

## OPEN LETTER TO ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

Date: 4 December 2014

To Nick [nick@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:nick@rcvs.org.uk) CEO RCVS

Subject Open letter

CC: <g.Hockey@rcvs.org.uk>, <principal@rvc.ac.uk>, <dchurch@rvc.ac.uk>, <nick@rcvsknowledge.org>, <rita@rcvsknowledge.org>, <bviner@blythwood.com>, <mediavets@gmail.com>, <roger@naturalhealingsolutions.co.uk>

Dear Nick,

Please find attached open letter. Please circulate to decision makers at the RCVS and other institutions as you deem appropriate.

Twenty five years ago, as the principal of a four clinic vet group, I woke up to my culpability. By adhering to the 'complete and balanced food in a bag' mantra I had injured the health of the majority of my patients and deceived all of my clients.

'Conscience stricken' does not adequately describe my feelings. First I had to apologise to my clients and then set about educating myself and atoning for my mistake.

I do hope that the RCVS is now mature enough to admit past errors and ready to provide leadership in the biggest pet health, scientific, economic and social issue facing the veterinary profession.

My colleagues and I look forward to a formal and we hope positive response carrying the full authority of the RCVS.

Best wishes,

Tom

# Tom Lonsdale Veterinary Surgeon

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4 December 2014

Mr Nick Stace  
Chief Executive Officer  
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
Belgravia House  
62-64 Horseferry Road  
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SW1P 2AF  
UK

Dear Nick,

How are you? Well I trust.

I'm safely back in 'the land down under where the beer does flow and the men chunder' — after all it was a British colony.

Thanks again for meeting with Roger Meacock and me in October. We enjoyed the meeting. However, a point of significant concern persists.

You mentioned that the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Vice President suggests that cats may be adversely affected by dry diets, but otherwise in his opinion that animals live longer. From that I took it there's a widespread belief among vets that modern day junk foods — as opposed to natural diets — contribute to the supposed increased longevity of pets. (To my knowledge *no evidence* has been produced to support such a belief.)

I agree that junk foods produced in 2014 may be an improvement on the Mars Inc., Nestlé and Colgate-Palmolive offerings from fifty years ago. However, I believe it's fatuous to suggest that junk-food fed chronically ill pets are somehow living longer than those pets fortunate enough to be fed a more natural diet.

Despite the fact [we blew the whistle and presented the evidence 23 years ago](#), there's been a concerted effort to ignore fundamental biological imperatives on the part of the vet establishment. As a deliberate strategy the establishment has consorted with the junk pet-food mass poisoners. Vets suffer from a deplorable *lack of education* in RCVS accredited veterinary schools and *no experience* of how to feed pets appropriately.

The scenario goes like this:

Pets arrive at the vets for their course of puppy/kitten vaccinations — against mostly non-existent or minor disease.

The vet specifically recommends that the owner should feed the Mars, Nestlé, Colgate-Palmolive branded junk food sold by the vet and helpfully displayed in the waiting room.

In successive years the over-servicing and confidence-trickery continues apace. Although already immune to the non-existent diseases vets send out annual reminder notices and continue to pump their patients full of unnecessary vaccinations and push wormers against non-existent worms.

Using fear as a marketing tool, pet owners are persuaded to do annual blood tests — blood tests guaranteed not to illuminate due to organ reserve capacity and compensatory mechanisms that obscure developing diet-induced systemic disease.

With disgraceful quackery in full flight, the so-called animal health professionals mostly overlook the developing periodontal disease/mouth rot and cooked starch driven obesity. They push more and varied life-stage/breed-specific/obesity-diet junk food concoctions.

Some, perhaps a majority of vets see the mouth rot as a profit source and commission six monthly scale and polish of the diseased teeth. They do nothing to prevent the continued deterioration by way of diet — just rebook the animal for the next useless 'prophy'. Some vets run 'obesity clinics' pushing the latest fraudulent chemical mix.

Eventually various end-stage diseases come to the attention of the owner/vet — skin disease, diabetes, behavioural issues, kidney/liver disease, chronic diarrhoea, arthritis, etc.

Vets who understand that [lifelong junk food poisoning](#) is almost always the primary factor recommend:

1. Stop doing harm; stop the junk food poisoning and replace with raw meaty bones.
2. Thoroughly, effectively treat the concomitant mouth disease arising from the junk food.
3. Treat the obesity affecting most middle aged and older animals with alternate day feeding of raw meaty bones.

In many instances 1, 2 and 3 are sufficient to halt deterioration and effect a cure. But in every instance these actions are an essential, obvious foundation, an essential prelude to further investigations and treatments.

