

Early Day Motion 1003, November 2005

EDM 1003 calls for 'a wide ranging inquiry into that [UKRMB] group's serious concerns relating to human and pet health, the economy and the environment'.

See how the RCVS, DEFRA, BVA and PFMA manufacture their false and misleading statements.

14th November 2005

Email from the Pet Food Manufacturers Association (PFMA) to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) flagging up the latest Early Day Motion (EDM) in the House of Commons and including:

>quote< “It will be interesting to see what level of support this EDM attracts. We plan to write to any of the signatories of the bill in response.” >end quote<

.....
16th November 2005

Interdepartmental Email, RCVS

>quote< “Have we already asked the Library to do a search for research papers which might be cited in defence to the charges being made against the profession. I seem to recall we did not come up with anything not already referred to by the PFMA.” >end quote<

Reply – 16th November 2005

>quote< “Yes I think we did. However X did a subsequent literature search and, I think, came up with some further independent papers.” >end quote<

Reply 17th November 2005

>quote< “Ahh – we need to do a briefing – for MPs and it would be good to quote these sources and give them the full picture. Can you and X put something together – for us to use at the MPs lunch – and possibly before if pressed?” >end quote<

.....
24th November 2005

Email from Defra to RCVS

>quote< “We continue to be hounded by the spectre of Raw Meaty Bones and recall I think X saying that XX would be updating briefing on those kinds of issues. Just wondered whether you had made any progress with that. Also are you aware of the vet profession making any representations to the pet food industry about research into the effects of certain types of food. X seems to recall something about dry catfood....Can you enlighten me.” >end quote<

29th November 2005

Internal email RCVS – regarding telephone conversation with above person from Defra.

>quote> “They (Defra) have received some MC (which we all know is Ministerial Correspondence) from RMB asking what Defra are doing about the whole situation and whether research is being commissioned into the effects of processed pet foods/dry cat food etc.

I said that we had put some briefing information to EA Comm (External Affairs Committee) a couple of meetings ago, but that this had been essentially noted with no further action forthcoming. I also said that we haven’t as yet changed our previous position, and that we wouldn’t be looking to commission any research.

I gave X some background about XX’s general style of communication, about RMB UK’s treatment of the BVA (British Veterinary Association) policy statement ([See Annex A](#)) and the BVA’s and PFMA’s recent activities in that regard. I also mentioned that we might be organising a meeting with XX but that I couldn’t provide any more details at this stage.

X didn’t seem to think that they would be saying anything different this time around, but I offered to have a look at any correspondence they were going to send if that would be of assistance. Thought it might be useful to keep ourselves appraised of what else was being said” >end quote<

29th November 2005

RCVS to Defra

>quote< “Having just spoken to X about RMB, it seems I’m a little behind the times I’m afraid, partly because I wasn’t at the last EA Committee meeting, and mainly because I’ve yet to read the minutes. Apologies!

In a general discussion on policy statements, EA Committee decided that our current statement should be updated to take account of the additional issues raised by UK RMB since the first EDM last year (about which that statement was prepared). This will probably address their complaints about the veterinary

profession's involvement in selling petfoods, the allegations about academic positions in veterinary schools and the about of (independent) research into petfoods that is currently available. Our position on not commissioning independent research and/or inquiries remains unchanged.

The updated statement is still in the pipeline but I can send you a copy when it's been drawn up. In the meantime, you've no doubt seen the latest EDM on this issue from David Lepper MP, but please find this below for your info in case you haven't.

As I said, do come back to me in the meantime if you would like us to look at any correspondence.” >end quote>

30th November 2005

Defra to RCVS

>quote< “Thank you for your email. I attach a copy of the last reply to Ministerial Correspondence we issued on this subject for you to see. Since we currently have nothing further to add we will likely send a similar reply to Jim Paice MP who is the latest MP to write in about this. Grateful for your comments if you have any. I am also now in the possession of the BVA's policy brief (attached) and will try and weave in one or two points from this into the reply. The deadline for the reply was 25th November so I'm afraid we won't have time to wait for the latest brief from RCVS unless we can get sight of it soon.

I am aware of the EDM – I found it on the RMB website yesterday – but thanks for the notice. I need to chase up with Parliamentary Branch as they have not yet brought it to our notice, which is curious.

