Also, Carin Smith noted that simply getting a business license and the appropriate insurance does not "make" someone into a relief veterinarian. The four-page brief submitted to the Washington state government is available from the Washington State V.M.A. For more information, contact the Washington State V.M.A. ([425] 454-8381), Brenda Westfall (Washington Employment Security [360] 902-9373), Doug Matthers (Washington Labor & Industries [360] 902-4750), or Carin Smith D.V.M. at Smith Veterinary Consulting (509) 763-2052.

BOOK REVIEW - *RAW MEATY BONES: PROMOTE HEALTH*
Michelle Winn, J.D.

As most readers will assume from the title, *Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health* (Windsor Delivery Centre, N.S.W., Australia: Rivetco P/L, 2001), by Dr. Tom Lonsdale, is an explanation of the raw meat and bone diet that Dr. Lonsdale advocates for the periodontal and overall health of cats and dogs. Trained in Britain, Dr. Lonsdale is an Australian veterinarian who believes that the worldwide pet food industry and the veterinary community are harming our pets by encouraging the feeding of processed, unnatural foods. This book presents his view of the ideal meal plan for our "domesticated carnivores"--a simple diet of raw meat and bones with a few table scraps.

The *Raw Meaty Bones* diet is one variation of the many "raw diets" that are a new trend among pet owners looking for more nutritious alternatives to the processed commercial pet foods sold in bags and cans worldwide. Although some natural diets encourage feeding cooked meat and fresh fruits and vegetables, in his book, Dr. Lonsdale tries to convince the reader that the best diet is actually raw meat that the pet chews off the bone, and the bone itself. This is a controversial diet which disagrees with the feeding recommendations of much of the mainstream veterinary community. Throughout the book Dr. Lonsdale makes no secret of his disdain for the commercial pet food companies and his frustration with the veterinary community, who continue to recommend canned and dry food as the best way to feed pets.

Although the science behind his theory can be best evaluated by a veterinarian, Dr. Lonsdale works to make his book accessible to all pet owners, with a simplified version of the science behind periodontal disease and the secondary diseases that it causes. The backbone of Dr. Lonsdale's argument is that our pets are descended from carnivores and thus should still be eating a primarily carnivorous diet with bones that clean their teeth. Instead, our processed pet foods fill them with carbohydrates, additives and preservatives that in no way resemble what nature intended them to eat. His book gives us an in-depth description of the diseases that follow from this unnatural diet, attempting to show a causal relationship between the feeding of pet food and the many diseases that kill our pets, including the condition that he has named "Foul-mouth AIDS."

One of the main drawbacks of this diet appears to be the risk of blockages, bacteria and parasites that Dr. Lonsdale admits are a possibility. He reassures readers that these problems are rare, and insignificant when compared with the long-term danger of feeding processed pet food; however, it seems that the chance of a young dog dying from a blockage after a meal of raw meaty bones is a great risk even when compared with the dangers of processed foods. It is hard however, to ignore Dr. Lonsdale's reasoning. One cannot help but wonder after reading this book, why more research is not being carried out by the veterinary community, independent of the pet food industry, as to whether pets fed on a *Raw Meaty Bones* or other natural diet live significantly longer or with a greatly improved quality of life than pets fed the standard kibble and canned food.

This book is an interesting read for veterinarians and non-veterinarians alike; it forces us all to take a closer look at what we are feeding our pets, and to consider what really motivates commercial pet food manufacturers--their profits or the health of our animals.

MEMBER SELECTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL COLLEGES