

**RMB Newsletter 6:3 July 2006**

Bad to worse

Dear Reader,

How are you? Hope this finds you wonderfully well and fighting the good fight against the junk pet-food monster.

This last couple of weeks it's been hot here in England. Near record temperatures were reached in London. Record and sometimes heated discussions were held on three separate days with UK Members of Parliament about the pet-food industry/veterinary alliance's callous indifference to animal cruelty. By the next newsletter I hope to have some details.

The main item in this newsletter focuses on the British Veterinary Association and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons going from bad to worse.

There are updates on the RMB U-turn Tour.

News just in: Bill and Joy, my much appreciated web-helpers, have posted the full text of Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health at [www.rawmeatybones.com](http://www.rawmeatybones.com)

Have fun and much success too.

Tom Lonsdale

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**RMB U-turn Tour**

Already this northern summer my wife Jie and I have enjoyed fabulous hospitality and fellowship in Holland, Belgium and UK. In chronological order:

List owner Ester, Roger Verhaegen and helpers made me most welcome on the VoerNatuurlijk Forum [www.voernatuurlijk.nl/forum](http://www.voernatuurlijk.nl/forum). Fortunately discussions on subjects including 'barf', 'prey-model' and 'vaccines' were

conducted in English. A transcript has been saved at the UK Raw Meaty Bones site [www.ukrmb.co.uk/](http://www.ukrmb.co.uk/)

On 29 June Roger and Marc Geerinck collected us in Rotterdam and headed south to Belgium. Martine had organized a wonderful venue in a delightful village. We dined in style in superb surroundings. After the seminar we talked late into the night. Fortunately Marc and wife Nadia gave up their huge waterbed so that we could get a good night's rest before the journey back to Holland in readiness for the 1 July seminar.

Ineke van Vessem, Irene, Celestine Nicolas-LaFarge, Jacky Verhulst and Irene and Spencer de Wijn ([www.alles-rauw.nl](http://www.alles-rauw.nl)) worked hard over several months to arrange talks at the Martin Gaus centre in Lelystad, Holland and then at Peter Lennertz's wolf centre in Limbourg-Bilstain, Belgium. Ton and Marlies Leegwater, friends from volunteer days in Kenya in 1972, ferried us between the venues in the most glorious summer sunshine.

The Martin Gaus centre contains state of the art facilities. In Limbourg Peter and his wife have a wonderful rustic hall overlooking green fields and the town below. Wolves hide in the long grass on the hillside above. The sponge cake and coffee was excellent. Good attendance and wonderful facilities are a tribute to all concerned.

Thank you to all we met and to all who helped behind the scenes to make our stay a sequence of magic moments.

On 7 July we arrived in the UK and have been staying with Jackie and Vic Marriott and Stella and Frank Smith. It's been a fun and valuable time planning the remainder of the U-turn tour.

With the Wisbech, Cambridge seminar still to come on 6 August there is still opportunity to take part in the RMB U-turn discussions. (Details at [www.rawmeatybones.com](http://www.rawmeatybones.com)) Debbie Hill attended RMB seminars in 2002 and 2003. In 2004 she organized the Essex seminar and is now hosting the 2006 event. Thanks Debbie for wonderful support.

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USRMB

Have you checked-out the new USRMB site? [www.usrmb.net](http://www.usrmb.net) Combining aesthetic appeal with crisp functionality Judy Rivers has created a wonderful resource in the fight against the pet-food/vet alliance.

For the future Judy will need lots of help and, I should say, lots of money to further the campaign. If you live in North America please give generously – pets, people and the wider environment need to escape the pet-food tyranny.

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BVA and RCVS going from bad to worse

Part of the Raw Meaty Bones campaign involves standing for the council of the Royal College of Veterinary(RCVS)

<http://www.rawmeatybones.com/elections.html>. The RCVS is the regulatory body for veterinary surgeons in the UK whose function it is:

- To safeguard the health and welfare of animals committed to veterinary care through the regulation of the educational, ethical and clinical standards of the veterinary profession, thereby protecting the interests of those dependent on animals and assuring public health.
- To act as an impartial source of informed opinion on animal health and welfare issues and their interaction with human health.

Effectively, then, the RCVS is the body responsible for the parlous state of the veterinary profession in the UK. By standing for election there is just a chance other vets will get to read about the issues and start to take notice. In each of the past nine years I received around 9 or 10% of the votes cast. This year the figure slipped to 7.5%. No other candidates mention the pet-food fraud so it seems UK vets are becoming less interested in putting their house in order.

When thanking the voters in a letter I sent to the Veterinary Record, Journal of the British Veterinary Association, I also mentioned the RMB U-turn briefings for members of Parliament:

Dear Editor,

**RCVS Election**

Thank you to all supporters at the 2006 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons election — the tenth election highlighting the junk pet-food superstitions gripping the veterinary profession.