Many thanks for your help and offer to look at my draft reply.”

>end quote<

Ian Holloway

From: Lizzie Lockett
Sent: 06 December 2005 15:05
To: Ian Holloway
Subject: FW: Pet foods issues

Attachments: Glacier Bkgrd.jpg



Glacier Bkgrd.jpg (3
KB)

fYI

From: Hill, Lynne [mailto:lhil@rvc.ac.uk]
Sent: 06 December 2005 15:03
To: Lizzie Lockett
Subject: FW: Pet foods issues

you might find this useful in relation to raw meaty bones

: Bontempo V. [Related Articles, Links](#)
Abstract Nutrition and health of dogs and cats: evolution of petfood.
Vet Res Commun. 2005 Aug;29 Suppl 2:45-50.
PMID: 16244924 [PubMed - in process]

What I usually referred to when asked these questions previously was the nutritional problems that are well documented in the literature when nutritionally balanced diets are not fed - e.g. nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism in dogs (inappropriate Ca:P ratio of the diet) which are now hardly seen at all in veterinary practice. The contribution prepared clinical diets have made to the management of some disease conditions (e.g. kidney disease) is supported by peer reviewed literature:

e.g.

Cats:

Elliott, J, Rawlings, JM, Markwell, PJ & Barber, PJ (2000) Survival of cats with naturally occurring renal failure: effect of conventional dietary management. *Journal of Small Animal Practice* **41**, 235-242.

Dogs:

Jacob F., Polzin D.J., Osborne C.A., Allen T.A., Kirk C.A., Neaton J.D., Lekcharoensuk C. and Swanson L.L. (2002) Clinical evaluation of dietary modification for treatment of spontaneous chronic renal failure in dogs. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, **220**, 1163-1170.

I hope these are helpful.

Kind regards,

(log of meeting + minutes
see)

Notes of BVA Jt Offs 8/12/05

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**Note of RCVS-BVA Joint Officers meeting
8 December 2005 at BVA**

Freda Scott-Park (FS-P)
Lynne Hill (LH)
John Parker (JP)
Bobb McCracken (RMM)
Sheila Crispin (SC)
David Catlow (DC)
Jane Hern (JH)
Chris Collins (CC)

8. Raw Meaty Bones

It was agreed that BVA would contact the 55 MPs who have supported Mr Leppar's EDM to provide briefing on the BVA view on the issue, copying in the Divisions.

Chris Collins
15 December 2005

Lizzie Lockett

From: Lizzie Lockett
Sent: 21 December 2005 12:39
To: Jane Hem; Gordon Hockey; Lynne Hill; Jeff Gill
Cc: Ian Holloway
Subject: PFMA meeting

Dear All
I and I met the PFMA yesterday.

The meeting was:

- Michael Bellingham, Chief Executive
- Nicole Harrison, who looks after marketing/communications (the Communications Committee)
- Libby Sheridan, MRCVS, Veterinary Affairs Manager for Hill's and also on the PFMA Veterinary Nutrition Committee

Principally it was an opportunity for us to find out more about them and *vice versa*, and also to meet the PR person. We spent quite a lot of time explaining our role to them and how we differ from BVA/BSAVA. They also wanted to know about trends in the profession, so we talked about changing male/female ratio; large animal/small animal practice trends; Practice Standards Scheme; further education; increase in vet student places (they had the perception that places were few and far between) etc.

Here is a quick summary of other bits that might be of interest.

RMB

We talked about the EDMs and RMB's campaigning approach. PFMA felt that the UKRMB had lost some public confidence when they annotated BVA's policy statement and the media they had spoken to said they wouldn't touch the story for fear of legal reprisals.

It was interesting to hear that PFMA have some members who produce raw (frozen) meat-based products which undergo no additional processing. This helps PFMA to say that it represents a range of options for pet owners (although in fact the members who produce these products only make up a tiny percentage of the UK's petfood turnover).

In terms of education, Libby Sheridan said that at RVC and Glasgow, Hill's sponsors a nutrition course, where some of the lectures are from Hill's staff and some from independent staff. She said that there was no bias in the course in terms of either product brands or the type of food recommended, and that there was a lecture on RMB - from Philippa Yam. At Glasgow there were six lectures, at RVC half a day.... She didn't seem to be sure about the other universities.

