

# Tom Lonsdale Veterinary Surgeon

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13 December 2014

Prof Stuart W J Reid, President  
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
Belgravia House  
62-64 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 2AF  
UK

Dear Stuart,

Further to discussions in October and Nick Stace's recent comments I note the published [role of the RCVS](#):

We aim to enhance society through improved animal health and welfare. We do this by setting, upholding and advancing the educational, ethical and clinical standards of veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses.

The RCVS [claim](#):

We quality assure undergraduate veterinary education . . .

Despite these statements, the RCVS deems that it has no responsibility to deal with allegations of mass poisoning of pets by vets or the programing of students in RCVS accredited vet schools with junk pet food propaganda. Accordingly I would be grateful for advice as to whom or to what organisation our concerns should be directed.

As we discussed back in October, I believe relatively easy, economical and efficient trials could be conducted to evaluate the health outcomes of pets fed junk foods as compared with those fed the natural standard. Establishing the suitability and safety of the diets sold and recommended by vets — and which pets are forced to consume every day over a lifetime — would seem to be an urgent priority. Will the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, take up the challenge?

As an epidemiologist, I would appreciate your comments on the scientific rigour of the [Vet Compass](#) survey of end stage diseases as seen in UK veterinary practices.

I note that 1.) virtually all UK pets are junk food fed, 2.) more than 80% of patients suffer from serious diet related mouth rot and 3.) a high proportion are obese. I also note that when diagnosing, treating and reporting on disease most vets are oblivious to the interrelationships of 1, 2 and 3 with end stage diseases.

Does Vet Compass have inbuilt mechanisms for detecting and controlling for reporting bias? Can the survey deliver any reliable information or is it devalued by a raft of false assumptions?

Viewed from an epidemiological perspective, please comment on the [Feline Diabetic Remission Clinic](#). Can it deliver any reliable information or is it also devalued by false assumptions? Does this Clinic ‘set, uphold and advance the educational, ethical and clinical standards of veterinary surgeons’ or is it primarily a university backed junk food testing and marketing scheme for Nestlé?

With thanks.

Best wishes,



CC:  
RCVS CEO Mr Nick Stace  
RCVS Vice-President Dr Bradley Viner  
Professor David Church  
RCVS Registrar Mr Gordon Hockey  
RCVS Knowledge Mr Nick Royle  
Other interested parties