Eventually we shall win through. We must never give up. In the words of the late great J K Galbraith: ‘In all life one should comfort the afflicted, but verily, also, one should afflict the comfortable, and especially when they are comfortably, contentedly, even happily wrong.’

In October 2005 the British Veterinary Association, speaking about raw meaty bones, stated that there is ‘an ongoing debate within the veterinary profession’. In March 2006 the UK Raw Meaty Bones Group invited seven British veterinary schools to give validity to the notion of an ‘ongoing debate’ and host discussions on the nutritional and medicinal benefits of natural foods for domestic and wild carnivores. Not one veterinary school accepted the invitation. (See Campaign Diary [www.ukrmb.co.uk](http://www.ukrmb.co.uk))

Undaunted the UKRMB Group press on because, unlike the veterinary authorities, many Members of Parliament have indicated their willingness to discuss the five facets of the pet-food fraud. On Wednesday 12 July 2006 there is to be a two hour briefing for Members of both Houses of Parliament. For details please see [www.rawmeatybones.com](http://www.rawmeatybones.com). Please, for the benefit of pets, pet owners and the wider community, encourage your MP to attend the briefing.

I welcome your comments and shall be pleased to meet colleagues during the European 2006 Raw Meaty Bones U-turn Tour.

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Unfortunately the British Veterinary Association appears contemptuous of Parliament, its members and the wider community. Martin Alder the editor of the Veterinary Record wrote:

Dear Tom,

Thank you for sending us your letter.

Traditionally, we publish 'thank you' letters from candidates standing in the RCVS Council elections as a courtesy to those candidates. However, with



I write in reply to your letter of 29 May 2006 which I received by fax on 1 June 2006. I am also aware of e-mail correspondence which you have copied to the College in recent weeks in connection with the way in which the Editor of the Veterinary Record has responded to a letter you have submitted for publication. The decisions of the Editor are not matters for the College and it would be wholly inappropriate for the RCVS to seek to influence them in any way.

Members of the BVA and the profession generally may receive information about developments at Westminster: through a variety of media sources, including veterinary journals (other than the Veterinary Record), national newspapers and magazines.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Lynne V Hill MVB MBA MRCVS  
President

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Censorship and suppression are only part of the British Veterinary Association/Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons endeavour. They either facilitate or encourage British vets to capitalize on the epidemic of junk food induced disease:

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Off the Record, News from the British Veterinary Association, Volume 5  
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**How can Pet Smile Month benefit your practice?**

Pet Smile Month can benefit both pets and veterinary practices according to Bob Partridge, the event's organizer. [Member of the Council of the RCVS] This year a £1 million TV advertising campaign is planned to get the healthcare message out to the pet-owning public. Pet Smile Month is excellent PR for the veterinary profession—but, he says, you have to take part to benefit.

The promotional activity will encourage pet owners to visit local participating practices to receive a free dental health check for their pets, by either a vet or trained member of staff. In addition to providing recommendations on dental treatment, preventative health will be discussed and the client will go home with a free dental-health goody bag, containing helpful leaflets and samples of products that can help to reduce dental disease.

### Benefits

So why should you give your time for free? The advertising allows the Pet Smile message to be spread across a wide range of pet owners. Signing up could bring new and lapsed clients back into your practice.

Since 80% of cats and dogs over the age of three have dental disease, all practices should benefit from the increase in dental work required. Other long-term benefits will include being able to offer this new pool of clients other preventative healthcare measures, such as vaccinations, wormers and flea treatment.

As in other areas of veterinary medicine, prevention is better than cure and Pet Smile Check-Ups are a fantastic opportunity for you to discuss preventative dental care. If your staff can successfully communicate the importance of tooth brushing, dental chews and specialist dental diets, this could be a new long-term source of revenue for your business.

### Chance to win a new dental unit

Hopefully your 'ops' list will be brimming with dental work but you may be wondering how your old scaler will cope with the increased workload. Well, it may not have to. Pet Smile Month has teamed up with Kruise (UK) to offer a prize of a high tech dental unit worth £3000 to one lucky practice. Every Pet Smile Check-Up survey form returned will be placed in the draw. To make things easier, survey forms can be submitted online this year.

### How to register

Return your registration form, or download details from the vet area at [www.PetSmile.org](http://www.PetSmile.org). Demand will be high and early registrants will receive priority in the allocation of goody bags.

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For more details about the Pet Smile propaganda campaign, funded by the Mars Corporation the company responsible more than any other for the 80% of pets suffering dental disease, see the UKRMB 'Conspiracy' page:

[www.ukrmb.co.uk](http://www.ukrmb.co.uk)