## MEDIA RELEASE

Media release: Dr Tom Lonsdale

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## **Vet School Scandal**

Commission of Enquiry Needed



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ABC Lateline focused the spotlight on shady dealings at Sydney University Vet School.

The University is deep in the pockets of Colgate-Palmolive, makers of junk pet food 'Science Diet' and Mars Corporation, makers of many junk pet-food brands including Pedigree, Whiskas, My Dog and Royal Canin.

When the University discovered junk foods tested by them were dangerous to pet cats (according to their own artificial and unreliable standards) the University refused to protect the interests of pets, pet owners and students and maintained a cover-up.

ABC The World Today revealed that <u>Sydney University is aware of its failings</u> and is making behind the scenes changes. However, the Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence and the Dean of Vet School, Professor Rosanne Taylor refused to be interviewed by the ABC.

Dr Tom Lonsdale is one of two vets who blew the whistle on vet school corruption back in 1991.

His <u>Freedom of Information research into seven Australian Vet Schools</u> and their dirty deals with Colgate and Mars reveals some troubling information.

'For peanuts the Universities sell their students into servitude as life-long sales personnel for Colgate and Mars.'

'The Universities know that wild carnivores and those in zoos need a fully natural diet. But domestic carnivores, according to them, should be fed from their sponsor's junk pet-food can or packet.'

Dr Lonsdale made educational videos showing the devastating effects of <u>Colgate junk food Hill's</u> <u>'Science Diet'</u> and <u>Mars Corporation junk food 'My Dog'</u>. (May distress some viewers.)

Australian vet schools know it's wrong to:

- Cruelly force animals to consume junk every day of their tortured lives.
- De-fraud pet owners who otherwise place their trust in vets.
- Brainwash vet students in breach of their duty of care.

Dr Lonsdale says 'It's high time Australia's seven vet schools are made accountable.'

'The junk pet-food fraud is costing Australia \$billions. A high-level Commission of Enquiry is well overdue.'

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