

To: Kevin Doyle <avavet@AVA.COM.AU>, <AVALIST@LISTSERV.AVA.COM.AU>
From: Tom Lonsdale <tom@rawmeatybones.com>
Subject: Dangerous dogs and diet
Cc: AVA CEO, Editor AVJ, vsbperth@wt.com.au, registrar@vsb.nsw.gov.au, administrator@vsb.nsw.gov.au, vsb@vsb.nsw.gov.au, glynch@vsb.nsw.gov.au, avasa@ava.com.au, jill.northey@act.gov.au, vsbtas@ava.com.au, vsbqld@dpi.qld.gov.au, enquiries@vetboard.vic.gov.au, karen.richardson@nt.gov.au, jill.northey@act.gov.au, president@vsb.nsw.gov.au, rogersr@dpi.qld.gov.au, vsbsa@senet.com.au, nicholson@tassie.net.au, vetboardvic@ozemail.com.au, culvet@ava.com.au, Irene work, Bill Miller, Alison Tyler, Breck, AB
Bcc: f\Journos/media releases\Jul 03 UAM, Tom, Aysha_Rowe, BrianMartin, Di Mk. 2, Douglas_Bryden, Erica_Bennett, Grahame Baker, Jenny_Wall, Johan Joubert, Judy_McMahon, Marcelle_King, Michele_Cotton, Patrice_Connelly, Perin Vale, Stephen Mayne, Stephen Ramsay, Stephen_King, Sue Merrikin, <camycnan@telstra.com>, <maelliot@telstra.com>, <rogermeacock@V21mail.co.uk>
Attached:

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for the message about the Urban Animal Management (UAM) Conference which you say is 'provided by the AVA's UAM Advisory Group'.

Could you please tell Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) members something about the structure and funding of the 'Advisory Group' and the conferences it holds?

Previously, when I have telephoned the UAM Canberra office I have been referred to the AVA Sydney office. And calls to the Sydney office were referred to Canberra. Either, it seemed, people did not know the answers or for various reasons were reluctant to disclose the answers.

In an attempt to see over the wall of silence I placed several telephone calls to the Convenor, Dr D Murray in Queensland, but unfortunately he did not return the calls.

On the AVA website <http://www.ava.com.au> we are told that Urban Animal Management depends on interactions with, 'Animal Management Officers, Veterinarians, Marketers, Town Planners, Dog Trainers and Politicians'.

Given that the AVA appears to be tightly linked with and acts as the front organisation for this UAM Advisory Group and its conferences then it would seem essential that transparency and honesty should characterise all 'interactions' -- fundamental credibility and integrity issues are at stake.

Information on the AVA website and the topics below indicate that the UAM Advisory Group represents itself as an authority on dog nuisance and aggression issues. Although the 'UAM's position statement on the subject of dog aggression [is] a work in progress'.

There is an increasing body of opinion amongst dog trainers that many dog nuisance/behaviour problems are diet induced as a result of dogs (carnivores) being slowly poisoned by grain-based junk foods.

In fact Dr Roger Mugford, at a 1986 conference convened by Waltham the R+D arm of Mars (Uncle Bens) the junk pet food maker, reported on dramatic changes affecting dangerous Golden Retrievers as a result of dietary modification. ***

It therefore seems that Mars, and presumably other pet food companies, know and understand the likely behavioural implications when carnivores are fed junk food. These implications would likely include legal liability issues where a product, promoted as suitable and safe, turns out to influence dog behaviour leading to aggression.

If there are legal liability issues for junk food manufacturers then being closely involved with veterinarians, pet health care professionals, might serve to limit the liability of the manufacturers and to spread the liability to the veterinarians.

The legal position of the AVA and of AVA individual members needs therefore to be carefully considered.

Could the AVA ask its lawyers for advice regarding any legal liability potentially arising from individual veterinarians:

recommending foodstuffs which injure the health of animals under their care?

recommending foodstuffs which affect the behaviour of dogs, leading to the dogs injuring the health of humans?

withholding from their clients the known health risks associated with the products they sell or recommend?

withholding from their clients the known behaviour modifying risks associated with the products they sell or recommend?

In regard to the AVA, the AVA UAM Group and their corporate liability and standing in the community, perhaps the AVA lawyers could advise on the following points.

Are their legal liability issues regarding:

the AVA's close, but unpublicised association with large junk pet food manufacturers?

the Petcare Information and Advisory Service <http://www.petnet.com.au/> is said, by Stuart Littlemore QC, to be a 'front' for Mars through its Uncle Bens junk pet food division. Petcare would also seem to be a major participant in and provider of benefits to the UAM Group. Are there legal implications?

if the AVA, through its involvement with the UAM Group and Petcare, serves to gloss over and otherwise obscure vital health and safety information are there legal implications?

if Animal Management Officers, Veterinarians, Marketers, Town Planners, Dog Trainers and Politicians rely on information supplied by the UAM Group which can be shown to be incomplete or false then what are the potential legal liabilities?

if Animal Management Officers, Veterinarians, Marketers, Town Planners, Dog Trainers and Politicians feel misled as to the mode of operation and funding of the UAM Group are there liability issues?

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Lonsdale
CC: Interested parties

*** Mugford, R A (1987) The influence of nutrition on canine behaviour, Journal of Small Animal Practice, 28, 1046-1055

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Reply-To: Kevin Doyle <avavet@AVA.COM.AU>
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From: Kevin Doyle <avavet@AVA.COM.AU>
Subject: [AVALIST] UAM CONFERENCE, AUGUST 2003
To: AVALIST@LISTSERV.AVA.COM.AU

Urban Animal Management
Conference 2003
(Provided by the AVA's UAM Advisory Group)

You are invited to come to Caloundra to attend the
13th Urban Animal Management Conference
20-22 August 2003

The 2003 UAM Conference will provide a full and exciting program -
something of interest to everyone.

Full information on the workshops, how to register, the registration
form, the program and abstracts can be found by accessing the UAM
website through <http://www.ava.com.au> - follow the links to UAM.

Topics to be presented include:

- * excess barking;
- * UAM Position Statement on dog aggression;
- * occupational stress affecting productivity;
- * risk based prioritisation and service delivery;
- * does breed specific legislation reduce dog aggression;
- * complaint management guidelines; and
- * leash laws.

More information: CALL AVACOS (02) 6239 5928
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