

Segment re parvovirus and vaccination with the 'Bondi Vet', Chris Brown, recommending non-evidence based annual vaccination

on Channel 10's program the '7PM Project', Thursday 8 July 2010

Link to video: http://7pmproject.com.au/video.htm?vxSiteId=7a6ab1fe-cd90-4143-bf79-ba376a096b2e&vxChannel=7PM%20Catch%20Up&vxClipId=2689_spm-080710-seg3-web&vxBitrate=300&vxTemplate=7PM_Index.swf (Note: video is preceded by an advertisement)

(Transcribed by Elizabeth Hart)

Charles Pickering: You're with the 7pm Project. Now we promised puppies at the beginning of the show. What's the story Chris?

Chris Brown: It's a bit of a serious one actually. Puppies right around the country are currently at risk after an outbreak of a highly contagious and deadly dog virus.

(Voice over video of dogs): Chris Brown: Man's best friend is under attack. In the last two months the Australian Veterinary Association has recorded around 100 reports of the parvovirus, an often fatal disease that commonly strikes young puppies and, in some cases, cats as well. Easily prevented with vaccinations, experts are concerned about the unusual spike that has been recorded both in Sydney and in Perth. So, what we can do to prevent our four-legged friends from going viral?

Chris Brown: And please welcome to the desk Penny (cute puppy) from Animal Aid.

Audience: Aaaahhhh (in response to cute puppy being held by Chris Brown).

Chris Brown: We should stress that Penny does not have parvovirus.

Dave Hughes: I don't care, I want to touch her anyway.

Chris Brown: She is a rescue dog but she does actually currently have a home.

Carrie Bickmore: So how's this outbreak occurred?

Chris Brown: I think, probably the number one reason (passes the cute puppy to Carrie Bickmore), probably the number one reason is complacency. Nowadays we're not hearing so much about these deadly diseases out there, so people aren't vaccinating near as much as they should be, plus there are a lot of puppies coming from, say, puppy farms, or less reputable sources, so it's important I guess to know that your puppy does come vaccinated.

Carrie Bickmore: But how do you know, what are the symptoms?

Chris Brown: First of all what you'll see, usually in young dogs, you'll notice them vomiting, they'll often vomit a sort of frothy vomit...it's not just a one-off vomit, it will keep on happening. Then it progresses to more serious diarrhoea which often has blood in it. Really, if you see vomiting happening repetitively, then get your dog to the vet...don't take the risk.

Dave Hughes: How do we prevent it from happening to little...(cuddles puppy, puppy licks his face)...she might not have parvo, might have something else now.

Chris Brown: We're so lucky, in a way, to have these amazing vaccinations, so...it's so easy to prevent this. So vaccinate your dogs at 6 weeks, then 12 weeks, then 16 weeks, then every year after that. (My emphasis)

Charles Pickering: So what are the costs of these vaccinations though, 'cos some people might not do it because of the economic....

Chris Brown: Yeah... Honestly, you do maths and it does not add up because the vaccinations cost about \$80 each. To treat a puppy that has parvovirus, even if they survive, it's going to be about \$3,000. So just do your maths, work it out and realise this is a little life we're talking about here too, so make sure you get them vaccinated.

Charles Pickering: I'm going to hold the puppy...(panel discusses another story).

(Conclusion)

Dave Hughes: And I say this puppy is the cutest one in the world!

Charles Pickering: It's just about time to go. Would you please thank Penny (puppy) ladies and gentlemen...etc