

# JOEY'S LEGACY



A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to advocating for your companion animals

## ABOUT US

**Joey's Legacy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is advocacy for your companion animals.**



We've assembled some of the brightest minds in veterinary medicine, grief counseling and animal law to assist those that come to us with claims of veterinary negligence.

We founded Joey's Legacy after our beloved 12-year-old dachshund, Joey, was victim to veterinary negligence in Florida and died in 2017. Heartbroken, we sought legal action with the Board of Veterinarian Medicine, but unfortunately lost.

To prevent this from happening to other families by advocating for companion animals and holding practitioners accountable, we work with:

- Top Veterinary Experts
- Top Legal Experts
- Grief and Trauma Counselors



## INSIDE SCOOP

If you'd like to learn more about our mission, check out our podcasts featured on our website. We aim to educate, uplift, and tell the stories of companion animal loved ones who unfortunately fall victim to veterinary malpractice.

We're excited to be in the process of scheduling podcasts for the rest of this year. Please check back soon for details!

In the meantime, to catch up on previous episodes, visit our website, [joeylegacy.org/podcasts](https://joeylegacy.org/podcasts).

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Anna Morrison-Ricordati, Esq. practices civil litigation, business law, and animal law in Chicago, Illinois. Handling all aspects of dispute resolution, Anna has represented

individual and business clients in mediations, arbitrations, jury and bench trials, equitable remedies, and appeals. She is a past Chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's Animal Law Section Council (2010-2011), Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Animal Law Committee (2012-2013), Chair of the DuPage County Bar Association's Animal Law Section (2013-2014), past President of the North Suburban Bar Association (2014-2015), and has served as a CLE speaker on emerging legal topics for many organizations, including The Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association and Louisiana State Bar Association.

Anna has also guest lectured at The John Marshall Law School in animal law and civil practice courses.

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION

Public charities, such as ours, rely on the generosity of donations to fund our important work.

Please consider supporting our mission with a quarterly donation of \$10 to fund our future animal advocacy efforts. Your gift will allow our team to continue to assist loved ones affected by veterinary negligence with animal law and grief counseling. Join the cause and save a life!

**To donate, please visit [joeylegacy.org/donate](https://joeylegacy.org/donate).**

## VICTIMS' CORNER



### DO NOT USE THIS MEDICINE!!!

Blayz (and Banner) have taken Nexguard and Heartgard for years. Never having any issue. Yesterday our vet told me they had a new medicine that had all the same things combined. (Same class of drugs different actual drugs). Blayz had his 1 tablet - and 5 hours later was puking and had his first seizure.

After being extremely lethargic and stumbling around - he laid on the couch (with people trading out to snuggle him of course) for several hours.

People came over to our house - Blayz didn't even get up when they came in (if you know Blayz, you know he's our "guard dog" you can't even pull in the driveway without him sounding the alarm!).

At 4:30 this morning I was woken up - Blayz was having another seizure! We got him through it - comforted him and monitored very closely until we could reach our vet.

After a day of IV fluids, he is back to himself. Seizure free for the day and balance appears to be back on track. I went to pick him up- and found ANOTHER lady was in there with her golden retriever - who had just had the same exact thing happen!

It's also out there that apparently it's not so "uncommon", these dogs have never had seizures or neurological issues before, and Nexguard which has similar components never caused a seizure for our boys.

Do your own research. Trust your gut instinct. And speak up when something isn't right.

The company immediately told the vet they would be paying for all of our bills and reimbursing us for our purchase of the drug. But people need to know this is happening.

**UPDATE:** Unfortunately, the seizures did not end up stopping like we thought they had. And on day thirty after this medication was given - we had to let Blayz go to the rainbow bridge. Today we got the call from our vet that Zoetis is paying for every bill inquired for Blayz as his death was 100% linked to the medicine. We shared all his records with them in hopes that it helps save other animals. They also HAVE to report this to the FDA as a death linked to the med. Hug your fur babies extra tight - and do something cool for animals to carry on Blayz.

## FROM THE FOUNDER



### VET BOARDS: THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

Vet boards are "majority rule". The only reason to have a majority of vets

on a vet board is to guarantee a biased outcome in favor of the bad actor. Does a board really need multiple veterinarians on it to make it appear legitimate? The appearance of propriety and formality mask the reality...

It's all a big smokescreen, so let's make sure we get the word out about these imposters.

