## RMB Newsletter 9:2 RCVS Q&A

March 2009

Dear Reader.

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One way to keep the matter on the agenda is to contest veterinary elections. In the UK, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) is a stuffy, archaic body responsible for the education and regulation of about 21,000 vets. The RCVS imposes a strict 500 word limit on election statements. This year there's been a quantum leap in the scope for discussions.

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As one of nine candidates for six vacancies on the RCVS Council, I attempt to engage the other candidates about the junk pet-food issue.

A vet asked me to explain:

'After failing 12 times, what keeps you going? Why do you really want to become RCVS president? Is it just to promote RMB or do you have any other interests in the veterinary profession?'

My answer appears below (as well as at <a href="www.vetsurgeon.org">www.vetsurgeon.org</a>) I hope you'll get a moment to click through the links that set out what I believe to be important — and by implication what needs to be done.

Thanks and best wishes,

Tom

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Cybernetics, U-turns and resolution of the junk pet-food scandal

[quote] 'Hi F\*\*\*\* and all,

Thanks for the questions.

Please think of the 12 previous attempts as 'rehearsals', they've brought us to the point where you and I can discuss the issues.

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What keeps any of us going? Why do we get out of bed each morning? What motivates a whistleblower turned campaigner? At one level: Genes interacting with Environment —- I simply can do no other.

There's an expanded answer, from a whistleblower perspective, posted in the files accompanying my profile.

In the early days there was no single 'light bulb' moment, more a series of such moments akin to stadium floodlights gaining intensity. That was back in the late 1980s and early 90s.

We lived in a different environment before widespread use of the internet. Information was relayed in books and by word of mouth. So the 'wow' factor was huge when we stumbled on the explanation for why pets suffer a litany of easily preventable chronic and acute diseases.

As suburban veterinary practitioners, we had immense motivation to bound out of bed each morning. Every day provided new research, treatment and prevention opportunities. But one day stands in the memory. It was Christmas Day 1992 and I woke with the fully formed outline for the Cybernetic Hypothesis. I tiptoed out of bed at 4.30 in the morning, made for the study and wrote down the first draft. http://www.rawmeatybones.com/pdf/periodontal-cyber.pdf

If, as I believe, Cybernetics reinterprets existing information to form the basis of a new paradigm of health and disease leading to a renaissance in medical and veterinary thought, that will be special. If it helps us to better understand the homeostasis of our planet as it was in prehistoric times — regulated as it was by mammalian carnivores — then I believe we'll be onto something big.

I admit that it's been a slow burn — not least because any and all aspects of this story have been starved of oxygen. Although you can see an early attempt at getting the story aired in the Australian Veterinary Association 1994 election statement. http://www.rawmeatybones.com/pdf/AVA%2094.pdf

There have, however, been some wonderfully uplifting events.

By chance, I heard Professor Lynn Margulis speak on the radio.

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Inspired by her enthusiasm and concepts about our co-evolved world I sent her a draft of the Cybernetics paper and the lecture monograph: Petfoods Insidious Consequences: A modern veterinary snafu.

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'Your work is wonderful' . . . 'If you write this up as a book proposal, send it to our agent'.

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When James Lovelock FRS endorsed the paper I was confident this was no flash in the pan. <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\_Lovelock">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\_Lovelock</a>

Eventually in 2001, with the aid of two editors and a team of lawyers, *Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health* was published. http://www.rawmeatybones.com/book.php The book has several themes and culminates in Chapter 14 on Cybernetics. Effectively, the other 13 Chapters are there in a supporting role. (Suggested reading list http://www.rawmeatybones.com/suggestedreading.php)

That the book received glowing endorsements from highly esteemed colleagues fills me with pride. http://www.rawmeatybones.com/vetsay.php I'm motivated and grateful for the support from younger vets such as Roger Meacock (doing sterling educational work on the Raw Diet forum), family, friends and acquaintances.

You are right that I want to promote RMB the concept, and the book of the same name is currently available in the files. However, I hope you appreciate that's only an educational tool to help us deal with the crisis the profession now faces.

In 2006 I visited the UK and made a presentation at Parliament House as part of the U-turn Tour. http://www.rawmeatybones.com/speaking\_2006.php

As agreeable as that tour was, please be assured, I do not relish the struggles to get the diet and health matter on the agenda. What I hope to see is action. I hope to see the veterinary profession making a U-turn and fixing the biggest problem of the age.

I hope to continue to play a useful role. Initially I seek a mandate from the electorate that will take me onto the RCVS Council to provide one clear voice amongst forty at the Council table. Thereafter, if enough Councillors agree on our collective obligations and opportunities, and if they decide to elect me as President, I shall be honoured to serve.

Of course it's a long term project. For the benefit of pets, people and the planet let's get started.

Thank you.' [end quote]

## **Questions needing answers**

So far the eight other candidates, five of whom include the current President and Members of the RCVS Council, have not seen fit to answer the questions I raised in the RCVS Forum at <a href="https://www.vetsurgeon.org">www.vetsurgeon.org</a>:

[quote] 'Your Comments Please

Dear Colleague,

Your comments on the raw diet question would be appreciated.

Judging by the 112 messages (and counting) on the Raw Diet forum <a href="http://www.vetsurgeon.org/forums/">http://www.vetsurgeon.org/forums/</a> veterinarians are taking an interest in the subject.

Where the majority of auto-mechanics are conversant with how to fuel the family car, many veterinarians appear unsure about the food (fuel) requirements of the family dog.

The British Veterinary Association policy and a rebuttal may be assessed here: <a href="http://www.rawmeatybones.com/pol-brief.html">http://www.rawmeatybones.com/pol-brief.html</a>

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Does the confusion about feeding pets concern you?

Do you believe that a committee of enquiry might help the profession to better understand and resolve the issues?

If elected, what might be your contribution?

Thank you for your consideration.' [end quote]

If they can't or won't answer basic questions, can they be trusted? Are they fit to run a so-called self-regulating profession?

If you are a vet, vet student or allied professional and want to question the candidates or raise discussion points please log on to <a href="https://www.vetsurgeon.org">www.vetsurgeon.org</a>

## Kkkkkkkkkkkk

**Nearly Doctor Blog:** 

http://www.nearlydrferox.blogging4life.com/?p=528

http://www.nearlydrferox.blogging4life.com/?p=536

Nearly Doctor RMB review:

http://www.nearlydrferox.blogging4life.com/?p=540

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