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Dear Editor,

Australian Veterinary Association elections 2003

When a culture and its 'science' denies the obvious and seeks to defend the indefensible it's worth asking: Why? Oversight, incompetence or corruption — or a combination of all three — might fit. Rather than speculate, perhaps we should note Arthur Koestler's comments about those who denied that the earth is round and orbits the sun.

In his book *The Sleepwalkers* Koestler tells us:

The post Aristotelian astronomers denied the rule of the sun over the planets and affirmed it at the same time; while conscious reasoning rejects such as paradox, it is in the nature of the unconscious that it may simultaneously affirm and deny, say yes and no to the same question; to know and not to know, as it were. Greek science in the age of decline was faced with an insoluble conflict, which resulted in a split of the mind; and this 'controlled schizophrenia' continued throughout the Dark and Middle Ages, until it came to be almost taken for granted as the normal condition of man. It was maintained, not by threats from outside, but by a kind of censor planted inside the mind, who kept it separated into strictly non-communicating compartments.

As we plough deeper into the Dark Ages of the AVA we should ask ourselves: How long? How long are we to endure the non-communicating compartments that both understand and deny that a natural diet provides for the optimum nutrition of all animals — especially carnivores? How long will this schizophrenia last before a cure can be effected and a renaissance begin?

The answer to this and other questions depends on many things, including the energy and commitment of the few. Sixty two veterinarians voted to rid the AVA of its stifling split personality; voted for a new beginning. I thank them, but now I ask for more.

The Europeans took 1500 years to rediscover that which the Greeks well knew. Must we repeat history or can we learn from it? Can the 62 increase their efforts and help rescue the AVA from its mounting folly?

Signed,

Tom Lonsdale

