Not agree to vaccinate, agree to titer.

JR: Yeah. You're making a good point about some vets are just busy in their practice. They're not really keeping up with this stuff. They really don't know. But that's why if the pet owner can bring in some articles, that they can read, that's helpful. The saddest thing is when people know it's wrong. They go in and tell that, but they push, push, push, then they do the shot and they get sick.

KB: You and I – Probably the biggest heartbreak for me is you and I have dozens and dozens – I will never forget my awesome Akita client who was in Illinois. I got her over GME, granulomatous meningoencephalomyelitis, vaccine-induced GME.

JR: Yes. Absolutely.

KB: We pulled that dog through. I said, "If this dog gets another vaccine, she will die." She said, "I would never do that." She moved from Chicago to Florida. She said, "Listen. I want you to put on the top of my dog's charts: No vaccines ever or my dog will die." They took her dog in the back for a nail trim and came out and said, "Hey. We knew that your dog was behind so we gave it a parvo, distemper, adenovirus, bordetella and a rabies [vaccine]." That dog was dead in 24 hours. It was devastating to me and devastating to the owner. Because sometimes you don't even consent and it's done.

JR: That's very sad. You're right. That's also something I hear quite often, where they took it to the back and came back and said, "I gave it." And then there's a gasp. "I didn't okay for you to do that."

KB: Yes.

JR: Or they go in for a procedure and they look. They give it while they're doing a medical procedure, which is even worse to double load like that. You're right. It's gotten so commonplace. But it's turning around, Karen. I mean, this is a very positive program. We're talking because pet owners are driving the change. We're here to support them in that and know that we're walking in the truth. We'll give them the help that we can. But ultimately, eventually, we'll start to win even in the veterinary community. And then we'll be the heroes. But for now, we're the rebels – I guess you'd say – going up against the industry.

KB: It makes me sad. It is difficult. I'm, by nature, a pacifist. As a human, I'm the least confrontational. I just want everyone to get along. However, I have to stand for what I know to be true in my heart, which means oftentimes I'm going against the grain of what I was taught in veterinary school. But I have to be true to myself, and you were in the same boat.

It is nice when you're able to bump in and support other professionals who have walked to similar paths and that you are doing something that is not traditional, but yet, you know in your heart you're called to do it. We are in the same boat in that situation. It is also refreshing. I think sometimes we're given little breaks and seeing the evolution occur before us as our own soul food to be able to keep going. These conversations are good for us as well.

JR: Absolutely. Like I said, I so appreciate you have me on the air. I so appreciate all the pet owners out there and your pets, of course. That's where it starts. Look them in the eye. "What if it were me? What would I want done to me?" If every vet asked that question and then did what they want done to themselves, they'd stop right in their tracks. You and I both know that. They would never allow for injections into their bodies every year, every three years. They wouldn't do it. That's where the problem lies. This is why you and I are talking. I know that one day, our next video, we'll be celebrating the passing of the rabies law and changing to accept the titers, and then we'll move on to the next fight.

KB: We will. I'm looking forward to our next check. Congratulations on your current seven, soon-to-be-eight, states, John. I look forward to catching up with you in a few years. Our next check-in, let's aim for 25 states.

JR: That sounds good. Thank you, Karen.

KB: In the meantime, good luck.

JR: Thank you so much. God bless you, Karen.

KB: Bye bye.

JR: Bye bye now.

[END]