Alas the great majority of vets have no idea how to do 1, 2 or 3. They do know, however, how to over-serve by employing a range of inconclusive tests and procedures leading to the use of expensive drugs, prescription junk food and elaborate treatments.

Alas this description is not new. It dates back to 1991 and forms the [basis of advice provided](#) by me to Professor Colin Harvey, for many years the leading USA based veterinary dentist.

Recently I unearthed the [1993 correspondence between Prof Harvey and me](#). Unlike the UK veterinary establishment, Prof Harvey specifically sought my advice and incorporated it into his proposals for investigating the processed food/periodontal disease nexus.

Unfortunately, as I understand it, Prof Harvey could not gain funding or approval to do the fundamental research. As in the UK, malfeasance holds sway in the USA.

Please advise; will the RCVS:

- a.) Revisit its denial of the undeniable, its defence of the indefensible and set up a commission of enquiry into what I allege is the mass poisoning of pets by vets and the concomitant blind over-servicing of pets under veterinary care?
- b.) In keeping with the current vogue for Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine, ensure that comparative trials are established to confirm whether junk food is both suitable and safe? Veterinary surgeons sell many thousands of tons of junk food without essential supporting evidence.

c.) Investigate and report on the financial and in-kind contributions by junk pet-food companies in the UK veterinary schools and in international schools accredited by the RCVS? (Please see preliminary research efforts in Australia [here](#) and past UK research efforts [here](#).)

d.) Investigate if basic protocols 1, 2 and 3 above feature in The [Royal Veterinary College, University of London arrangements with Nestlé](#) in respect to the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diabetes in cats? For humans it's well known that i.) carbohydrate-laden diets, ii.) periodontal disease and iii.) obesity are prime controllable risk factors for Type II diabetes. For carnivores forced to consume grain-based pap the risks are dire.

e.) Investigate University of Liverpool Veterinary School, its financial, contractual and administrative arrangements, in respect to assisting the world's largest junk pet-food producer Mars '[improve our understanding of the global problem of companion animal obesity](#)'?

f.) Investigate Bristol University Veterinary School in respect to its arrangements with Mars and its [Institute of Anthrozoology](#) and whether procedures 1, 2 and 3 feature in any approaches to treating and preventing behavioural disorders of dogs including but not limited to dog attacks on toddlers and elderly people?

c.) Follow Prof Harvey's 1993 lead and enter into productive discussions with Raw Meaty Bones colleagues and me with a view to incorporating our advice into veterinary procedures and curricula?

With the 2015 RCVS Council elections soon upon us, I would appreciate concise answers that can be included in the election material.

With thanks.

Best wishes,



CC:  
RCVS President Prof Stuart Reid  
RCVS Vice-President Dr Bradley Viner  
Professor David Church  
RCVS Registrar Mr Gordon Hockey  
RCVS Knowledge Mr Nick Royle  
Other interested parties



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Subject: RE: Open letter  
Thread-Topic: Open letter  
Thread-Index: AQHQEKaDR/1JwNHink6i7rmEE0oBWA==  
Sender: Nick Stace <n.stace@rcvs.org.uk>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2014 16:14:15 +0000

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your email and accompanying letter. It was a great pleasure meeting with you and Roger in October, I know that Nick Royle and others at the RCVS enjoyed their conversations with you as well.

I have always been pretty clear with you that we do not see that the issues you raise are issues for the RCVS to resolve. Funding issues for universities are for those universities to reconcile and while good practice would suggest there should be transparency, it is not something that we have or seek to have responsibility for determining.

Further research and enquiry in this area would no doubt be useful particularly if it was well constructed, high quality, science based and free from bias. It is not however for the RCVS to carry out such research and an appropriate systematic review would certainly be a costly investment.

I realise that my usual candour will not be welcomed but at least you will know that I am consistent with what we deem to be and not be the responsibilities of the RCVS. As we discussed when we met, I am personally admiring of your tenacity and determination and it is people like you who really make a difference in this world, I am just sorry to say that it is not appropriate for the RCVS to take forward this issue in the way you would like.

With kind regards,

Nick  
Nick Stace

Chief Executive & Secretary

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13 December 2014

Prof Stuart W J Reid, President  
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
Belgravia House  
62-64 Horseferry Road  
London  
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UK

Dear Stuart,

Further to discussions in October and Nick Stace's recent comments I note the published [role of the RCVS](#):

We aim to enhance society through improved animal health and welfare. We do this by setting, upholding and advancing the educational, ethical and clinical standards of veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses.

The RCVS [claim](#):

We quality assure undergraduate veterinary education . . .

Despite these statements, the RCVS deems that it has no responsibility to deal with allegations of mass poisoning of pets by vets or the programming of students in RCVS accredited vet schools with junk pet food propaganda. Accordingly I would be grateful for advice as to whom or to what organisation our concerns should be directed.

