



ukrmb
(United Kingdom Raw Meaty Bones)
Support & Action Group



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Freedom of Information Officer
Faculty of Veterinary Science
University of Liverpool
Liverpool
L69 7ZJ

22nd January 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

FOI enquiry: Processed pet food companies

In respect to all processed pet food companies with which Liverpool Veterinary School/Faculty is associated whether in a scientific, social, educational or research capacity please supply:

- * current contracts and memoranda of agreements.
- * correspondence between the school/faculty and its employees and pet food companies in respect to all matters for the 2006 calendar year.

In particular we are interested to learn details of any grants, sponsorships, guest lecturer appointments, field excursions to pet food factories/laboratories, scholarships and bursaries for veterinary students and the supply of pet food, text books and teaching aids.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Jackie Marriott (Mrs)



THE UNIVERSITY
of LIVERPOOL

Mrs J Marriott
UKRMB Support and Action Group
165 West Way
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West Sussex
BN15 8NB

Mrs Sheila Jones, BA
Assistant Registrar

Faculty of Veterinary Science

Veterinary Science Building
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20th February 2007

Dear Mrs Marriott

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act

I am writing in response to your letter of 22nd January 2007 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act.

1. **Details of current contracts and memoranda of agreements**

Please find attached details of current contracts funded by pet food companies. These have been provided by the University's Research and Business Services department. There are confidentiality clauses in all these contracts. Should you wish for further details on any of these contracts, the University will need to contact the funders and, if necessary, apply the public interest test before deciding whether details can be released (Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act may apply).

2. **Correspondence between the school/faculty and its employees and pet food companies in respect to all matters for the 2006 calendar year**

The Faculty of Veterinary Science has identified at least 38 members of staff who might reasonably be expected to have engaged in correspondence with pet food companies in the 2006 calendar year on a wide range of matters from student prizes to donations towards the Faculty's new Small Animal Teaching Hospital. Many of the communications received from such companies include clauses relating to confidentiality and, as your request stands, the amount of work involved in identifying all items of correspondence and reviewing them would exceed 18 working hours (£450 price limit). The Faculty therefore declines to supply the information requested as to do so would exceed the agreed cost of compliance (Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act). If, however, you

wish to identify more specifically matters which you are interested in which would reduce the amount of work involved, we would be prepared to consider an amended request. In relation to the particular areas you indicated in your final paragraph, I can confirm the existence of correspondence relating to the following:

Grants – see above and attached details

Sponsorships - the Faculty of Veterinary Science has a number of staff posts which are externally funded, including funding from charitable organisations. Those which are specifically funded by pet food companies are as follows:

Waltham/Royal Canin: fund the Royal Canin Weight Management Clinic (see <http://www.pet-slimmers.com>), including one Lecturer post in Small Animal Medicine and one Veterinary Nurse post.

Guest Lecturer Appointments – there are, from time to time, a small number of guest lecturers from pet food companies and also requests to members of Faculty staff to make presentations at seminars etc. sponsored by pet food companies.

Field excursions – no student excursions to pet food factories/laboratories took place during 2006

Scholarships and bursaries for veterinary students – The Faculty has one postgraduate student on a BBSRC Doctoral Training Grant (see <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/training/dtg.html>), who also receives an industrial CASE award (see <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/knowledge/case.html>) from Waltham.

We also have two undergraduate awards provided by Hill's Pet Nutrition Ltd. With the following regulations:

"The Hill's Student Award and The Hill's Small Animal Clinical Prize

Regulations

1. These awards, provided by Hill's Pet Nutrition Ltd., shall be known as The Hill's Student Award and The Hill's Small Animal Clinical Prize.
2. The Student Award shall be made annually to the Final year student who is judged to have presented the best case report in connection with studies required under BVSc Regulation 7; and the Hill's Small Animal Clinical Prize shall be made annually to the Final year student who shows the best all-round performance over the clinical years in Small Animal Studies.
3. The awards shall be made by the Board of the Faculty, the Hill's Student Award on the recommendation of a Professor of Small Animal Studies, and the Director of Clinical Extra-Mural Studies; and the Small

Animal Clinical Prize on the recommendation of the Head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Science.

Notes for the guidance of students

Hill's Pet Nutrition Ltd. Is part of the Colgate-Palmolive Company, and specialises in the production of Prescription Diet products for different stages of an animal's life.

The nature and value of these Awards are determined annually by Hill's Pet Nutrition Ltd. And comprise cheques for £200.00 and £150.00 respectively.

Case reports to be considered for the Hill's Student Award should be should be set out in a form suitable for publication as required by 'The Veterinary Record' or 'The Journal of Small Animal Practice'. They should not normally exceed 3000 words plus illustrations and should be typed. References should be properly listed and illustrations given appropriate legends.

Case selection is clearly important. Particular attention should be paid to the methods of diagnosis and follow-up information and/or histological/post-mortem findings, where appropriate.

Students intending to submit reports for consideration for the Hill's Student Award should consult their clinical tutor, or other appropriate staff member, for advice.

Case reports should be submitted before the last day of required attendance prior to Easter."

Supply of pet food –The Faculty's Fern Grove Veterinary Practice and Small Animal Hospital sell prescription diets. In addition, the Small Animal Hospital buys in pet food from NVS at cost price and receives as a donation pet food from Hills, neither of which are sold to the general public, but which are sold to staff within the Small Animal Hospital only. Monies raised from such sales are not treated as income but are regarded as donations and go solely towards the fitting out costs of the University's new Small Animal Teaching Hospital.

Supply of text books and teaching aids – the Faculty has no direct arrangements with pet food companies for the supply of text books and teaching aids but is aware that its students, through their veterinary student society, the Liverpool University Veterinary Society (LUVS), does, from time to time, receive offers of donations of text books, compendia, equipment such as stethoscopes and dog leads etc. from pet food companies.

Review and Complaints Procedures

The University is satisfied that, by providing this information in response to your query, it has complied with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. If, for any reason, you are not satisfied with this response, you should write to the Office of the

Chief Operating Officer, The Foundation Building, The University of Liverpool, 765 Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, L69 7ZX in the first instance, who will ensure that this is dealt with in accordance with the University's complaints handling policy.

Should you still be dissatisfied with the outcome of any such complaint, you have the right to make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, pursuant to Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act via The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs Sheila Jones

Cust.Id(T)	TAX	SOF	Description	Date from	Date to
WALTHAM CENTRE FOR PET NUTRITION	4A	4	The genetic basis of age related cognitive dysfunc	01/10/2002	30/09/2007
HILL'S PET NUTRITION LTD	4A	4	Hill's residency in small animal internal medicine	01/10/2003	30/09/2006
MASTERFOODS	4B	4	Waltham lecturer at the University of Liverpool.	01/10/2002	30/09/2007
WALTHAM CENTRE FOR PET NUTRITION	4A	4	Royal Canin Waltham Obesity Clinic.	01/06/2004	31/05/2009
WALTHAM CENTRE FOR PET NUTRITION	4A	4	The role of adipokines in canine obesity and assoc	01/10/2004	30/09/2007
HILL'S PET NUTRITION INC (USA)	7	7	To identify compounds with activities promoting app	20/10/2005	19/10/2007
WALTHAM CENTRE FOR PET NUTRITION	4A	4	DEXA validation study	01/10/2005	30/09/2008
MASTERFOODS	4B	4	Canine SNP discovery programme.	01/02/2003	28/02/2007