

Correspondence with the President, Professor Sandy Trees and 35 other Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Councillors**

Six Councillors replied (below) and Mr Gordon Hockey, Head of Professional Conduct / Assistant Registrar provided the RCVS official position.

Date: 7 June 2010
To: Trees@liverpool.ac.uk
From: Tom Lonsdale <tom@rawmeatybones.com>
Subject: 380 vets want enquiry
Cc:

Dear Professor Trees,

This year, at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons elections, 380 veterinary surgeons voted for a wide-ranging enquiry as per the manifesto below.

As in the previous thirteen elections, hundreds of vets called for an end to the widespread incompetence and corruption within the veterinary profession <http://www.rawmeatybones.com/elections.php>. The attached copy of *Raw Meaty Bones* provides further details.

In keeping with the [obligations of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons](#), do you believe that the allegations warrant early investigation and resolution? If yes, please indicate your preferred mechanisms. If no, please provide your reasons.

I shall be pleased to supply further information as you may require.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Lonsdale
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RCVS Elections 2010 Manifesto

Biography

I graduated from the RVC [Royal Veterinary College, University of London] in 1972. Some fifteen years later I gained first inkling that most of my carnivore patients were suffering diet-induced diseases. Careful investigation revealed that the veterinary profession, colluding with pet-food makers and so-called animal welfare groups, had falsified the records regarding preventable diseases and premature death affecting millions of pets. ([Harold Shipman](#) hid in plain sight behind falsified records too!)

Despite establishment disbelief and denial, there is a scientifically sound solution understood by thousands of conscientious pet owners: *Raw meaty bones promote health*. In 1991, part blowing the whistle and part sharing a simple concept with profound health benefits, I published [Oral Disease in Cats and Dogs](#).

In 1992 I delivered the [Pandemic of Periodontal Disease](#) lecture, chaired by [Richard leCouteur](#) (now

professor at UC Davis) and attended by six academic vets including [Professor David Church](#) and [Dr Jill Maddison](#) (now of RVC). Dr Richard Malik attended and has since made significant [contributions](#). Otherwise the information was treated with contempt by an arrogant assembly.

If the vet establishment refused to act, then I would. Since 1992 I have worked to solve the gravest issue facing pet health and the veterinary profession in the 21st century.

Manifesto

From the outset a corrupt veterinary establishment fought back. I was subjected to several bogus disciplinary actions and threatened with jail. To avoid harassment and find time to write, I sold the practice in 1997 and in 2001 published *Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health*.

During the election period the book can be downloaded for free at www.vetsurgeon.org. Please read the book and consider the range of options available for reforming our sick profession.

Clearly our veterinary educational institutions, political structures and representatives have not helped; in fact they've done untold harm. We need a wide-ranging enquiry leading to the creation of a new Veterinary Surgeons Act. The prostitution of our profession must stop, a scientific renaissance could follow. For wider commentary see *RMB Newsletter* archives:
<http://seureshop.rawmeatybones.com/newsletter/>

Institutions and individuals should be held accountable. Veterinary students deserve a better deal. We can launch law suits against veterinary schools that perpetuate false and misleading information in support of their junk pet-food sponsors. <http://www.rawmeatybones.com/campaign/legal-vet.php>

Junk pet-food companies have infiltrated the highest levels of our profession. [A chief scientist for Mars and a sales manager for Hills](#) are past presidents of the RCVS. [Another past president](#) is in receipt of junk pet-food largesse and a councillor coordinates the [Pet Smile scam](#). Twelve councillors represent the vet schools [all in receipt of junk pet-food hush-money](#).

On a community level we can hold client information evenings and generally encourage discussion and understanding. Roger Meacock and I are available to address student groups, university faculties and professional meetings.

In our daily work we can practise what we preach: [Ensure the welfare of the animals committed to our care](#).

Please use your vote strategically. Vote only for those who can be relied on to deal with the gravest issue facing our profession in the 21st century. Thank you.

Tom Lonsdale

Date: 7 June 2010
From: "Bradley Viner" <bviner@northwoodvets.plus.com>
To: "Tom Lonsdale" <tom@rawmeatybones.com>
Cc: "Gordon Hockey" <g.hockey@rcvs.org.uk>
Subject: RE: 380 vets want enquiry

Dear Mr Lonsdale,

Thank you for your correspondence. Since it relates to an issue that you consider to be professional misconduct, I have copied this response to the RCVS Professional Conduct Department so that they can advise you on how you should take the matter forward.

Yours sincerely

Bradley Viner

Dr Bradley Viner DProf BVetMed MSc(VetGP) MRCVS

Date: 7 June 2010
From: Prof Sheila Crispin <s.m.crispin@bristol.ac.uk>
To: Tom Lonsdale <tom@rawmeatybones.com>
Subject: Re: 380 vets want enquiry

Dear Dr Lonsdale

I have read most of your publications on the subject of raw meaty bones. Your call for an enquiry would carry more weight if you did not hold such entrenched views and if your arguments were less emotive. I would value a proper scientific debate; one that takes account of all the available evidence and aims to reach recommendations that reflect the evidence presented by all parties.

Sheila Crispin

Date: 7 June 2010
From: Duncan Maskell <djm47@cam.ac.uk>
To: Tom Lonsdale <tom@rawmeatybones.com>
Subject: Re: 380 vets want enquiry

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your email.

