

Talk to the Paw - From the Editor

I tend to think of myself as a pretty easy-going, down-to-earth person – and I hope most of the people who know me would agree. However, the one thing that really touches a nerve is an accusation or insinuation that I'm not taking the best possible care of my animals.

I realized this about myself the other day at the stable where I keep my horse. A fellow boarder was apparently eavesdropping during my horse's exam at a recent shot clinic. The following day she immediately began incessantly questioning me about the choices I made regarding my horse's care.

I felt like she was accusing me of not doing the best for my horse. What I was doing, in fact, was simply following the vet's recommendations.

At first, I found myself getting more and more furious as she continued to barrage me with the same questions over and over again. Then I broke down into tears. I would do just about anything I could for my animals, and I do. I was devastated that someone might think I was doing wrong by my animals.

This situation got me thinking about how to approach people who may be caring for their animals in a way in which we might not agree. An animal guardian has a lot of choices to make today, and there's a lot of conflicting information out there.

At what point should we step in and say something? And how should it be said?



From my perspective, I still believe that I made the right decision. From her perspective, this may not be the case. However, if instead of rushing at me with accusatory questions, she came to me armed with information: statistics, articles, anecdotal stories, suggestions, etc., I would have welcomed her input.

I certainly don't have all of the answers ... not even close. That's a large part of why I started Desert Dog News. I wanted to create a forum where ideas and information can be exchanged. Tucson is an incredibly animal-friendly city; there are so many kind-hearted organizations saving animals, tons of awesome pet-friendly events, countless businesses created specifically for the animals, and scores of superb services. Desert Dog News aims to bring that all together in such a way that Tucson's pet guardians can be informed as well as entertained as they continue to provide the best possible care for their animals.

-Gretel Hakanson

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Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008
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- Entertainment for the whole family—bring your pets, too!
- Exciting demos & shows
- Tons of pet products & services
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- Food & Beer Garden
- Live Music
- Low-cost Vaccination Clinic
- Spay and neuter & microchip info available
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