

# Tom Lonsdale Veterinary Surgeon

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PO Box 6096  
Windsor Delivery Centre  
NSW 2756  
Australia

Phone: +61 2 4577-7061  
Fax: +61 2 4577-7019  
E-mail: [tom@rawmeatybones.com](mailto:tom@rawmeatybones.com)  
Web: [www.rawmeatybones.com](http://www.rawmeatybones.com)

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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: [rrat.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:rrat.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary,

## **Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

I am a 1972 graduate of the Royal Veterinary College, University of London. In 1973/4 I completed a year of study at the London School of Economics with emphasis on logic and scientific method. I worked in large animal, small animal and zoo animal practices. In 1981 I opened the first of a group of four mixed animal practices on the western outskirts of Sydney.

In 1991 Dr Breck Muir and I, in different publications, [blew the whistle on the pet food industry/veterinary alliance](#). In August of the following year, I gave a presentation to the Sydney Metropolitan Branch of the Australian Veterinary Association entitled [Pandemic of Periodontal Disease a Malodorous Condition](#).

At the end of my presentation the [Mars Corporation spokeswoman Dr Barbara Fougere congratulated me](#) on my 'bravery' for sharing my opinion and went on to say: 'Part of what you are saying is very important, especially the part about bones'. However, the remainder of the audience, including six academics from the University of Sydney, showed little interest. From that moment I resolved that if the researchers and academics would not deal with the problems of junk pet food, especially as characterised by the pandemic of periodontal disease, then I would.

Besides studying the medical, surgical and literature aspects, I lobbied veterinary authorities, regulators and government ministers. During the 1990s the [print, radio](#) and [TV](#) media gave some coverage. Together with Dr Muir, [I contested Australian Veterinary Association \(AVA\) elections](#) — until I was [excommunicated from the Association](#). From 1997 to the present I have contested [Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons elections](#) obtaining around 9% of the vote each year.

In 1994 [Dr Fougere lodged the first](#) of several complaints by AVA and pet food company interests with the NSW Veterinary Surgeons Board, a Board made up predominantly of AVA and pet-food company sympathisers.

In 1997 I sold the last of my veterinary clinics to concentrate on research, writing and lecturing on the pet-food issue.

In 2001 *Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health* was published with the help of two specialist defamation lawyers and five other lawyers.

In 2005 the 'easy reader' *Work Wonders: Feed your dog raw meaty bones* was published.

In 2011 I returned to small animal practice in Bligh Park, NSW whilst continuing to campaign for a full, far-reaching inquiry into the junk pet-food scandal.

I shall be pleased to introduce Senators to my patients, clients and staff and to answer any questions arising.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,



Tom Lonsdale BVetMed, MRCVS

