

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
The University of Edinburgh

Self explanatory reply to a Freedom of Information Act enquiry.



6 May 2005

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Dear

I refer to your letter dated 7 April 2005 addressed to Frankie Taylor in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Office which has been passed for my attention and reply.

I should perhaps begin by pointing out that public authorities in Scotland are subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and not the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Although broadly similar, there are a number of differences in detail and if you wish to examine the Scottish act it is available online at:

<http://www.scotland-legislation.hmso.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2002/20020013.htm>

Nutrition Curriculum for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets

Nutrition is taught in a number of areas of the BVM&S undergraduate programme of study. In the Body systems 2 course (taught in 2nd year) nutrition is a key framework for the course. The first two lectures are intended to link nutrition metabolism and digestion. There is a lecture on vitamins and one on the fed and fasted state and one on starvation and obesity. This equates to approximately 5 lectures. In the Introduction to Animal Husbandry course, taught in 1st and 2nd year, there are four lectures in Year 2 directly on the nutrition and feeding of dogs and cats (course book and Powerpoint presentation enclosed). Within the four lectures on the husbandry of small mammals, reptiles and cage birds in Year 1, taught by the veterinary staff of the School's Exotic Service, nutrition will be covered (course notes and lecture synopsis enclosed). The 12 lectures in Year 2 on the principles of nutrition will consider the basis of small animal nutrition. In the clinical courses, dietary management of specific clinical conditions are likely to be covered, taught by the clinicians responsible for that aspect of the course. In addition, students will be exposed to the nutrition of small animals during practical visits, e.g. to the Dog and Cat Home and the Zoo. They are also required to evaluate the nutrition of small animals during the extra mural studies placements undertaken during vacations at veterinary practices.

I have enclosed some past examination papers, although I cannot supply you with all papers as we reuse questions from previous years and you will understand therefore that we do not wish to release this information. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under section 30 (c).

As you will appreciate from the way our nutrition teaching is organised there is no principal course teacher and therefore it is not possible to answer your question about research interests and funding contributions in the way you have requested. If you would like to reformulate your information request in the light of an understanding of the way in which we are organised I would be happy to provide further assistance.

There is no external sponsorship of small animal nutrition teaching and there are no outside lecturers or guest presenters for these subjects.

The University receives pet food free of charge from Hills, which is available for sale to clients, members of staff and students, the income from which is used for the benefit of the activities within the University. Members of staff and students of the School are eligible for a 33% discount on the selling price if they are clients of the Hospital for Small Animals General Practice as long as the items are not specially ordered in which case no discount applies. Selected items of food from Pedigree Masterfoods and Royal Canin are available to the University free of charge, and the same discount arrangements described above apply to these items. For foods from these manufacturers not provided free of charge no discount arrangements apply. For foodstuffs for the Large Animal Hospital and the Large Animal Practice Teaching Unit food is sold to members of Staff at cost price if they purchase these items through their own trading unit. For any of the food which is provided free of charge the decisions on how it is distributed or on how it is sold are entirely at the discretion of the University.

Hills provide a book, which they publish, for students ("Small Animal Clinical Nutrition"), together with lab coats and some handouts. The School receives occasional sponsorship for weekly student seminars, with outside companies covering the cost of a speaker and sometimes refreshments for participants. Hills supply a speaker for a 2 hour client communication session for fourth year students.

Hills also provide funding for a clinical training scholar in small animal internal medicine which covers the stipend, a £600 allowance for conference attendance and the £3,010 tuition fee paid to the University for a non-graduating postgraduate student. Our clinical training scholars are classed as students and tuitions fees apply. The scale of stipends for the posts in question range from £12,240 to £15,272; I am not able to disclose the exact amount as this would provide confidential financial information about a member of the University.

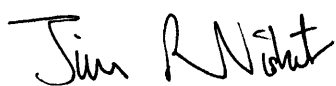
Dentistry Curriculum for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets

There is no separate course for dentistry for the species you mention. Dentistry is taught as part of the Integrated Pathology/Clinical Studies II course in third year (course book and detailed lecture synopsis enclosed) by an external practitioner, Norman Johnston, who is contracted to provide this teaching. You will appreciate that as the principal course teacher is not a member of staff of the University we have no information about any research interests or salary funding contributions. There is no external sponsorship of dentistry teaching, nor is there support from any companies with dental associations.

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Yours sincerely



Jim R Nisbet
School Administrator