

RMB Newsletter 8:5 Open Letter to Defra

December 2008

Dear Reader,

Here's a quick message in the lead up to Christmas and New Year festivities.

In the last RMB Newsletter (Partners in Crime) I mentioned the UK Government's attempts to write guidelines to help dog and cat owners better look after their pets and to avoid being in breach of the new Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

<http://seureshop.rawmeatybones.com/newsletter/view.epl?id=52>

With the rush of Christmas I almost missed sending a submission to Defra, the UK Government Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, that is overseeing the new Animal Welfare rules. The deadline for submissions is 31 December 2008.

The full Animal Welfare Act is here:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/pdf/ukpga_20060045_en.pdf

And the proposed 'Consultation on Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs' is here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/welfare-dogs-cop/consultation.pdf>

The Code for Cats is here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/welfare-cats-cop/consultation.pdf>

If we disagree with any aspect of the Codes then we've got little time in which to act.

The UK Government Department (Defra) say in their letter inviting comment:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/welfare-dogs-cop/letter.htm>

(quote) 'We welcome your views and comments in general but specifically on the content of the code. . . .

Please send responses to either: Elaine Cannon, Area 8B, No 9 Millbank, 17 Smith Square, London, [SW1P 3JR](http://www.gov.uk) Telephone: 020 7238 5332

Or email: Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk clearly stating the name of the consultation in the subject header. Eg: Code of Practice – Dogs.' (end quote)

Please, I urge you; send a message to Elaine Cannon telling the UK Government that you are not happy with the proposed Codes and what the Government needs to do to make improvements.

Defra say in their letter:

'When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also,

members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.’

Rest assured the junk pet food industry, vet associations and fake animal welfare agencies will be making submissions.

Now’s our chance to let Defra and the UK Government know that they are travelling down the wrong path – a path paved with ill health and suffering courtesy of the junk pet food/vet/fake animal welfare alliance.

Below, I’ve copied the submission I sent to Defra. If you agree with it and want to make the same or similar points all you need do is forward this email Newsletter to:

Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk

If you’ve got time to add a few thoughts of your own, that’s best. But if not, please forward the Newsletter before 31 December. Defra needs to know there are many thousands of concerned pet owners who want the current junk-food fuelled madness to end. The pets want the madness to end and we can help.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year,

Tom

Ps. If we get this right for dogs and cats, then ferrets and captive wild carnivores will benefit too -- not just in the UK, but in all countries of the world that genuinely care about animal welfare.

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Open Letter to UK Government, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect to the Animal Welfare Act, draft Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs and Cats.

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23 December 2008

Elaine Cannon,
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17 Smith Square,
London, [SW1P 3JR](http://www.gov.uk)
UK
Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 7238 5332

Dear Ms Cannon,

Consultation on the Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs and Cats
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned Codes.

Please find enclosed copies of *Raw Meaty Bones*, *Work Wonders*, *Nexus* article and testimonials. There are many supporting documents, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons election manifestos, videos, *RMB Newsletters* and articles at www.rawmeatybones.com

In my opinion the Draft Code, insofar as it encourages dog and cat owners to disregard biological imperatives, breaches the aims, spirit and letter of the Animal Welfare Act.

If dog and cat owners follow recommendations in the draft Codes of Practice I believe that they will be in breach of the Animal Welfare Act, Clause 4 (Prevention of harm, Unnecessary suffering) and Clause 9 (Promotion of welfare, Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare).

Specifically, breaches will arise with respect to a dog or cat's need:

- a) for a suitable diet,
- b) to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
- c) to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

The Draft Codes, whether directly or by implication, advocate and endorse the feeding of processed food. It is well known and understood that regular consumption of junk food by humans gives rise to widespread ill health and disease. At least since 1991, it has been well known and understood that processed diets for dogs and cats are the equivalent of 'junk food' and give rise to widespread cruelty, disease and suffering. Conversely a natural diet: a.) Satisfies biological diet imperatives, b.) Ensures essential gnawing and chewing behaviour c.) Protects against periodontal and a host of other diseases arising from unnatural diets.

Please, I urge you; revise the Codes in light of the information supplied.

I shall be pleased to supply more information as you may require and to discuss any aspect.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Lonsdale