Dear [redacted]

Further to your meeting with Professor Read and our subsequent email correspondence, I am writing to keep you informed about the progress of the curriculum changes to the coursework programs. We have proposed a new structure for the Murdoch University Graduate Certificate and Masters degrees in Small Animal Practice that fits into the latest academic framework required by the Australian Government. We share some of your concerns about the relevancy of the Masters program for veterinarians practicing in SE Asia and will no longer emphasise this as the ultimate goal to that particular audience, although we would always encourage excellent students to pursue this if they wish to. Instead we have learned from our past experience in this area and propose a really practical and relevant learning experience (Graduate Certificate) for these veterinarians, preceded by a hands-on workshop. I will let you know the outcome as soon as it has passed due process within the university here.

In the meantime I hoped we might explore ways to move forward together in 2014? We have identified a few specific areas for your consideration:

- Hills to provide financial support for targeted individual veterinarians (or groups of veterinarians from a specific practice) to attend our offshore workshops (Advanced Veterinary Clinical Skills). These workshops will remain as a pre-requisite for enrolment into the Graduate Certificate course but veterinarians may attend without any obligation to continue into academic studies.
- Hills to provide scholarships for certain veterinarians to enrol in and complete the Graduate Certificate training.
- Hills to provide financial support for certain veterinarians to complete single units from the Certificate program (this option will be offered through our CVE office and will not require the veterinarian to enrol into a course).
- Finally, Murdoch University offers a Webinar series in a variety of clinical disciplines suitable for veterinarians in Small Animal Practice. These have been very successful within Australia and have recently been offered in Singapore and Hong Kong. We currently receive support for these from Hills Australia, but they would be suitable for a wider Asian audience and we could consider developing Webinar Topics by request.

You can see that these proposals focus more on the practitioner than on Murdoch per se, yet would strengthen the collaboration between our two organisations. Clearly we would need to work through the details but I hope that these suggestions are of interest to you.

Kind regards

Peter Irwin