

## **Comment from the BVA President Dr Freda Scott-Park on the Raw Meaty Bones Lobby Group - sent to parliamentary BVA Honorary Associates in July 2006**

### **Raw Meaty Bones Lobby Group**

You may already be aware that a meeting is to be held on Wednesday 12 July at Portcullis House (5.00 - 7.00 p.m. in Room Q) at which Australian veterinarian Tom Lonsdale will promote his views on the feeding of a raw meat and bones diet to pet animals.

Since this is a meeting for parliamentarians only I am writing to let you know of the BVA's concerns about some of the information disseminated by Mr Lonsdale's supporters, not least because of its potential impact not only on animal but also on human health.

The first thing we would stress is that provided the nutritional needs of the individual animal are identified and addressed and provided strict health and safety protocols, e.g. food hygiene, are followed, we as a profession have no objections if owners wish to provide their pets with home-produced diets. Indeed veterinary surgeons are more than happy to help those of their clients that so wish to develop a tailor-made diet for their pets. Similarly we have responded to those owners who seek a more holistic approach to their animals as well as their own health and many veterinary practices now offer 'alternative' therapies, including acupuncture and homeopathy.

What we do object to however is the inaccurate and misleading information being disseminated, particularly when it denigrates anyone who does not choose to follow their advice.

There is no doubt that pet animals are now living longer than ever before and consequently are beginning to suffer with the diseases of old age more commonly associated with human beings. As with humans, dietary requirements differ throughout an animal's life, and the modern veterinary practice counts itself as lucky to have in its armoury a range of diets to assist those pets unfortunate enough to suffer from such diseases as diabetes or from immuno-compromised conditions, obesity, etc.

There are also human health issues associated with the feeding of a raw meat and bones diet that do need to be addressed. Any veterinary surgeon helping a client to draw up such a diet would be remiss in the extreme if they did not underline to the client the importance of hygiene when handling and storing raw meat, particularly when not passed as fit for human consumption.

Dr Freda Scott-Park  
President

[See UKRMB Rebuttal on following pages.](#)

## **UKRMB Rebuttal of Dr Freda Scott-Park's statement**

It's fundamental and there's not the slightest doubt vets are supposed to welcome and promote the good health of pets.

It's fundamental and there's not the slightest doubt feeding a raw meaty bones based diet is the single most effective way of preventing ill health, cruelty and suffering of pet dogs, cats and ferrets.

When Dr Freda Scott-Park, the President of The British Veterinary Association (BVA), seeks to confound these fundamentals; seeks to mislead and confuse Members of the British Parliament, then we are faced with a major crisis.

The full BVA document is reproduced here with our annotations in blue.

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You may already be aware that a meeting is to be held on Wednesday 12 July at Portcullis House (5.00 - 7.00 p.m. in Room Q) at which Australian veterinarian Tom Lonsdale will promote his views on the feeding of a raw meat and bones diet to pet animals.

**Historic occasion:** Members of Parliament need information about the pet-food industry/veterinary consumer and scientific fraud. UK pet owners should be supported and congratulated for taking the initiative to protect pets from the ravages of the pet food industry/veterinary alliance.

Since this is a meeting for parliamentarians only I am writing to let you know of the BVA's concerns about some of the information disseminated by Mr Lonsdale's supporters, not least because of its potential impact not only on animal but also on human health.

**Diabolical scaremongering:** Junk food and veterinary dogma impose massive burdens on animal health and human health too. Freda Scott-Park seeks to turn the truth upside down and back to front.

The first thing we would stress is that provided the nutritional needs of the individual animal are identified and addressed and provided strict health and

safety protocols, e.g. food hygiene, are followed, we as a profession have no objections if owners wish to provide their pets with home-produced diets.

**False:** Freda Scott-Park distorts the truth in an attempt to present vets in a favourable light. A majority of practising vets and British veterinary schools condemn home-produced diets. Many pet owners are bullied by vets who exaggerate the risks and ignore the benefits of home-produced diets.

Indeed veterinary surgeons are more than happy to help those of their clients that so wish to develop a tailor-made diet for their pets.

**False:** The majority of vets have little or no understanding of how to feed pets a natural diet — tailor-made by Nature. The BVA goes out of its way to ensure vets remain in the dark. The highly acclaimed book, *Raw Meaty Bones*, containing comprehensive information is specifically suppressed by the BVA.

Similarly we have responded to those owners who seek a more holistic approach to their animals as well as their own health and many veterinary practices now offer ‘alternative’ therapies, including acupuncture and homeopathy.

**Misinformation/spin:** A few veterinary practices dabble in and profit from ‘alternative’ *treatments* — the universal *preventative*, a natural diet, is actively opposed by the majority of vets.

What we do object to however is the inaccurate and misleading information being disseminated,

**Humbug/false:** Raw meaty bones information is factual and accurately presented [www.ukrmb.co.uk](http://www.ukrmb.co.uk) [www.rawmeatybones.com](http://www.rawmeatybones.com) . We reject Freda Scott-Park’s scurrilous imputations.

particularly when it denigrates anyone who does not choose to follow their advice.

**Disgraceful posturing:** Millions of pet animals are slowly, cruelly poisoned to death by junk food promoted and often sold by vets. Freda Scott-Park’s self-pity and (mock) indignation reveals an appalling lack of contrition.

There is no doubt that pet animals are now living longer than ever before

**Possibly true:** For those pets forced to consume junk food, it’s to be hoped that modern junk pet foods are an improvement on the vile creations of

yesteryear. But where is the documentary evidence?

**Definitely false:** However, there is no evidence and can be no evidence that junk food-fed pets out-live their naturally fed counterparts.

and consequently are beginning to suffer with the diseases of old age more commonly associated with human beings.

**False:** Dr Scott-Park parades her ignorance. It's not a consequence of old age, it's junk food that afflicts our modern pets. Frequently, when elderly infirm dogs and cats are switched to a natural diet they become 'like puppies and kittens'.

As with humans, dietary requirements differ throughout an animal's life,

**False commercial propaganda:** How do human dietary requirements differ throughout life? Except for the very young, what mammalian species eat different diets according to life stage?

and the modern veterinary practice counts itself as lucky to have in its armoury a range of diets to assist those pets unfortunate enough to suffer from such diseases as diabetes or from immuno-compromised conditions, obesity, etc.

**Disgraceful:** Further victimization of the victims as part of the junk pet-food industry/veterinary commercial and scientific fraud.

There are also human health issues associated with the feeding of a raw meat and bones diet that do need to be addressed. Any veterinary surgeon helping a client to draw up such a diet would be remiss in the extreme if they did not underline to the client the importance of hygiene when handling and storing raw meat, particularly when not passed as fit for human consumption.

Dr Freda Scott-Park

President

**Scaremongering/propaganda:** Dr Freda Scott-Park and the British Veterinary Association should be deeply ashamed of their actions. We believe that they should be investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted for reckless, high-handed disregard for animal health, the human economy and natural environment.