

8 July 2020

Dear Minister Littleproud,

### **Pet Food Review Working Group -- Regulatory Capture**

As you know, I am a veterinarian with 48 years clinical experience. I write in relation to deep concerns about the Pet Food Review Working Group.

Everyone knows that, for humans, an exclusive diet of industrial, highly processed offerings guarantees ill-health and early death. For carnivores, with their special dietary imperatives, the consequences are arguably much worse.

According to the available evidence, the Pet Food Review Working Group:

- makes the assumption that pets, unlike all other wild or domestic animals, must inevitably be fed industrial, highly processed products.
- declines to specify what an optimum diet for domestic carnivores, as dictated by nature, might look like.
- declines to examine the evidence that industrial, highly processed products devastate the health of pets.
- is compromised by its involvement with the multinational pet-food makers, Mars Inc., Nestle and Colgate-Palmolive.
- focuses on relatively minor matters of product improvement acceptable to the multinational corporations.
- bends to the needs and dictates of the multinational corporations and their veterinary allies.
- provides government validation and thus a propaganda vehicle for the manufacturers of harmful dietary products.

ACCC representatives sit on the Working Group. However the ACCC asserts that it has no remit for regulating the suitability and safety of pet food.

Health Department representatives sit on the Working Group. It seems, however, that those representatives have made little or no impression on the Working Group in respect to the ravages of highly processed diets.

On the evidence, it appears that the government Working Group suffers from layers of 'regulatory capture' -- primarily serving the interests of pet-food makers and vets at the expense of pets, pet owners and the wider community.

- 1.) Please see the attached email correspondence, consultants' reports and FOI disclosure. The hyperlinks in the email correspondence provide important background information.
- 2.) Please advise if the government will review the membership and conduct of the Pet Food Review Working Group.
- 3.) Please advise if the government will take the necessary steps to investigate and resolve the widespread animal cruelty and \$multi-billion consumer fraud arising from many years of government neglect and 'regulatory capture'.
- 4.) [Since 1991 it has been well known in veterinary circles that highly processed diets devastate the health of pets.](#) Will the government commission a rigorous examination

of the scientific and medical issues free from direct or indirect sponsorship and affiliations with the pet food industry?

5.) Please indicate the reasons for your decisions.

With thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Lonsdale

Bligh Park Pet Health Centre  
48 Rifle Range Road  
South Windsor  
NSW 2756

Tel: 02 4577 7061

Email: tom@rawmeatybones.com

CC Interested parties

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Kitty, twelve year old Pomeranian victim of Mars Inc. junk food. Kitty's rotten, stinking mouth illustrative of the torture faced by millions of pets everyday of their miserable lives.