She agreed with the RMB lobby that there wasn't enough nutritional teaching in universities.

They asked about our powers in terms of telling universities what sponsorship they could accept. I said that providing it didn't interfere with the quality / independence of the course offered then it wasn't a concern and that we accepted that universities needed to find what funds/sponsorship in kind they could.

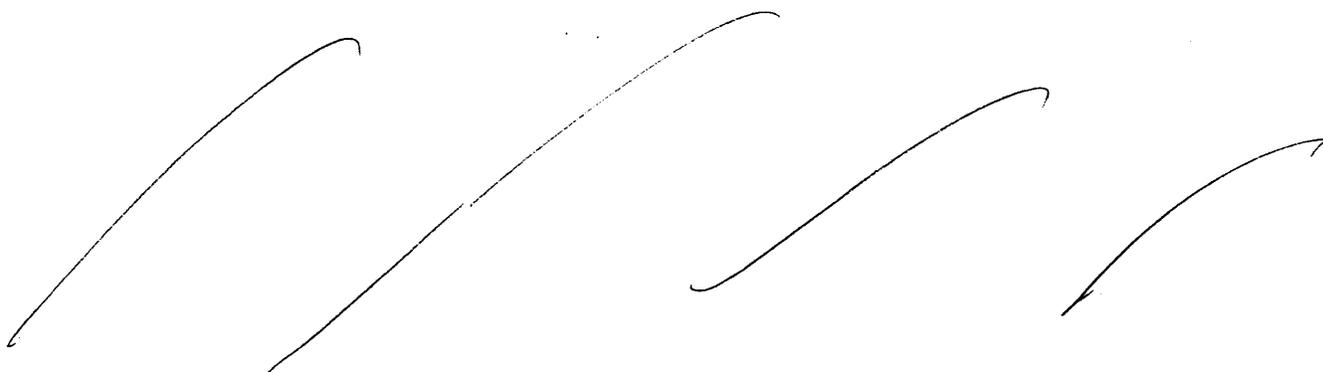
PFMA also mentioned the BARF (rather unfortunate acronym!) lobby group - Biologically Appropriate Raw Food. PFMA said this is a less extreme version of RMB and has some credibility with nutritionists. I had not heard of them before but here is their website: <http://www.barfworld.com/> They have commercial interest in the debate.

PFMA and its members are taking the RMB UK campaign seriously, says MB. They wrote to MPs that signed either of the EDMs. Were interested to hear our feedback from MPs that unless an EDM has 200 + signatures it is not really taken seriously, and were also interested to read the ministerial correspondence that we have had sight of from DEFRA - ie Ben Bradshaw's reply to Bill Wiggin.

They also take MPs round factory tours in their constituencies, which as proved positive so far (I remember one of the MPs at the recent lunch saying he had been on one of these - can't remember who, possibly Bill Wiggin).

Whilst they don't plan to do any research to rebuff the RMB crowd (questioned how this would be done any way, may take a long time...) they did stress that pet food manufacturers have to prove the nutritional content of the diets and showed us a copy of the Statutory Statement that goes on packaging.

They also said they understood the British Veterinary Dental Association has some research on the teeth problems associated with feeding RMB.



DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND

1. It was agreed at the October EA Committee meeting that it was appropriate to build a library of position statements on a range of potentially controversial topics, to be used in the media and with other enquirers as appropriate. It is important to note that such statements will only be used reactively and not issued on a broad basis. The library of statements will be reviewed and updated regularly.

