

## **RMB Newsletter Vol 2:4 Keeping The Veterinary Record Straight December 2002**

Dear Reader,

How was Christmas? Good I trust. And I hope you are looking forward to the New Year too.

Several RMB developments have come to a rapid conclusion in the run up to Christmas. One development deserves an early place on the public record, hence this last RMB Newsletter of 2002.

The British Veterinary Association publishes a weekly journal, The Veterinary Record, for its more than ten thousand members. Editor, Martin Alder, ignored letters asking him to consider Raw Meaty Bones for a review in The Veterinary Record. But in March 2002 I was able to contact him and he suggested that a copy of the book be sent to him for consideration.

Nine months later, after unanswered letters and unresolved telephone calls, Mr Alder has settled on the excuse for NOT reviewing the book. Over the nine months we have heard several excuses -- no time to look at it, cant find anyone to review the book, more important things to do and the final choice not enough room in the journal.

There are many reasons why the book SHOULD be reviewed in The Veterinary Record. First, it represents a (somewhat underhand) opportunity for critics of the book to have their say. Mr Alder pointed out that British law takes a more relaxed attitude to defamatory material published in a book review on the grounds that the books author invited it.

Second there are many positive reasons for reviewing the book (See Reviews and Veterinarians Say at [www.rawmeatybones.com](http://www.rawmeatybones.com)) Perhaps Dr Douglas Bryden sums it up with his recommendation every graduate and undergraduate veterinarian should read the book.

The legitimacy of any institution or profession depends on its contribution to society. Veterinary institutions must meet a hierarchy of criteria. Decisions and actions should:

- i) meet the needs of animals
- ii) meet the needs of animal owners
- iii) meet the needs of veterinarians
- iv) meet the needs of the institution, in this case The British Veterinary Association.

It seems that Mr Alders decision fails on all four counts. History will

judge if this apparent failure is an unfortunate mistake or whether it constitutes part of an ongoing attempt by the veterinary authorities to silence criticism and ban discussion of essential information.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the body responsible for regulating British vets, has been kept informed and thus far has failed to act. But action will surely come against those who would ban discussion of essential information. Whether in a court room or commission of enquiry I rather doubt Mr Alders reasoning and defence of his employer, the British Veterinary Association, will withstand scrutiny. Criterion iv) above, under such circumstances, will be shown to fail abysmally.

Correspondence below helps to keep the British veterinary record straight.

The book review situation in the Australian veterinary journals is similarly bad and should be placed on the veterinary record. Im hoping space will allow for a fuller description in forthcoming issues of the RMB Newsletter.

Wishing you a splendid New Year,

Best wishes,

Tom Lonsdale and the Raw Meaty Bones crew

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Date: Thu, 26 Dec 2002 11:45:39 -0500

To: Martin Alder <alder@bva-edit.co.uk>

From: Tom Lonsdale <tom@rawmeatybones.com>

Subject: Keeping The Veterinary Record Straight

Cc: AB, Alison Tyler, Bill Miller, Breck, Irene work, Jane@rcvs.org.uk, registrar@rcvs.org.uk, bvahq@bva.co.uk

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your formal confirmation of your refusal to review Raw Meaty Bones in your weekly publication The Veterinary Record, journal of the British Veterinary Association.

Dr Tom Hungerford OBE, grandfather of the Australian veterinary profession, urged me:

"Tell the people who won't review their views that: "The foolish and the dead never change their opinions." Maybe that is an overstatement - as the "brain-dead" may also refuse to revise. (Full text at: [www.rawmeatybones.com](http://www.rawmeatybones.com) )

In the interests of British pets, pet owners and veterinarians I urge you

and the British Veterinary Association to revise your decision.

We must endeavour to keep faith with the community and keep the veterinary record straight. Accordingly, I shall post this letter and the correspondence below on the Internet.

Wishing you compliments of the Season,

Tom Lonsdale

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15 July 2002

Mr Martin Alder  
Editor  
The Veterinary Record  
7 Mansfield Street  
London W1G 9NQ  
UK

Dear Mr Alder,

Review of Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health

Further to previous correspondence on this issue I telephoned you today. You stated that you were busy and unable to discuss the matter since you were preparing to go away for two weeks. I said that I would therefore write to you.

