



## Shock horror: study claims pet jabs *don't* harm dogs

As we've all seen, journalists love a good scare story.

After all, they don't have to pick up the pieces.

But perhaps, in a distrustful world, it's better to take these scare stories seriously. Seriously enough to test them, anyway.

And if ever there was claim that needed testing, it's surely the one from the Canine Health Concern (CHC), that the rate of

illness more than doubles in the 3 months after vaccination.<sup>1</sup>

So now, with the Animal Health Trust's POOCH<sup>2</sup> survey, we at last have some scientifically-valid evidence about the health of dogs after vaccination.

POOCH is an independent, randomised and blinded 4000-dog survey. Its statistical power is more than sufficient to

detect the effects 'hypothesised' by CHC.

The results are intriguing. Not only do they clearly demonstrate the absence of any deleterious health effects associated with recent vaccination - they also show no evidence that regularly-boosted dogs suffer any additional health problems.

In other words, we can all now say we've taken CHC's

claims seriously - and found them seriously wanting.

But the really shocking thing is that anyone believed them in the first place.



**The future of vaccination**

1. O'Driscoll, C. (1999). *What vets don't tell you about vaccines*. Longnor, Derbyshire: Abbeywood Publishing  
2. Edwards, D.S., Henley, W.E., Ely, E.R. and Wood, J.L.N. (2004). *Ill health in dogs: does a temporal association with vaccination exist?* *Proc. Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine* (March 2004), 41-49.