

Pets Portrait



Poppy

Pets portrait

- Whoopee, clean sheets day... nothing nicer

Lost dog



This sweet young dog needs a home

Lovely Luna

This lovely young dog was found wandering on New Year's Day.

She was given the name Luna and is now at K9 along with many other sad and rejected animals waiting for a new home. The lady who found her says she has a very sweet nature and at only 6-9 months old she has a lot of love to give to some lucky family.

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922
750
609

PETS AND VETS

Those of us who love our pets would do anything for them, and when they are ill will go to any lengths to make them feel better and stay healthy.

However we don't want to feel that we are being overcharged for the privilege. For our pets a visit to the vet when she or he is suffering is a stressful time for both. You want to be reassured that your pet will receive the best possible care and attention and medicines needed to make them better. However do take care when your vet is apparently insisting on the purchase of certain foods for your animal in the cause of their health.

A recent case in point was one reader who feels that she was (and is) at the mercy of the prescription diet manufacturers, via her vets. And given that most vets stock only a very few product names (aka doctors and certain drug companies), it is assumed by many pet owners that there must be commission involved. This reader's dog was suffering kidney stones, and after initial analysis and a treatment of antibiotics was given a fairly expensive dry food. Her dog, she was told, would have to stick to this food exclusively for at least three months. She calculated the cost to be €1.75 a day. Not cheap, but worth it for her dog's health. Three days later the clinic

Care but beware

called and now said her dog needed, in fact, to switch to a canned product, by the same company, that would cost in the region of €4.50 a day, again for a minimum of three months. Taken aback she went on line, and certainly the English language website of the dog food manufacturers in question

gave her little joy as both products promised the same thing – limiting the formation of the painful problem stones. She rang the clinic to ask them to explain the difference. They read out the label in Spanish on the

more expensive product, which did promise to do a lot more to assist her dog, in other words worked to eliminate them. However, on further discussion the clinic agreed that a three month minimum was a long time, and a compromise was reached, whereby the more expensive product would be fed to her much-loved dog for a month, and an analysis carried out to see if the product was doing or in fact had done 'what is said on the can'.



It's a small difference but an important one. Our reader almost didn't complain as she didn't want the vet to think she didn't care for

her pet, or wasn't willing to spend money on making him better – but isn't that the very kind of psychological catch-22 the producers would love to exploit? The lesson, care for your pet, do all you have to do to make them live healthy long lives, but do ask all the questions you wish to ask before you hand over money for products that are 'recommended' by someone who should be an independent pet care provider.

We would love to hear from a vet on whether, in fact, they are paid to stock certain products only, and if there is a commission involved.

Kg VOLUNTEER VETS

A thankless task?

Do you ever stop and think how those excellent charity and animal refuges get by with what are generally meagre resources, all of which go towards the care and well being of the animals in their care? With a lot of volunteer help.

There is a core of dedicated people who give time and love to these animals, some of whom we see out on the street collecting donations, or at the kennels themselves looking after the animals. But there are others too who give of their time and skills who

rarely get thanked, and one very important group of people are the qualified vets who help out. K9 have asked us to pass on their huge gratitude to those vets in Tenerife who work with them throughout the year. As Pat the Cat told us, "Victor and his staff at Alcalá (922 865505, 24 hours and 616366982), Pedro, César and Rafael at Hospivet Sur in Las Chafiras (922 736927) and Fernando in Los Olivos, Adeje (922 780088 and 667802873)

go out of their way to help us and we would thoroughly recommend them to members of the public looking for medical help for their pets".

Thanks and well done to all of them.

Many of the islands' vets work on behalf of the animal refuges



Pat adds that K9 are already beginning to work on Easter fundraisers, and will have Easter Baskets to raffle – anyone wishing to help/raffle a basket contact her on 608121081.