NEW DRAFTS FOR AGREEMENT

2. The October meeting of EA Committee agreed four topics for initial consideration:
 - i. The Use of Animals in Research
 - ii. MRSA
 - iii. Raw Meaty Bones
 - iv. Homeopathy as it relates to the *Register*.
3. Statements on each of these topics have been agreed by Communications Board. They are to be found in annexes A-D. EA Committee is invited to amend or approve these statements.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

4. It was suggested by the Communications Board that position statements on the following topics be developed, on the basis of their current or potential newsworthiness:
 - i. Complementary therapies
 - ii. Tail docking
 - iii. Fees and costs
 - iv. A statement on bTB/Badgers will be drawn up once the RCVS response to the current consultation has been agreed.
5. The Committee is asked to consider the suitability of these topics and/or suggest additional topics.
6. Over the next few months, existing statements on the following topics will also be reviewed, and updated where appropriate:
 - i. Kidney transplantation
 - ii. Microchipping
 - iii. Cosmetic surgery
 - iv. Live exports

Lizzie Lockett
Head of Communications
January 2006

RCVS POSITION

December 2005

EARLY DAY MOTION 1003 – RAW MEATY BONES GROUP

The above EDM was laid down in November 2005 by Mr David Lepper MP and was similar to that laid down by Mr David Taylor MP in December 2004. There is little for us to add to our position taken in December last year but we hope that the following comments might serve as a useful as a reminder and to aid any further debate.

As the regulatory body for the veterinary profession, the RCVS does not exist to represent the views of veterinary surgeons and is not in a position currently to commission authoritative scientific research on the nutritional benefits of pet foods. Neither do we have the power to conduct an independent inquiry into the role of pet food manufacturers and the veterinary profession's role in recommending processed pet foods to their clients.

However, our regulatory powers, under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, do enable us to investigate complaints submitted against anyone on the *RCVS Register*. To protect the public interest we are the interface between complainants and respondent veterinary surgeons, combining legal and veterinary expertise, monitored by lay observers, to ensure correct process, scientific accuracy and fairness.

Through our own literature searches, and those of others, we understand that scientific evidence is publicly available to support the use of processed pet foods. These may be 'lifestyle' foods for healthy animals or 'prescription' diets for those that are unwell – for example, low protein/low potassium diets for animals with renal disease. We expect veterinary surgeons to make clinical decisions according to their professional judgement and based on the best available evidence at the time – veterinary surgeons are not expected to recommend products without due justification.

Many veterinary practices provide a range of services to their clients, in response to demand, which often includes the sale of pet foods. However, animal owners always have a choice in terms of which pet foods they buy and from where, or they can, of course, elect to use home-prepared foods (although some published work suggests there may be public health risks inherent in this practice).

We would continue to encourage Tom Lonsdale to seek scientific peer review of his first book *Raw Meaty Bones* and his more recent book *Work Wonders*. Similarly, as Mr Lonsdale's assertions and those of his support group UK Raw Meaty Bones (UKRMB) remain largely anecdotal as to the superiority of natural food, we would, again, encourage them to provide sound statistical and scientific evidence to support their claims.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Ian Holloway
RCVS External Affairs Officer
T: 020 7202 0727 F: 020 7202 0740 E: i.holloway@rcvs.org.uk

redact.

**Note of RCVS-BVA Joint Officers meeting
8 December 2005 at BVA**

Freda Scott-Park (FS-P)
Lynne Hill (LH)
John Parker (JP)
Bob McCracken (RMM)
Sheila Crispin (SC)
David Catlow (DC)
Jane Hern (JH)
Chris Collins (CC)

Lizzie Lockett

From: Lizzie Lockett
Sent: 01 February 2006 10:52
To: 'richard halliwell'
Cc: Edward Attwood; Gordon Hockey
Subject: RMB

Attachments: RMB Briefing note_Dec05.doc; Briefing_Dec05 - Annex B.ppt;
Statement_petfoods_Dec05.doc; Statement_petfoods_Dec04.doc

Dear Richard
I hope you are well?

We are trying to build up a library of position statements on a range of key topics so that they can be used reactively in the event of a journalist or other enquiry. One of the first topics to be tackled was our response to the latest EDM on RMB.

A draft statement was approved by Coms Board on 17 Jan and will go to EA Committee for its meeting on 15 February.

I have attached for you a briefing paper originally written by Ian for Officers prior to the last round of MPs and Peers dinners (Dec 2005). In its annexes are:

- our statement on the Dec 2004 EDM
- the BVA policy statement, as annotated by RMB UK
- our draft statement on the Dec 2005 EDM

I would very much appreciate your comments on the Dec 2005 EDM statement.

Many thanks for your help.

Best wishes



RMB Briefing
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Annex B.ppt (...
Statement_petfood
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Statement_petfood
s_Dec04.doc (...

