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## Review: Imagination and Information



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Edited by June McGowan

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### Sugar not so nice

***Work Wonders – Feed Your Dog Raw Meaty Bones*** by (Dr) Tom Lonsdale, Rivetco Pty Ltd, Windsor, 2005, 118pp, \$18.80. ISBN 0975717405.

By KIM O'DONNELL, *Solicitor*

Having bought a pup a few months ago, I approached this book with great interest.

Tom Lonsdale practised as a vet for 15 years before discovering the 'natural' way of feeding dogs, and admits he feels guilty for all the years he treated the animals that came to him while never considering that their diet could be the cause of their health problems.

Just as people in today's Western societies are apparently slowly killing themselves and their children with too much processed and over-refined foods full of fat and sugar, so, too, it seems we are killing our pets – at least, according to Tom Lonsdale.

He even goes so far as to make a comparison between Morgan Spurlock's experiment on himself in the film *Super Size Me* and the detrimental effects on our pets of a diet of commercial pet food, which Tom Lonsdale refers to constantly throughout his book as "junk pet-food".

Although some of the claims appear a bit far-fetched, such as commercial dog food being responsible for heart disease, liver and kidney failure and diabetes in dogs as well as attacks by dogs on humans, there is commonsense behind his theory that dogs should be fed as natural a diet as possible.

While the thought of having a freezer full of pigs' heads, whole rabbits and ox tails is not very appealing, surely it is better for a dog's mental and physical health to work for their food as they would in the wild as opposed to sitting down to a meal served up to them as though they were in a doggy restaurant.

On an academic level it may be difficult to reconcile the claims made by commercial dog food manufacturers that tinned and dry dog foods meet all your dog's nutritional needs and provide a complete and balanced meal with Dr Lonsdale's claims that there is an ongoing conspiracy between vets, scientists and the manufacturers of pet food.

In fact, he goes so far as to accuse a lot of vets of deliberately encouraging the sale of commercial pet food when they are well aware of the harm and eventual health problems that will result.

This book is certainly worth reading and provides an opportunity to reflect on what you are feeding your pets and the possible consequences. With a freezer full of bones and chicken necks (and a greatly reduced grocery bill) I for one am willing to give it a shot.