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The President
Australian College of Veterinary Scientists
Building 3
Garden City Office Park
2404 Logan Road
EIGHT MILE PLAINS QLD 4113

To the President and Council of the College:

Re: Nomination of Dr Tom Lonsdale for the College Prize

Dr Richard Malik has advised me of the nomination of Dr Tom Lonsdale which he has submitted for consideration by the Council for the College Prize. I wish to support this nomination to honour this thoughtful, perceptive, dedicated and courageous veterinarian.

Dr Lonsdale's concern and curiosity led to his conclusions as to the aetiology of much of the periodontal disease, and the sequelae, in dogs and cats he attended. His detailed and comprehensive research of the condition resulted in preventive measures which were simple, changing the feed to raw meaty bones and other natural food, and which were spectacularly effective. His client records tell a powerful story. As a practitioner he was eager to share his findings and the results of his preventive measures.

Most veterinarians are aware of the controversy which followed Dr Lonsdale's work in identifying, researching, treating and preventing a complex syndrome. Although this condition had been recorded in more than 75% of cases in surveys around the world, only a few veterinarians had worked to identify the causal factors and to provide guidance in prevention. Despite the evidence Dr Lonsdale had gathered, the survey which he recommended to the Sydney Metropolitan Practitioners branch of the AVA attracted less than a handful of responses from veterinary hospitals. Subsequently he was ostracised by his colleagues and vilified and threatened when he exposed covert alliances. Many scientists over the centuries have suffered this ignominy when they challenged the accepted practices and threatened vested interests. Many were later recognised for their leadership, their perseverance and their integrity. Some remain icons for their contributions.

In time more and more veterinarians recognised that Dr Lonsdale's therapeutic and preventive measures were beneficial to the dogs and cats under their care. More and more veterinarians are integrating his ideas into their protocols and using his findings in advice to clients. He provided information which showed new insights into this condition, a remarkable achievement for a busy practitioner. His influence has extended to North America and the UK and other European countries and he continues to work on this condition.

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The Australian College has grown in stature and influence within the Profession world wide. This has been largely because the College is focussed on facilitating the continued learning of practising veterinarians, works in harmony with other groups with similar purpose, maintains high standards in assessing veterinarians, is open to new ideas, and is committed to an egalitarian approach to veterinarians everywhere. The College Prize is an example of the way in which the College stimulates enquiry and congratulates colleagues who have led the way for others to follow.

Dr Malik has supported his nomination with characteristic lucidity. His recognition and assessment of the contribution made by Dr Lonsdale gives significant weight to the nomination. Through his work as a veterinary practitioner Dr Lonsdale has identified a problem, researched the aetiology and the pathogenesis, introduced therapeutic and preventive procedures, and addressed, head on, what he saw to be a moral issue for the profession. In short he has changed a paradigm and guided his profession in a more thoughtful and proper course of action.

It is most appropriate that Dr Lonsdale should be nominated for this prodigious prize.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Bryden', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Douglas Bryden AM
MACVSc FACVSc(hc)