

Boning up on dog diets

by Greg Martin

MAKE NO bones about it; Tom Lonsdale has a big thing for bones.

The Bligh Park Pet Health Centre veterinarian is a powerful adherent to the view that domestic animals such as dogs and cats should be fed primarily on "raw, meaty bones".

"Eating raw meaty bones is the key to dogs and cats having healthy teeth and healthy gums," the 65-year-old said.

"Dental hygiene is as important to cats and dogs as it is for humans.

"A poor diet for a cat or dog is one that doesn't include matter which helps clean the teeth and gums, resulting in the build-up of sludge in the gums, rotting and loose teeth and certainly a stinky breath.

"Dogs and cats need to eat material which helps clean the teeth and massage the gums – raw, meaty bones certainly do that.

"Rotting teeth and infected gums will result in poisonous juices circulating around the body.

"In humans this could lead to heart disease, stroke, unhealthy liver and kidney, skin diseases such as dermatitis, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, underweight and premature babies – similarly, dogs and cats can also be affected this way."

He says by switching to his raw, meaty bones diet dogs and cats benefit in consuming the correct nutrients and digestive enzymes, they clean the gums and teeth, receive mental stimulation and physical exercise by "ripping and tearing" at the food.

Dr Lonsdale says he first "hit on" the idea of feeding domestic animals raw meaty bones

in the 1990's.

"I started to nut out what was causing all these health issues in the animals.

"I did all the conventional veterinary treatment but on far too many occasions the treatments didn't work.

"I discovered that the animals were rotting alive from infections emanating from the mouth!

Dr Lonsdale is currently conducting research into feeding dogs and cats raw, meaty bones and intends publishing the results in medical journals at the end of his six months research period.

Ten dogs will take part in the trial and he already has five on the books including the recent addition of two little Shih Tzu cross dogs rescued from "death row" in a dog pound.

But he needs another five to enable him to complete his research.

"Humans suffering from diseased teeth and sore gums are more prone to a variety of diseases and we believe our research in canines will bring huge benefits to dogs, cats and humans," Dr Lonsdale said.

So Dr Lonsdale and his team need five more dogs with bad breath and in need of treatment.

The patient undergoes blood test, dental surgery and is switched to a raw, meaty bones diet.

The animal has a blood test after 30 days and another blood test after 60 days.

All blood tests are performed at no charge to the dog owner who wants his or her dog involved in the research.

Since he began his quest to persuade dog and cat lovers to switch their animals' diets,

Dr Lonsdale has been able to gather a larger number of satisfied owners to his cause.

One of them is Barbara O'Neill who sought out Dr Lonsdale to treat her 12-year-old Maltese-Pomeranian cross dog, Connor.

"Connor had severe gum disease and deteriorating health – his eye sight was failing, his hair had become dry and course, his hind legs were stiff and he has terrible halitosis," Barbara said.

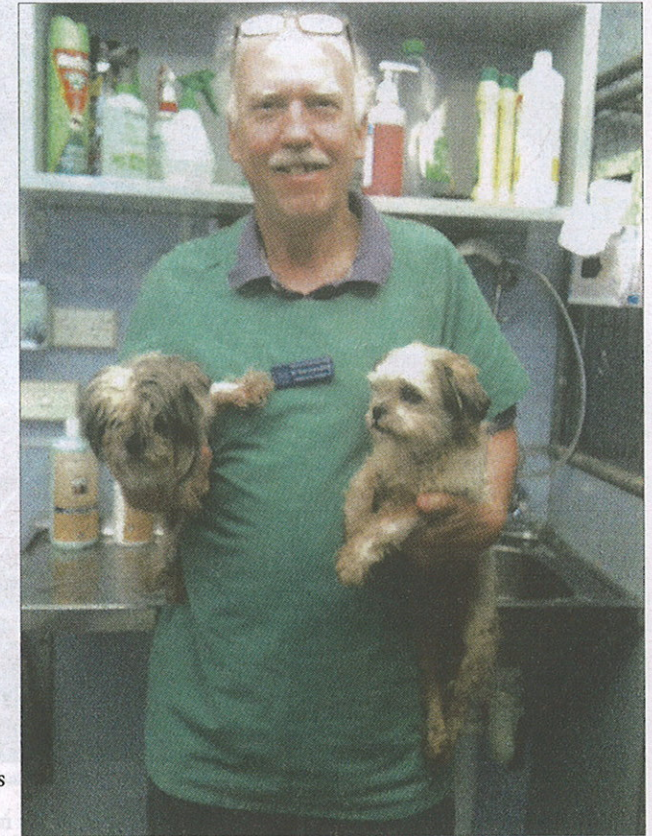
Dr Lonsdale removed all his rotting and loose teeth and immediately put him on a raw, meaty bones diet.

"As soon as he had the teeth removed I noticed a change for the better him in and then after a few weeks on the new diet, he was back to his old self," Barbara said.

"Connor now runs around like a puppy and has a fresh clean smell, his coat is silky and beautiful, he prances with his head held high – he is so happy!

"My dog doesn't miss his teeth – I have noticed that the strength of his jaws has compensated for the missing teeth and he has no problems with bones."

Just another satisfied client for Dr Lonsdale and his team – Dr Brian Lam, head nurse Sandra Sultana and trainee veterinary



Dr Tom Lonsdale with the two latest additions to his research, two Shih Tzu cross dogs which were rescued from the dog pound.

nurses Sarah Mamo, Renee Bedroussian and Brook Welsh.

If you can help the team with their research, contact Bligh Park Pet Health Centre on 4577 7061 or email clinic@rawmeatybones.com