

Natural Healing Express Weekly

Column Volume 103 Trusting Intuition

This week we'll chat about intuition. It's often referred to as "women's intuition", or that sense of knowing when something doesn't seem right. Intuition seems to kick in at the critical time, albeit sometimes against all logic. In fairness, I believe men are equipped with this sixth sense as well, but quite possibly just aren't as willing to honor it and act upon it as their female counterparts. When's the last time you heard a man say, "Well, I guess it's just my intuition"? They are more apt to describe it as a "gut feeling".

This week, one of my Shibas (The Shiba Inu is the smallest member of Akita family) had been running a fever and taking antibiotics. At the time, she had not been spayed, more out of terrible timing with her heat cycle and our schedule than anything. She had recently finished a heat cycle and was crankier than usual, so off to the Vet we went. What was diagnosed by our local vet (who, for the most part has been great) as a urinary tract infection, seemed to be hanging on and even getting worse.

My Bella Lena is not one to shy away from being a bit of a diva and as anyone with Shiba experience will assure you, being the center of attention is as instinctive to them as wagging their tail. However, independence is paramount, so when Bella began to get "needy" and somewhat sullen, I became quite suspicious. After another call to the Vet, and even more antibiotics, I decided to get a second opinion. An appointment to another local Vet was scheduled for 7:30am the next morning, which was as soon as we could get in.

This is where things get interesting. I can obviously tell my dog isn't acting like herself, but after being re-assured by two experts, I am told she is fine and to relax. My intuition was telling me quite the opposite. As the night progressed, Bella seemed to be going downhill and acting worse as time drug on. I was no longer willing to sit by and watch.

There were no obvious symptoms, just a hot nose and glassy eyes. But, Bella, was, well, NOT Bella. My "gut feeling" was to call an expert and I didn't care what time it was. So at 1:00am, I located and called the Emergency Vet in Rockford. The technician, Deb, answered the phone and asked several questions. In less than two minutes, she said, "get your dog on the way to us right now, I believe she has Pyometra, a potentially fatal disease."

In a New York minute, Bella and I were cruising to Rockford which is approximately 50 minutes away. Upon arrival, we were greeted by a friendly staff and Bella was immediately taken for an ultrasound. Shortly thereafter, the diagnosis was correct. Bella had acute Pyometra, which is akin to appendicitis in humans, except in Non Spay Canine Females. And, where it affects them is the uterus and the ovaries.

This disgusting mass called Pyometra, which in Latin literally means pus uterus, needed to come out. Surgery is the only option for a closed Pyometra.

I learned that night, or shall we say morning, that the Vets have a saying, "never let the sun rise or set on a closed Pyometra" which means once you know about it, take it the heck out.

In Rockford at 2:30am with Bella now on pain meds, the wonderful Dr. Morten and I discussed whether Bella could make it back to our regular vet for surgery at 7:30am. See, the Emergency Vet is just that—An Emergency Vet. They work from Midnight to 8:00am because after that, you can see your own vet. Our conundrum? Even if Bella had the surgery there, she would still need to be transported back to God's country for recovery by 7:30am.

Dr. Morten was exceptional and she was extremely patient in answering all my questions, especially the timing issue regarding Bella's surgery. She said her intuition was telling her to begin surgery immediately, but she wanted me to concur. After about 5 minutes to consider all the options, my intuition led me to trust Dr. Morten and her staff. Further, if the Bella's swollen organs continued to enlarge and rupture her life was at risk.

The next issue was the cost of the surgery. When I received the estimate for the emergency surgery, I almost needed my own. I had another decision to make, and another 3 minutes to make it. My intuition was strong that Bella needed the surgery then, not hours later. Her health and well-being weighed more in the balance than my house payment of equal amount. This is what is best for Bella.

I gave my sweet dog a big kiss and took up residency on the waiting room love seat, wrapped in a dog blanket and blind hope. I said a lot of prayers and thanked God for the set of circumstances and synchronicity that let us to Dr. Morten and her staff in a timely manner. I was left to wait and trust.

After about an hour, the assistant technician, Brittany, a bright and bubbly young blonde, appeared to tell me that everything had been removed, Bella was stable and nothing ruptured. She then asked if I was squeamish. At 5:00am with no sleep and huge adrenaline rush I, of course, said no.

Brittany then showed me what had caused all the ruckus in the first place, a gigantic mass that came from Bella's abdomen was then displayed in a lovely blue bucket. Ok, so I lied about not being squeamish. I am not sure my appetite has returned to normal even today. This pus-filled sausage-like former organ was 4% of Bella's body weight and ready to rupture.

It was highly unlikely Bella would have made it through the night. And, if she hadn't been with such a talented surgeon, it could have ruptured. All the gut feelings were now making sense and my dog would live thanks to the "sixth sense" of all involved. Listening to, and acting upon, Intuition definitely paid off in this case.

Soon after, Bella was released from Emergency and I transferred her back to our local vet for an all-day monitored recovery. She was released at 4pm to home care with a lovely glamour cone. As of this writing, Bella is doing quite nicely.

So, the moral to this story is learn about Pyometra if you have non spayed female dogs. And, always, always, always trust your intuition.

Enjoy! Hope to see you soon and as always, please contact us via one of the following methods. Natural Healing Express: Phone 815 990 8732, email: skscham@aol.com 204 W Main St, Lena, IL 61048.

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