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24 November, 1994

Dr Lindsay Heywood
Committee for Undergraduate Education
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
The University of Sydney
SYDNEY NSW 2006

Dear Dr Heywood,

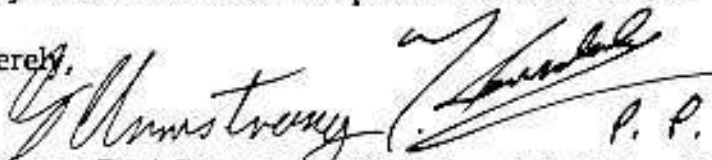
SYDNEY 2000: TIME FOR A NEW CURRICULUM?

We the undersigned practitioners in small animal veterinary practice welcome your statement concerning the development of holistic approaches to veterinary education. (Australian Veterinary Association News, November, 1994)

Billinghurst, Lonsdale and others, have asserted that domestic carnivores fed a natural diet are spared periodontal disease and a variety of ailments afflicting artificially-fed animals. This must remain beyond dispute unless someone can show that naturally-fed animals are not noticeably healthier than artificially-fed controls.

As you know, the majority of curricula are predicated on the feeding of artificial food to domestic carnivores and the subsequent diagnosis and treatment of end-stage disease. At a fundamental educational level this appears to be in conflict with the first rule of medicine, 'Do no harm'. When devising your new curriculum it is hoped that you will be able to incorporate this information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr G Armstrong, Dr A Bennet, Dr I Billinghurst, Dr C Degeling, Dr W Hood,
Dr T Lonsdale, Dr J Lumley, Dr B Muir, Dr J Pollard, Dr D Treharne

REFERENCES

BILLINGHURST, I. (1993) Give Your Dog a Bone, Billinghurst, Lithgow, NSW, Australia

LONSDALE, T. (1993) Preventative Dentistry in Veterinary Dentistry -
Proceedings 212, Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science,
University of Sydney.

cc Deans of Veterinary Schools
Veterinary Student Bodies
Interested Parties