As we discussed back in October, I believe relatively easy, economical and efficient trials could be conducted to evaluate the health outcomes of pets fed junk foods as compared with those fed the natural standard. Establishing the suitability and safety of the diets sold and recommended by vets — and which pets are forced to consume every day over a lifetime — would seem to be an urgent priority. Will the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, take up the challenge?

As an epidemiologist, I would appreciate your comments on the scientific rigour of the [Vet Compass](#) survey of end stage diseases as seen in UK veterinary practices.

I note that 1.) virtually all UK pets are junk food fed, 2.) more than 80% of patients suffer from serious diet related mouth rot and 3.) a high proportion are obese. I also note that when diagnosing, treating and reporting on disease most vets are oblivious to the interrelationships of 1, 2 and 3 with end stage diseases.

Does Vet Compass have inbuilt mechanisms for detecting and controlling for reporting bias? Can the survey deliver any reliable information or is it devalued by a raft of false assumptions?

Viewed from an epidemiological perspective, please comment on the [Feline Diabetic Remission Clinic](#). Can it deliver any reliable information or is it also devalued by false assumptions? Does this Clinic 'set, uphold and advance the educational, ethical and clinical standards of veterinary surgeons' or is it primarily a university backed junk food testing and marketing scheme for Nestlé?

With thanks.



Best wishes,

CC:

RCVS CEO Mr Nick Stace

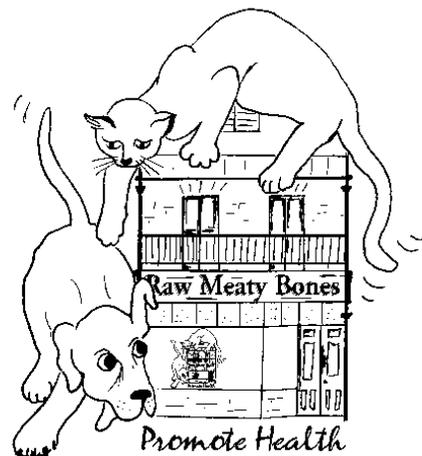
RCVS Vice-President Dr Bradley Viner

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Other interested parties



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29 December 2014

Prof Stuart W J Reid, President  
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
Belgravia House  
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Dear Stuart,

With the mass poisoning of pets by vets on the agenda, I am hoping that you will soon reply to my letter of 13 December 2014. Better, I think, that we have an open discussion revealing a positive commitment on the part of the RCVS in the spirit of the revised [veterinary surgeon's declaration](#):

I PROMISE AND SOLEMNLY DECLARE that my constant endeavour will be to ensure the welfare of animals committed to my care and that I will pursue the work of my profession with integrity and accept my responsibilities to my clients, the public, the profession and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

At core of the mass poisoning problem is the lamentable fact that most vets have never ever seen and would not recognise a healthy dog or cat fed its natural diet from three weeks of age, In fact the [seven carnivore diet fundamentals](#) remain a mystery for most vets.

As we discussed back in October it would be relatively easy for the Royal Veterinary College or any other veterinary school to conduct basic research remedying these fundamental deficiencies in vet education.

Alas, alongside these deficiencies, I believe it's true to say most, perhaps all, vet students in RCVS accredited vet schools are brainwashed with junk pet-food propaganda.

Please see the [Murdoch University, Mars Corporation/Royal Canin](#) and [Colgate-Palmolive/Hill's](#) documents that I believe are representative of how vet schools sell themselves and pimp their students. Besides young vets being sold into servitude for a few baubles and trinkets the massive multinational conglomerates get a protective cordon of brainwashed 'health care' defenders. Is this acceptable to you?

In the Mars, Royal Canin document you can see extensive reference to a 'Clinical Skills Centre' for which the Royal Veterinary College, University of London is said to provide a blueprint.

Please note Murdoch University offers Mars in association with its Skills Centre:

### **Pet Nutrition Education for Students**

Nutritional lectures for students by a Royal Canin representative can be part of an ongoing partnership.

Royal Canin would be welcome to make use of the following benefits for pet nutrition education for students:

- Royal Canin representatives will be provided the opportunity to present educational nutritional sessions or product information sessions for students, academic, or clinical staff up to four times annually.
- Royal Canin will be provided an opportunity to provide a "promotional" pack to students undertaking nutrition discussions.
- Royal Canin will be provided an opportunity to provide a branded text to final year students once annually.

Is this something of which you approve and does the Royal Veterinary College have a similar scheme with Mars or any other junk pet-food maker?

With thanks.

Happy New Year,



CC:  
RCVS CEO Mr Nick  
Stace  
RCVS Vice-President Dr Bradley Viner  
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