The consumer advocates on a vet board almost never have a diverse point of view. They are wolves in sheep's clothing. They feign concern for the victim, and usually vote along with the biased veterinarians.

When new victims call me I let them know that, while I always recommend filing a complaint with the vet board, there is only a small chance of success in seeing justice served. I do not want them to be disillusioned going in. Some feel their case is so egregious that the vet board must rule in their favor. I always wish them well but know better.

## CONTACT US

If you need assistance with potential veterinary negligence or malpractice, please send an email to [info@joeylegacy.org](mailto:info@joeylegacy.org) or give us a call at 803-520-7566. We are available 7 days a week.

## EMMA'S CORNER

Lets discuss kibble. After all, what our companion animals eat is the foundation of their overall health and longevity, just like our own bodies right?. However, when did society decide to believe that dry hard balls were better than fresh real meat for our companion animals? It started as being all about convenience, sort of like our fast-food drive throughs ( watch the documentary Pet Fooled). We do not live and thrive on processed foods, so why is it common practice for us all to be told dogs will thrive on it every day for life?. We see the marketing that wants us to believe its the very best choice for our dogs, even cats. The reality is a different story.



Why is Hills and Purina suddenly the two foods pushed by vets when they have been rated poorly ( check out the site The Truth about Pet Food). Its because they own a part of the vet schools, funding continuing education programs. So, guess what vets are being taught to believe? Look at the ingredients, look each one up, know what they are and how they're sourced. Then ask yourself is this really healthy?

Kibble IS processed food. Its high in sugars that feed inflammation and disease, and in addition to poor overall ingredients, there are many forms of toxins introduced into bodies by this processed diet. These toxins include: aflatoxins, heterocyclic amines, acrylamides, and most recently discovered in dry, cooked pet foods, PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers) a chemical used as a flame retardant. Kibble is heated high, so any good nutrient factors put in, are killed off in the heating process. Besides being full of fillers it's also full of synthetics, the added vitamins and minerals that have to be added back in to meet AAFCO standards for approval after heating. Synthetics are very tough on the body, and along with the above, feed inflammation and disease. The reason is the body doesn't recognize synthetics as viable nutrients. In time it does damage to the body as it tries to metabolize these fake nutrients. Prescription kibble is not any different and if you read the bag not one ingredient warrants a prescription. None of it offers anything to build good gut flora, which will allow the immune system to work properly.

The above puts stress on the body and eventually we see the break down. Its no surprise really, how much can their bodies handle when they are exposed to a poor diet/chemicals every single day of their life?. We see ear infections, UTI'S, allergies, autoimmune disease, and cancers. Dogs are also experiencing leaky gut, which is simply gut inflammation. This is when the cells lining the gut become irritated. While they normally align themselves nice and tight, inflammation makes the gut lining more permeable allowing toxins, allergens, bacteria and yeast in the gut to leak into the blood. ( we will speak further about leaky gut at another time)

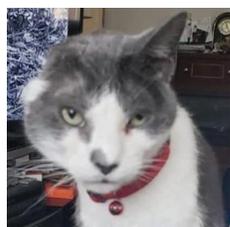
Kibble is such a popular factor for society, not many connect the dots that sickness and kibble can be directly related. So many dogs have weak immune systems, and the extremely high increase in sick animals is a sure red flag something isn't right. Diet is the first step in achieving overall real health, just as it is in our own bodies.

Emma's Corner is an extension of the Facebook group, Bringing awareness to the link between [Apoquel and cancer in dogs](#), which was started by me in an effort to warn others about this immunosuppressant drug, and ultimately show members a better path for the TRUE overall health of their companion animals. [Emma's Corner](#) was born for this newsletter to assist in educating Joey's Legacy pet parents as well.

Until next time,

Jenny

*\*The statements made in Emma's corner do not replace veterinary care.  
My advice, if it is not an emergency, always seek a natural minded veterinarian.*



### IN LOVING MEMORY OF Zachary Giddens

08/29/09 - 4/10/21

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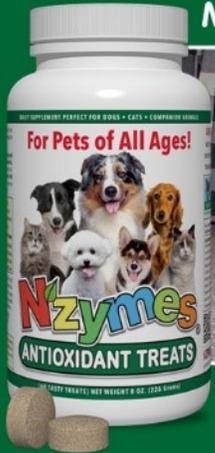
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