

RCVS rejects the RMB interpretation of the evidence

Most pets are afflicted by junk food diets. A majority of pets suffer from junk-food induced mouth rot and obesity. Alas veterinary teaching, research and practice mostly fails the laugh test and by implication the so-called veterinary science, upon which vets base their treatments, also fails the laugh test.

In the UK, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is placing its hopes in so-called Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine. There's to be a conference on the subject in October 2014 <http://www.ebvm-2014.org/>

This amounts to laying smoke screens, rearranging the deck chairs on the sinking ship and fiddling whilst the pets crash and burn

I offered to speak at the conference and help the delegates from all over the world start to understand that there's mountains of evidence of the junk pet-food fraud. All that's needed is for the evidence to be accessed and reinterpreted in a clear light.

The abstract below sets out the general thrust of what I proposed to say.

You can rightly guess that I was NOT invited to deliver the talk.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Title: Evidence needs interpretation — honest interpretation

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Abstract No. 0086

Title Evidence needs interpretation — honest interpretation

Abstract

There's a creeping realisation that much veterinary 'evidence' fails the scientific test. Over-servicing based on dubious interpretations of the evidence — or suppression of the evidence — is commonplace. Needless vaccinations against non-existent diseases prop up the veterinary economy.

Pick up any veterinary publication and you'll see big pharma exert control and invoke their interpretations of the 'evidence'. Of greater concern, junk pet-food makers enjoy special relationships with veterinary regulators, schools, associations, researchers, suppliers and practitioners.

Defenders of the system employ dodgy assumptions and defective logic. Little or

no consideration is given to subjective assessments, the basis of most decisions by clients and clinicians, or the complex interconnectivity of our world. Vets pursue the reductionist, treatment and germ theory paradigms with varying degrees of commitment and expertise, but seldom or never consider the limitations of those belief systems.

Attempting to alleviate this regrettable state of affairs, some commentators seek salvation in Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine (EBVM). I believe this approach to be premature, costly, time consuming and unlikely to succeed — a matter of putting the aspirational EBVM cart before the broken-down, vice-ridden veterinary horse. Unless and until the multi-system, multi-organ failure is acknowledged and investigated, in my view, pursuing largely unattainable EBVM further confuses a confused situation and distracts from our obligations to the community.

In the first instance we need honest interpretation of the available evidence. A full commission of enquiry, as called for by 432 voters at the 2014 RCVS elections, should be our first commitment.

Approval	Confirm
Website	Yes
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Registration	Confirm
Keywords	'First do no harm', healthy scepticism, evidence needs interpretation, philosophical and strategic considerations, political, economic and feasibility issues, integrity, whistleblowing, campaigning for reform, new scientific paradigm
Presentation	Oral
Biography	Thomas by name and doubting by nature, as a young veterinary student, Tom experienced misgivings about the arbitrary nature and contribution of veterinary science in society. After graduating as a vet he enrolled at the London School of Economics in a quest to learn more. Courses in logic and scientific method provided a foundation for further learning. However, it was the clinical experience gained running his small animal practices in Sydney Australia that provided the vital epiphany: Most pets are addicted to junk food diets with resultant adverse health implications; however the veterinary profession remains largely in denial. Tom's seminal work Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health was published in 2001. Chapters on 'Misdirected science' and 'Collaboration at every level' help the reader understand the gravity of our predicament leading to Tom's recommendations for 'Righting the wrongs: charting a new course'.
Conflict details	None