

## Raw Meaty Bones Promote Health

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The raw versus processed food debate became obstipated. A stand off occurred across the philosophical and scientific divide with little new material being exchanged and certainly no movement of personnel between the camps.

The methodological incompatibility of the two factions were as the inhabitants of Lilliput to Brobdingnag.

With the emergence of some recent information, the latter day Gulliver can catch a glimpse of the rich new areas of enquiry waiting to be explored.

The Zubrycki silky terriers represent just such a case. From November 85 to August 91, Tuffy and Blossom were presented at the surgery on numerous occasions. Often with vexatious non specific illness/ lethargy/ dermatitis.

A recurrent complaint was that Tuffy had attacks of the "scurries", variously determined to be hyperventilation or bouts of mad anxiety. Several theories and treatments were proposed by ourselves but to no avail.

On 06.08.91 at time of annual vaccination, it was determined we should be entirely resolute in our dealings. The owners were persuaded to adopt a thorough approach to flea control, and the dogs were booked in for a radical dentistry. Previously our advice to give an occasional raw bone had been overlooked. Now we insisted that a raw meaty bone should be a staple of the diet.

The WCC of 12.08.92 were:

	Tuffy	Blossom	Normals
Tot WBC	5.1	5.2	6.0 - 14.0
Differential WCC (absolute)			
Neut	3.4	4.0	4.1 - 9.4
Lymph	1.5	0.8	0.9 - 3.6
Mono	0.1	0.2	0.2 - 1.0
Eos	0.2	0.3	0.1 - 1.2

Several times in the intervening weeks I met Mrs Zubrycki in the street. Each time she remarked on the lack of "scurrying" attacks, much improved skin, vitality and breath.

On 17.06.92 she was persuaded to bring the dogs back for follow up and blood test. The results are reprinted below.

	Tuffy	Blossom	Normals
WBC	8.5	8.2	6.0 - 14.0
Neut	4.8	5.9	4.1 - 9.4
Lymph	2.7	1.7	0.9 - 3.6
Mono	0.4	0.4	0.2 - 1.0
Eos	0.5	0.2	0.1 - 1.2

Some gingivitis and tartar accumulation was evident where opposing teeth had been removed, but otherwise the mouth was healthy.

### Comment:

A number of postulates could explain the findings. My rude hunch is that just like the millions of other processed food fed dogs, the sequence of events is as follows.

Traumatic gingivitis of teething and plaque induced gingivitis of normal living becomes exacerbated by calcification of plaque. All of the former remaining unchecked by nature's cleaning, polishing, washing action at feeding sessions.

During the canine evolutionary phase there would have been no pressure to cope with chronic mouth lesions.

The modern dog protected from heat, cold, starvation and predation has to withstand the affront of a mouthful of gram negative bacteria and toxins.

Ill equipped for the task, the bone marrow suffers toxic suppression and a concomitant bacteraemia compounds the problem. The whole noxious mess occasionally punctuated by dramatic demonstrable disease entities, (septic arthritis, endocardiosis, nephritis). More usually characterised by suboptimal health of an insidious nature running parallel with the ageing process and confused with the same.

## Skin Tumours in Cats

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We have noticed an unusually high incidence of skin tumours in the neck region of cats in the middle to old age group, and have observed they have been regular wearers of flea collars.

By the time this occurred to us it was too late for proper statistics so is merely anecdotal!