I am not a veterinarian, though I sit on RCVS Council and Head the Cambridge Veterinary School. I therefore have a somewhat detached lay person's view of the veterinary profession and many of the scientific issues underpinning it. I am a microbiologist and have published nearly 200 papers in peer-reviewed journals, books etc. I Chair the RCVS Research Sub-Committee. I am also a member of the General Advisory Committee on Science at the UK Food Standards Agency. I therefore think that I am justified in considering myself a scientist with a high international reputation, though animal nutrition is clearly not one of my strengths!

I am very disturbed by your comments about corruption in the veterinary profession. I have worked in the pharmaceutical industry, in small biotechs, and in various University Departments, including the Institute of Molecular Medicine at Oxford, so I have a broad experience of scientists, medics and vets. There are always black sheep in any profession, but in my experience the veterinary profession is populated by honest people who are most definitely not corrupt. I consider your comments about the veterinary profession being corrupt as being highly defamatory, unworthy, and of course counter-productive to your cause if you really are interested in promoting your view of what pet animals should be eating.

Your conspiracy theory that money given by industry corrupts education at the UK veterinary schools is simply completely and utterly wrong-headed. I can only speak for Cambridge, but the idea that an institution as venerable as this one, with its tradition of complete academic freedom, could be bought off for a few quid given by a pet food company is fantasy and frankly insulting.

You will note that my Chair is endowed by Marks and Spencer, so I have some direct experience of this kind of conspiracy theory thinking. I am someone who values my academic freedom above all else, actually. I made this point when I was appointed to this Chair, and I have never shied away from being critical of the retail food industry when necessary. Indeed I wrote a letter to the Guardian newspaper not so long ago, in response to a mud-slinging article that they had published, making it clear that it was insulting and wrong-headed to assume that just because something is endowed by a commercial company then being supported by that endowment means that the incumbent is somehow in thrall to the endower.

I am not very well up to speed with the science under-pinning the view that raw meaty bones are better for pets to eat than commercial pet food. What I have seen is unconvincing. I am also intrigued that pet animals are living longer than ever before, with higher quality of life, and I do not understand how this

can be the case if commercial pet food is as bad for the animals as you suggest. I am sure that you will have confronted this argument, and I look forward to hearing your refutation.

All the best

Duncan
Duncan Maskell
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Marks & Spencer Professor of Farm Animal Health, Food Science & Food Safety,
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Date: 7 June 2010
Subject: RE: 380 vets want enquiry
From: "McKellar, Quintin A" <qmckellar@rvc.ac.uk>
To: "Tom Lonsdale" <tom@rawmeatybones.com>
Cc: "Trees, Alexander" <trees@liverpool.ac.uk>

Dear Tom

I do not believe that there is widespread incompetence or corruption in the veterinary Profession and I will not support your call. I think the issues around preparatory dog foods are well known to us all, just as we acknowledge and appreciate the issues around human consumption of butter and some fast food products. We all have choice and I shall continue to eat butter and other things which are potentially unhealthy either because of the convenience to me or because of my personal preferences.

Kind regards

Quintin.

Date: 8 June 2010
From: jbjohnson@talk21.com
Subject: Re: 380 vets want enquiry
To: Tom Lonsdale <tom@rawmeatybones.com>

No. I have more important issues.

Yours

Barry Johnson

Date: 8 June 2010
From: "Chris Tufnell" <chris@littlefoxhold.plus.com>
To: "Tom Lonsdale" <tom@rawmeatybones.com>
Subject: RE: 380 vets want enquiry

Dear Mr Lonsdale

No, I do not believe that the allegations warrant early investigation and resolution.

I am a busy practitioner running a five vet mixed practice. I have two young children and a mortgage to pay. I give my time to the RCVS Council to ensure that busy practitioners are represented. I have always believed that to serve on RCVS Council one needs not to concentrate on a single issue but to contribute ones mind to the wealth of issues that the RCVS addresses every year. I thoroughly enjoy contributing to the regulation of our

profession and believe that, in the main, it is done extremely well in the current format and provides excellent value to the profession. I do not have the time to address a single issue such as this at this stage when there are other issues that I consider to be more important to be dealt with. I am aware that you will not agree with my view, having dedicated much of your life to this single issue but that is your and my right.

With kind regards

Chris

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Date: 8 June 2010
Subject: RE: 380 vets want enquiry
From: "Gordon Hockey" <g.Hockey@rcvs.org.uk>
To: "Bradley Viner" <bviner@northwoodvets.plus.com>,
"Tom Lonsdale" <tom@rawmeatybones.com>Cc: "Lucy Evans" <lucy.evans@rcvs.org.uk>

Dear Mr Lonsdale

Mr Viner has copied your correspondence to me.

As we have discussed previously, our view is that your issues are in the political/policy domain and not the professional conduct domain.

Are we up to date on your requests for information?

Thanks

Yours sincerely

Gordon Hockey

Head of Professional Conduct / Assistant Registrar

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**Professor Neil Gorman, Mrs Lynne Hill, Mr Bob Partridge and Mrs Jill Nute received adverse mention in the RCVS manifesto and consequently were not included in this round of correspondence.