

15 March 2016 Email Correspondence with journalist Sarah Kidby sarah.kidby@visionline.co.uk

Hi Sarah,

Thanks for questions. See answers below. Shall be happy to expand as needs be.

Cheers,

Tom

Ps. Copied to nominators

At 10:07 PM 08-03-16, you wrote:

Hi Tom,

I write for a news website for vets called MRCVSONline and we would like to ask you some questions about the RCVS Council elections again this year if possible. We're hoping to speak to each candidate to find out a bit more about them so we can publish a story on MRCVSONline, with a longer more detailed story on our sister site, VetCommunity.

I hope this is of interest. I've pasted the questions below so you can see the type of thing we're looking for.

There are six main questions, if you would be able to send back your answers with a photo of yourself that would be great. I have also included a few other topics for consideration; if you would like to send me your thoughts on these too that would be great, but if you would prefer to just answer the six questions that's absolutely fine.

Do let me know if you'd like any more information.

Look forward to hearing from you

Best wishes

Sarah

Questions:

1. What made you decide to stand for Council?

This is the 20th consecutive RCVS election I have contested.

<http://www.rawmeatybones.com/elections.php>

Primarily it is and was about getting 500 words, once a year, on the veterinary record about the mass poisoning of pets by junk pet-food. As you know, much like the Mafia concept of omerta, there's a code of silence in the vet industry where denigrating junk food is not allowed, even discussing the issue is frowned upon. So even though the mass poisoning of pets is easily the biggest subject of concern, there's virtually no discussion and no 'research' published on the matter.

RCVS Knowledge made a big deal about their push into evidence based medicine. But it's all a sham.

https://www.vetsurgeon.org/news/b/veterinary_news/archive/2016/03/02/139837.aspx#.VuYvUJx96UI

RCVS Knowledge has announced the official launch of *Veterinary Evidence* a new resource designed to unite practitioners interested in promoting and using the principles of evidence-based veterinary medicine (EBVM) within practice.

Veterinary Evidence which is supported by the RCVS represents RCVS Knowledge's wider mission statement of providing the veterinary community with practice relevant, evidence-based information resources. Papers and publications are now available for use, completely open-access.

Veterinary Evidence aims to become the go-to portal for evidence-based veterinary information, promoting and publishing peer-reviewed papers alongside discussion of EBVM through opinion, clinical and methodological articles.

The site will host a wide range of material from randomised controlled trials to case studies, Knowledge Summaries and interviews. The content is designed to educate readers in research techniques, responding to the desire amongst many veterinary professionals to become involved in effective practice-based research including critical appraisal and clinical audit.

Jacqui Molyneux, Chair of the RCVS Knowledge Board of Trustees said: "As a practising veterinary surgeon I, along with many others, recognise the emerging importance of evidence-based veterinary medicine and I believe it will become more and more important as time goes on. We all wish to do the best for our patients but how do we find out what the current best is? That's where this portal will become so useful; collecting and publishing articles that directly help practising vets and nurses to answer that question."

Bradley Viner, the President of the RCVS and a Trustee of RCVS Knowledge, said: "The College was very happy to support our charity partners at RCVS Knowledge in launching this excellent new resource which will be relevant to all veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses in clinical practice. Furthermore, clinical governance is now firmly established as an important principle in the Code of Professional Conduct for both professions and so, by encouraging practitioners to undergo a continuing process

of reflection, analysis and improvement, Veterinary Evidence will also be helping them fulfil their professional responsibilities.

I wrote [in an online discussion group]:

'reflection, analysis and improvement'

What a joke!

No reflection, no analysis, no improvement to the bogus system currently masquerading as vet 'science'.

At core there's the unshakeable assumption that domestic carnivores can be fed from the can and packet with no short or long term health impairment.

Next there's the absurd assumption that the can and packet contains superior fare to the wild natural reference diet.

Then there's the massive fraud that brand name Hill's, Iams, Royal Canin are superior to all other junk.

Then there's the vicious assumption that not only is junk superior, but that the natural standard is in fact 'harmful'.

Of course since junk food appears at every twist and turn in the vet orthodoxy, ipso facto, at every turn the vet 'science' is bogus.

To make matters worse, there's a stoopid assumption that the vet reductionist methodology allows vets to identify, diagnose and treat ill health. A further set of stoopid assumptions leads practitioners to believe the information derived from blunt instruments -- stethoscopes, xray machines, thermometers, etc -- can yield useful information. (At the end stage they may.)

Bah humbug. Wot's before your eyes, up your nose and at your fingertips tells infinitely more than all the bogus vet guff piled high.

Stop the junk food, pull the bad teeth, fix the obesity and watch the pets become 'like kittens/puppies' again.

What do the ridiculous deckchair attendants have to say about that, I wonder?

2. What are you hoping to achieve if you are elected?

Inject a measure of honesty and integrity into the discourse. Stop the sham that passes for self regulation. Bring about the first tentative steps towards an essential scientific revolution. And of course purge the junk pet-food industry from all vet schools, vet associations and clinics. It's absolutely abominable that the poisoners are in control of the 'education' the 'science' and the practice.

3. What changes would you like to see within the College and the wider profession?

Wise up to the inadequacies of current reductionist science, to the inadequacies of the educational and administrative structures afflicting our profession.

4. Where do you see the veterinary profession a decade from now?

Somewhere on a spectrum between two extremes:

a.) Progressive tightening of the junk pet-food industry control over vet education, research and practice. Brought about by corporate control of vet practices, payments to vet schools and associations. Simultaneously the media and politicians becoming ever more tightly influenced and controlled by the industry.

b.) The veterinary profession held in contempt, viewed as pariahs that exploit voiceless pets and defraud innocent pet owners by pushing harmful junk food and then engaging in massive over-servicing of the sick pets -- when simply stopping the junk is all that's needed.

5. Which historical or contemporary celebrity would you like to take out for lunch and why?

Barack Obama. He's risen above immense prejudice, has class and style and deals with real issues in the real world now. Maybe he would, in a relaxed moment over lunch, give some tips and insights.

6. What do you feel the College can do to help better support its members?

Either recuse itself from all future dealings until an administrator has had chance to put the broom through the rotten shell. Alternatively think creatively and confront the enormity of the present crisis. Speaking with me either by email or telephone would be a useful first step.

Would you like to comment on these further topics:

* Even taking the recent changes into account, there is a view among some veterinary professionals in practice that there are too many academics and people with vested interests on Council. What is your view?

Whether academics or elected representatives they're all much of a muchness -- self-interested blinkered, individuals. I think of them as deckchair attendants rearranging the deckchairs as the ship goes down. Although in my view some of them are seriously corrupt and should be prosecuted in the courts.

*** How do you feel the RCVS could address major problems currently affecting the profession (disillusion, mental health issues, for example)**

The profession has lost its way, largely I believe, because the leadership are fundamentally dishonest. Insofar as they allow, even condone and encourage, the mass poisoning of animals then they lack fundamental compassion. If they are bereft of basic humanity, then it's no wonder they provide little support for the wider membership.

*** Is becoming a veterinary surgeon no longer a vocation, but just another career option for academically gifted students?**

Yes, I agree. However the new recruits are mostly unsuspecting victims inculcated/invetriated at the vet school. They spout scientised gobbledegook and en-mass appear more like a demonic cult than a caring, thoughtful profession.