



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Rosanne Taylor
Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science

27th July 2010

Dr Tom Lonsdale
Veterinary Surgeon
PO Box 6096
Windsor Delivery Service NSW 2756

Dear Dr Lonsdale

Thank you for your letter of 21st July 2010. I have noted your concerns and views about appropriate diets for dogs and appreciate the opportunity to explain our Faculty position.

The BVSc curriculum provides a firm grounding in chemistry, biochemistry, the principles of nutrition, small animal medicine and clinical nutrition for disease, topics of relevance to preparation of diets for dogs and cats. Our curriculum is developed, delivered and assessed by PhD and specialist trained veterinarians who are active in veterinary research and clinical practice. It is designed to develop students' skills in critical inquiry, information literacy, problem solving, communication and professional practice, among other graduate attributes that are vital for success in practice. It has been approved by VSAAC, RCVS and the AVMA and draws upon our commitment to research-led veterinary science and evidence-based medicine. Students do not receive biased instruction from pet food companies as we tightly control the content and delivery of our curriculum, however we do have partnerships with a variety of industry supporters including pet food suppliers, in common with almost all internationally accredited veterinary schools.

Our teaching hospitals provide a diverse range of products and services to provide students with appropriate experience, as they emulate the environment of a good veterinary practice. The prescription foods on sale in the hospital waiting room that are used for the treatment of various medical conditions can be found in the waiting rooms of University Teaching Hospitals worldwide and specialist practices – this one is no different. The science behind the use of these diets is freely available in the published veterinary literature and has provided enduring evidence of effectiveness in supporting clinical management of disease. While I appreciate you may not share the confidence of the scientific community in this body of literature and experience, our teaching will continue to present students with current models of best practice and to engage them in critically evaluating the clinical decisions they make.

Yours sincerely,

Rosanne Taylor
Professor and Dean

Dean's Office
Faculty of Veterinary Science
Room 204, JD Stewart Building B01
Camperdown NSW 2006 Australia

T +61 2 9351 6936
F +61 2 9351 3056
E vetscience.dean@sydney.edu.au

ABN 15 211 513 464
CRICOS 00026A