

Lessons Learnt from a Pet's Death

This is the story of Kolo, a much loved family pet who died as a result of an incompetent vet's mis-diagnosis and treatment. ARK has received many complaints, about this vet and his son, also a vet with a separate practice. There is no legal way to stop this pair practicing and killing other pets, all we can do is to warn owners not to take their animals to them. If you suspect a vet is giving the wrong treatment, it is wise to get a second opinion. ARK can supply a list of competent vets to anyone that needs help.

Kolo died on July 3rd after weeks of suffering. Even now we cannot mention his name without weeping. We want everyone to be warned by our bitter experience. From the age of twenty days when he first came to us, till the age of 12, he was healthy and lively. We went yearly to a veterinarian called Dr.T nearby to get Kolo's filaria preventive medicine. At that time we assumed he was a good vet but how wrong we were.

May 12th. Kolo had a bit of diarrhoea so Dr.T supplied some binding medicine.

29th. I sprayed a non-toxic fungicide on the garden.

30th. Kolo went into the garden so I washed his legs when he came into the house. Later he vomited so I took him to Dr.T, who diagnosed gastritis and prescribed antibiotics every 8 hours.

June 7th. Kolo was still unwell. I told Dr.T that Kolo might have licked the fungicide. He gave me an antidote medicine for him for 60 days. After Kolo took the medicine his tongue turned white and he seemed very anaemic.

(Dr.T. talked about the AUM religion a lot which worried me a bit.)

9th. I took Kolo again and told Dr.T he was drinking an excessive amount of water. He said he might have diabetes and asked me to bring his urine in the morning for testing.

10th. Took the urine sample. Dr.T.said it was high in albumin. It was clear but a creamy colour. Dr.T. said it wasn't diabetes but kidney trouble.

19th. I continued giving Kolo the antidote but he was getting weaker.

21st. Upto now Dr.T. had not examined Kolo thoroughly, he hadn't even taken his temperature. I asked him to do a blood test as I becoming really worried about Kolo's deteriorating state. He also hated taking the antidote medicine.

22nd. Dr.T. explained the result of the blood test. He said Kolo was seriously anaemic. He probably had barbesia and if so the prognosis was not good. (Barbesia is transmitted by ticks and found in some areas but I was sure there was no barbesia where we lived).

23rd. He recommended Kolo had injections against barbesia. These intra-muscular injections are very painful, despite the pain he never cried. Later Kolo started licking the concrete floor. Dr.T. said that this was caused by. He recommended that if I had some rusty nails I should file them and give the filings to Kolo. I did so with increasing mistrust.

Kolo stopped eating and when my husband came home, Kolo instead of bounding forward to meet him, crawled slowly to him like a crab.

26th. Dr.T. gave him a second injection. Kolo suddenly became unable to stand or walk. I had to carry him in my arms. He didn't eat either.

27th. Dr.T. examined his blood again.

28th. He gave him a third barbesia injection. I asked him why Kolo was suffering from anaemia. He said it was because he licked the fungicide. Also his liver condition was deteriorating. Kolo was now unable to stand. Dr.

just took a urine sample. By evening I was desperate. A friend recommended another vet Dr.B, so I took Kolo there. Dr.B said that Kolo problem was not barbesia but he was certainly anaemic. He gave him injections to counter this. Overnight Kolo seemed better. He began to eat.

For three days he had a course of injections and his anaemia began to disappear. Dr.B however was worried however that his heart beat was abnormal. He told me to bring him back on July 4th.

July 2nd. Kolo was extremely constipated and seemed distressed.

3rd. Kolo died at 8.30.a.m. He had had a fit in the night and seemed to be choking. He suffered horribly.

Kolo was the most precious thing in life for me and I can never forgive or forget.

The shock and anger I felt at Kolo's suffering and untimely death, prompted me to investigate barbesia and its treatment. I contacted veterinary institutes, colleges and individual veterinarians. The conclusion I reached is that Kolo was almost certainly killed by a combination of Dr.T's original mis-diagnosis and subsequent treatment, much of which consisted of using drugs known to have strong side-effect and be potentially lethal. Other vets have told me that the barbesia injection used by Dr.T is now banned because of the many side-effects, which include: liver mal-function, cerebral hemorrhage, fits, epilepsy and nervous system disorders.

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