

The 3rd Veterinary Medicine (1st Part)

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A very personal reflection ... and that I would like to share with you as a veterinarian practitioner like you

Introduction

This denomination comes to us from human medicine, it describes a field of activity that is developing more and more and which until then had not and still does not have the place that belongs to it in the care structures.

It is the medicine of the individual prevention and the treatment of the chronic diseases where to take care, the patient must become active and adopt new behaviors.

Here the patient is the animal-owner duo who becomes: the central pivot of the care process.

In contrast, here are the definitions of 1st and 2nd medicine:

- The first medicine is that of acute diseases benign and simple technical gestures.
- The second medicine is that of serious acute diseases (life risk) and complex interventions (high-tech gestures).

In these moments, the owners are there only to welcome the diagnosis, the prognosis, the treatment and the note that they accept to pay, or not in the worst case for us!

It is to this medicine that we have been trained, the one exercised by our elders, the one we adore as the savior of the animals without paying too much attention to the owners, the emergency medicine of which I also adore ... "I am the long-awaited savior, and the god when everything goes well!"

Difficult to let go of this, to say "there is someone at the end of the leash or carrying the transport case" ... difficult to contact the owner saying I'm no longer the great Doctor, the one that we listen, we respect, we believe ... and start listening to what he wants ... while ... I, I am the professional animal and I know their needs in terms of prevention, in terms of chronic diseases ... but, damn it! why they do not do what I tell them ... I know!

That's what I'm fighting against every day, against myself ... "knowing it"!

And finally, I have to make a reason: who brings his animal to the clinic? who administers the prescription? who cares? who watches for the signs of aggravation in a chronic pathology? ... well, it is he, the owner, our client!

Respect! It's not easy for him, especially without the medical knowledge ... and if I helped him?

This is perhaps my new job in these diseases increasingly present (in humans 20% of the population and even more at home with genetic diseases linked to breeding selection).

Yes, the 3rd medicine is common sense! Give the owner-animal duo in the center of our clinic: give him the keys to take care of his companion is legitimate, right?

Ask him what he wants to do? ...

How he wants or can do it? ...

What he needs and ... how can we accompany him by his side and beside his animal?

The 3rd medicine brings together notions that we have just seen: a course of care (health plan) built with the owner; a strong therapeutic alliance, a true therapeutic education giving the autonomy and the necessary competence, with a programmed follow-up.

It assumes, as you have just understood, different postures for you, as for him in mirror of yours, a more open communication of collection and reception of the expectations and needs of the owner and his animal, an empathy for understand his difficulties and accompany him to overcome them.

We are called upon to “coach” the owner in the management of the social and medical dimension of his relationship with his pet, because we are and we will remain the recognized professional in animal health.

Let’s be a sick animal specialist rather than a disease specialist!

It is not a question of being perfect in the follow-up of a chronic disease, one can try the “little”, the “small step”.

It’s up to the treatment to adapt to the owner-animal duo and not the other way around.

It is a cultural revolution that is being prepared in the new medical world to which we must prepare so that our activity is no longer dependent on a medicine of acute diseases which we do not know if they will arrive ... while we know for a fact that chronic diseases will happen, and we can do everything possible to detect them as soon as possible through targeted screening.

Let’s partner with the pet’s health of the owner who trusts us in this determined new setting with him.

I’m looking forward to seeing your comments ... to write you more ... on “how to do? if you wish it...”

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