



“Ginny Speaks”

Advice for Furry & Feathered Friends

Dear Ginny,

What's with all these shots? I get dragged to the vet's more often than I like, placed on a cold table, unspeakably violated, and then get shots. Everyone understands the rabies vaccination but why the others? Is the vet just mean and looking for reason to poke us?

Sincerely,

Poked-too-Much

(a pointer from Pearsall)

Dear Poked: I feel your pain! (*literally*) My dad's a vet and I get it in both ends. But honestly, do you think your human personal assistant would go to all the trouble (*and expense*) if it was not necessary? When I am logged onto the *Doggy and Cat Chat Room*, I read such sad commentary about other less cared-for-pets with diarrhea, vomiting, coughing and sneezing. Some of our brethren here in San Antonio even die from Canine Distemper and Parvovirus. Those that survive these viruses are mainly due to expensive veterinary care their human companions provide. And recently, Canine Influenza has arrived in our town. We can be very thankful that we have the medical tools like vaccines to help prevent these devastating diseases. So when you are making plans for a holiday groom or a short rest at a kennel, be sure to be up-to-date on all your recommended vaccines, so you don't come back with an unpleasant viral gift.

Have a Merry Christmas!

 - Ginny