You did say that: I was interested to see your line in The Sunday Times article the same line that you have taken in the book.'

On 28 June we discussed the issues at length. On that occasion you said: If we give you a good review youll use it; if we give you a bad review youll use it; I dont like being used.'

On 28 June you indicated that you would discuss the proposed review of the book with others at the British Veterinary Association.

It appears that rather than meet moral and ethical obligations to the membership and the wider community The Veterinary Record and the British Veterinary Association are pursuing other agendas.

Please advise at the earliest if you will or will not review Raw Meaty Bones within the pages of The Veterinary Record. Please indicate the time frame for such a review or alternatively return the book and accompanying video.

Failure to resolve this issue, in my opinion, renders a considerable disservice to veterinary surgeons, pet owners and the wider community.

Please give this matter top priority.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Lonsdale

Cc. Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

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Date: Sun, 08 Dec 2002 14:27:31 -0500  
To: alder@bva-edit.co.uk  
From: Tom Lonsdale <tom@rawmeatybones.com>  
Subject: The Historical Record  
Cc: AB, Alison Tyler, Bill Miller, Breck, Irene work, Jane Hern,  
press@bva.co.uk, bvahq@bva.co.uk  
Bcc: Filing systemRCVS+Vet Rec,Filing systemHall of shame

Dear Martin,

Please find attached copies of letters which remain unanswered.

Alison Tyler, my US Agent, informs me that on each occasion she has telephoned you that you have been evasive as to whether or not The Veterinary Record intends to publish a review of Raw Meaty Bones.

Your refusal to respond to the simplest questions has already secured you a place in the historical record.

The British Veterinary Association has an unenviable reputation as a promoter and supporter of artificial pet foods.

Raw Meaty Bones details the scandal where veterinarians promote and sell artificial pet foods and thus collude in the mass poisoning of domestic pets.

Unless British veterinary surgeons can be adequately informed they are destined to continue their cruel and inhumane conduct.

Now through The Veterinary Record the BVA refuses to publish a review of Raw Meaty Bones, which Dr Douglas Bryden AM said should be read by 'every graduate and undergraduate veterinarian'.

Please advise the names of the board of the BVA so that they may take their rightful place in the historical record.

Meanwhile it is incumbent on me to ensure that the contemporary record is maintained. Accordingly I may publish your responses, or lack of responses, and those of other officers of the BVA, on the Internet and other places as required.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Lonsdale

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X-From\_: alder@bva-edit.co.uk Mon Dec 23 22:00:11 2002  
Delivered-To: lonsdale@summit.net.au  
User-Agent: Microsoft-Outlook-Express-Macintosh-Edition/5.02.2022  
Date: Mon, 23 Dec 2002 11:15:03 +0000  
Subject: Veterinary Record  
From: Martin Alder <alder@bva-edit.co.uk>  
To: <tom@rawmeatybones.com>

Dear Tom,

You and your agents have been pressing us to let you know whether we will be accepting your invitation review your book 'Raw meaty bones'. As I have tried to explain, other priorities mean that room for book reviews is limited, and we cannot review all the books we receive. This is to let you know that we will not be reviewing the book in The Veterinary Record, although we will be listing it as a 'Book Received'. As I have made clear to you and your agents, this is an editorial matter and not one in which the BVA has been involved.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Alder

Editor  
The Veterinary Record

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We welcome copies of correspondence/emails/faxes for possible inclusion in future RMB Newsletters.

Please circulate, distribute or reproduce this newsletter as you wish.

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The Raw Meaty Bones Newsletter is published by:

Tom Lonsdale  
Rivetco P/L  
PO Box 6096  
Windsor Delivery Centre  
NSW 2756

Australia

Phone: +61 2 4574 0537

Fax: +61 2 4574 0538

Email: [rivetco@rawmeatybones.com](mailto:rivetco@rawmeatybones.com)

Web: <http://www.rawmeatybones.com>

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