Lizzie

Lizzie Lockett
Head of Communications

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Fax: 020 7202 0740

Visit the new RCVS website at: www.rcvs.org.uk

Lizzie Lockett

From: Lizzie Lockett
Sent: 01 February 2006 15:25
To: 'richard halliwell'
Subject: RE: RMB

Hi Richard
Sorry for that oversight... I have the ministerial corresp in hard copy only so will pop a copy in the post for you.

Planet RMB is a strange place to be, but I am glad you are its expert!

All the best
Lizzie

From: richard halliwell [mailto:richard_halliwell@btinternet.com]
Sent: 01 February 2006 14:58
To: Lizzie Lockett
Subject: Re: RMB

Dear Lizzie,
I can't quite recall how it was that I came to be promoted to be the RMB expert.....but it seems that I am!
I'll be pleased to have a look over things the next day or so. You didn't include the Ministerial correspondence - I guess it could be useful to me to know how they are thinking.
A couple of years ago, Lonsdale sent a number of vitriolic letters to DEFRA accusing Council members of all sorts of things - I don't know if that is still going on.
Best regards,
Richard

----- Original Message -----

From: [Lizzie Lockett](#)
To: [richard halliwell](#)
Cc: [Edward Attwood](#) ; [Gordon Hockey](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2006 10:51 AM
Subject: RMB

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Lizzie <<RMB Briefing note_Dec05.doc>> <<Briefing_Dec05 - Annex B.ppt>>
<<Statement_petfoods_Dec05.doc>> <<Statement_petfoods_Dec04.doc>>

Lizzie Lockett

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Visit the new RCVS website at: www.rcvs.org.uk

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2006

Present:	Mrs J Nute	-	Chairman
	Mr J D Bailey		
	Mrs A I Bruce		
	Professor S Crispin	-	Junior Vice-President
	Mr R G Eddy		
	Mr F Landeg	-	for the CVO
	Mrs L V Hill	-	President
	Mr P C Jinman		
	Mr M Jones	-	Vice-Chairman
	Mr R P Moore	-	Treasurer
	Mr J Parker	-	Senior Vice-President
	Ms B M Saunders		
	Miss C F Shield		
Mr J S Ware			
In attendance:	Miss J C Hern	-	Registrar
	Mr J S Gill	-	Policy Officer
	Mr I A Holloway	-	External Affairs Officer
	Ms E Lockett	-	Head of Communications

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES

- 1) Professor Gorman and Dr Reynolds sent apologies. Dr MacArthur Clark was absent.

ITEM 2: MINUTES

- 2) There were no further comments on the Council-approved minutes of the EA Committee meeting of 19 October 2005

ITEM 6: RCVS POSITION STATEMENTS

- 21) The EA Department was commended on the quality of the four position statements under discussion. It was asked whether there was any available evidence to show that MRSA was mostly transmitted from people to their pets. The President answered that there was none yet, and that transmission could be in either direction.
- 22) There was some concern about stating in a public document that veterinary practices "should be regularly and thoroughly tested" for MRSA, especially if no specific guidelines existed and it wasn't provided for in the Practice Standards Scheme. It was difficult to state anything about testing staff, as reliable and consistent testing was not yet available (DEFRA was still investigating this) and MRSA differed according to what species it afflicted. It was suggested that the third sentence of paragraph four be removed until more evidence as to the efficacy of MRSA testing was available.
- 23) The Head of Communications highlighted this as a grey area that was a good example of the overlap between Advisory and EA Committee responsibilities. Although technical advice via Advisory Committee would be useful to pass on to the veterinary press, it was important for the EA Department to have more general information for national and local media enquiries.
- 24) It was recommended that, in the raw meaty bones statement, the example of ingredients in a lifestyle diet should be changed from low potassium to low phosphorous.
- 25) There was some concern that the College's stance seemed to be against raw meaty bones and that the direct reference to Mr Tom Lonsdale was too personal and should be removed. It was pointed out that the College was not against raw meaty bones and had encouraged Mr Lonsdale to provide scientific evidence to support his assertions. Members were informed that this statement was a direct response to an Early Day Motion that made specific reference to the RCVS and to Mr Lonsdale and so it was necessary to address these issues. It was then suggested that the word "peer" should be removed from the last paragraph and that Tom Lonsdale should be referred to as Mr Tom Lonsdale.
- 26) It was suggested that a sentence should be added to the statement on veterinary homeopaths and the *RCVS Register* that the list of such was to be removed from the 2006 edition.
- 27) It was queried whether a position statement could be produced on the issue of blood storage. This subject, if raised frequently enough, would be more appropriate for an advice sheet from the Professional Conduct Department. However, a public response might be required if it became more high profile.
- 28) The Head of Communications confirmed that automatic review dates were already built into the procedure for producing position statements.

