

Veterinary Surgeons and Students

INVITATION

BLOOD LETTING, BAR FIRING AND VETERINARY DENTISTRY - A CASE FOR EXTRACTION

Despite the vitriol of the debate the case against bloodletting and bar firing was put too little, too late. Centuries slipped by, the situation keenly felt by the unfortunate patients but otherwise little changed.

The debate on the mutual dependence of veterinary dentistry and the commercial pet food industry was almost choked to death in its infancy.

'AVA News believes that this issue has been aired fully over the last year and does not intend to run further correspondence. - Ed.' Australian Veterinary Association News, March, 1993

Open debate and the democratic process saved the day.

Vets to study diet link to pet disease

INVESTIGATIONS into the link between processed pet foods and animal diseases will be carried out by the a committee appointed by the Australian Veterinarian Association.

After a two-hour heated debate about the possible dangers of processed pet foods, believed to cause pandemic periodontal (foot and mouth) disease, delegates at the AVA's annual meeting at the Gold Coast yesterday voted in favour of establishing a committee to investigate the possible connection.

New South Wales veterinarian Tom Lonsdale and former Gold Coast-based vet Jason Pollard put proposed a motion to the meeting at Conrad Jupiters urging the association to form a committee to investigate the link.

Their motion was defeated but another in favour of another resolution moved by Dr Douglas Bryden, director of Sydney University's post graduate committee in veterinary science, that: 'In keeping with the AVA policy of providing forums in membership, the AVA establish a committee

to prepare a report on interaction between diet and disease in companion animals'.

Dr Bryden said the 'heat and emotion' in the issue warranted consideration by the association.

"It was a matter for the profession to rise to the occasion and Jason and I were extremely happy with the result," said Dr Lonsdale.

"The situation needed to be urgently addressed. Veterinarians can no longer bury their heads in the sand on the matter," he said.

'Strings'

Dr Lonsdale said the matter came to a head in March this year when the AVA journal refused to publish letters that vented concern over dogs and cats being fed processed pet foods.

"Members could no longer hold discussions but it didn't stop the newsletter from publishing favourable information about the pet food industry.

"It's evident the people who banned the correspondence were the ones pulling the strings.

"I know there is an association between the

AVA and the pet food industry as the industry is one of the biggest sponsors of the AVA."

Mr Lonsdale said the controversial issue had caused within the association deep rifts and divisions which had surfaced at yesterday's meeting.

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Timed to coincide with the AVDS and PGCVS Course in Veterinary Dentistry. Speaker, Tom Lonsdale, Veterinary Practitioner of Riverstone NSW.

Topics: Historical Context, Specialists and Quacks, Self Deception, Mutual Endorsement, The Science, Environmental Impact, Consumer Protection, Animal Health. Discussion to follow.

Your support is needed. Be there to register your views before another 500 years slips by.

Venue:	Stephen Roberts Lecture Theatre, Sydney University
Date:	Wednesday, 16th June, 1993
Time:	8 pm
Refreshments:	BYO
Cost:	\$10.00 at door, \$5.00 student
Lecture Notes:	Send \$5.00 to T Lonsdale, Garfield Rd, RIVERSTONE 2765