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## PET FOODS' INSIDIOUS CONSEQUENCES

### EVOLUTIONARY PHASE

During the course of evolution, carnivores have developed the flow-through method of alimentation. They have come to depend on the chemical constituents of meat and bone for fuel, growth and repair. The physical presentation has not merely been an inconvenience or an obstacle with which to contend. In fact, evolutionary adaptation has ensured that the physical form of the food has been just as essential as its chemical make up.

### FOOD BOTH CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL

The physical form has served to provide a highly efficient cleaning and toning function in an otherwise contaminated area and then served to regulate the rest of the bowel function to its conclusion at defaecation. Lacking the physical complexity of the natural diet, processed foods have provided the chemical constituents only. Compounding the error of omission, is a further error of commission; namely the accumulation of putrefying food stuffs. Add to that faecal material and hair from self-grooming and we have a recipe for disaster.

### IMMUNE COMPROMISE

Lacking the essential wash, scrub and polish of feeding on raw meaty bones, the animal comes to depend on its second line of defence for hygiene of the oral cavity. Evolutionary adaptation caused the immune system to be on permanent standby only to be used infrequently, temporarily and on a narrow front. Now with the total absence of the first physical barrier to contamination, the immune system is called upon to perform constantly and on a wide front. Maladapted for this role, bizarre failure sets in with raging periodontitis, exfoliation of teeth and the cellular and humoral struggle taking place throughout all tissues of the body.

### CHAIN OF EVENTS LEADING TO SYSTEMIC DISEASE

There is damning evidence that the current pandemic of periodontal disease running at 85% of our animals, and the widespread immune mediated insidious diseases of the heart, lungs, kidney, skin derive from the failed physical barrier to contamination and the hugely overworked immune system. This unhappy sequence of events can be traced back to the modern universal fashion of feeding processed foods to our companion cats and dogs which fashion is heavily promoted by the pet food industry.



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