STOP CRUEL ALLIANCE

JOIN UKRMB • www.ukrmb.co.uk

Page 1 of 1

British Veterinary Association

BVA Policy Brief

Raw Meaty Bones Lobby

NO DEBATE
only censorship
and suppression

An ongoing debate within the veterinary profession. A small lobby group proposes that pet dogs and cats should be fed a 'natural diet' of raw meat and bones rather than commercially prepared diets. The group is active in their criticism of the commercial manufacturers of pet foods. This criticism has recently been extended to the university veterinary schools, which have been accused of teaching undergraduate veterinary nutrition in a biased fashion in return for financial support for research and clinical work within the schools.

TRUE
BETRAYAL
OF TRUST!

TRUE
JUNK PET
FOOD
MAIMS &
KILLS

FACTOIDS AND FALSEHOODS

Key facts:

- Dogs are omnivorous animals whilst cats are obligate carnivores. Both species require a balance of essential dietary nutrients (e.g. vitamins, minerals and essential fatty acids) for optimal health and longevity. **AS DETERMINED BY NATURE NOT COMMERCE**
- Commercially prepared pet foods have been scientifically formulated to contain the optimum balance of essential dietary nutrients for each species. Some commercial pet foods have been designed to satisfy the requirements of specific breeds or the specialised dietary needs of animals with a range of illnesses. The use of such diets over the past decades likely accounts for the increased health and longevity of companion animals. **ABSURD**
- These commercial diets are based on extensive research, performed both 'in-house' and in collaboration with veterinary schools. Much of this research is published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. By contrast, there is no scientific evidence base to support the benefits of feeding raw meat and bones. **FALSE+ SEE RAW MEATY BONES: PROMOTE HEALTH**
- Dogs and cats may be fed with home-prepared 'natural diets', but it is difficult to achieve the optimum balance of requisite nutrients in this fashion. **RMB FED PETS THRIVE. A PROCESSION OF JUNK FOOD FED PETS VISIT THE VET**
- The feeding of raw meat and bones to companion animals carries particular risks, including infection with pathogenic bacteria associated with uncooked meats (e.g. Salmonella, Campylobacter) and injury (e.g. intestinal perforation) caused by bone fragments. The BSAVA (the BVA's relevant specialist division) advises against the feeding of raw meat or bones to companion animals for this reason. **TRUE - THEY SINK VERY LOW**
- The RMB lobby proposes that the feeding of bones is beneficial to oral health (teeth and gums). Similar benefits may be achieved by feeding of purpose designed kibble food or dental chews, without the attendant risk of damage (e.g. fractures) of the teeth. **ESSENTIAL!**

JOKE-
MARKETING
MAGS
389 PAGES
SCIENTIFIC
EVIDENCE

FALSE

FALSE -
COOKED
GRAIN FOR
CARNIVORES?

TRUE -
VET PROFESSION
PROSTITUTES
ITSELF

FALSE

SCAREMONGERING
DISINFORMATION

DISGRACEFUL
DISINFORMATION

BVA PRESIDENT

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WOULD THE
BRITISH MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
CONSPIRE WITH
MARS, NESTLÉ
AND CO TO
PROMOTE JUNK?

MARS
NESTLÉ
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE
PROCTER & GAMBLE
AND OTHERS

Additional Resources

- Pet Food Manufacturers Association Information Paper on Raw Meat and Bones Discussions. PFMA, January 2005. **SEE FULL TEXT AT [WWW.UKRMB.CO.UK](http://www.ukrmb.co.uk)**

Date last edited: 11 October 2005

Pets & pet owners deserve better

STOP CRUEL ALLIANCE