

ukrmb
(United Kingdom Raw Meaty Bones)
Support & Action Group



165 West Way, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8NB

email: info@ukrmb.co.uk Telephone/Fax: 01903 751629 website: www.ukrmb.co.uk

Mr G Hockey, Assistant Registrar
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgrave House
62 – 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF

28th April 2005

Dear Mr Hockey,

We understand that Mrs Lynne Hill is to become the next president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Please advise if Mrs Hill is a member of the British Veterinary Association and British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Please advise which pet food company Mrs Hill worked for, the period of employment and job description.

Does Mrs Hill retain either formal or informal links with the pet food industry?

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Marriott (Mrs)
for UKRMB

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Belgravia House 62-64 Horseferry Road London SW1P 2AF
T 020 7222 2001 F 020 7222 2004 E admin@rcvs.org.uk
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Secretary & Registrar: Miss J C Hern



Mrs J Marriott
UKRMB
165 West Way
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Ref: lge/
Direct line:
E-mail: l.evans@rcvs.org.uk
Website: www.rcvs.org.uk

11 May 2005

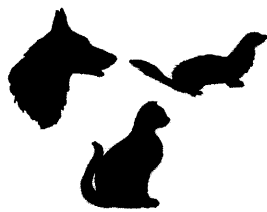
Dear Mrs Marriott,

Thank you for your letter dated 28th April 2005 addressed to Mr G Hockey which has been passed to the Executive Office for attention.

As a Council member of a public body, Mrs Hill is required to complete a Declaration of Interests Form. Her current form shows that she is Director and Head of Clinical Services Division, The Royal Veterinary College London and is a member of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Yours sincerely,

L G EVANS
Executive Office



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Mr G Hockey, Assistant Registrar
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgrave House
62 – 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF

17th May 2005

Dear Mr Hockey,

Thank you for the response from the Executive Office of 11th May.

Unfortunately the questions regarding Mrs Hill's involvement with the pet food industry remain unanswered.

Please advise which pet food company Mrs Hill worked for, the period of employment and job description.

Does Mrs Hill retain either formal or informal links with the pet food industry?

Please supply a copy of the Declaration of Interest rules that apply to Councillors of the RCVS. Please provide a complete list of Councillors who have filed Declarations of Interest forms together with the details of each declaration.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Marriott (Mrs)
for UKRMB

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19 May 2005

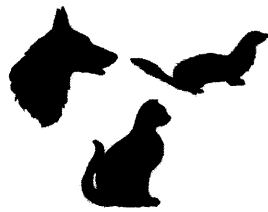
Dear Mrs Marriott

Further to your letter of 17 May 2005, the RCVS is not in a position to provide any more information about Mrs L V Hill. All Council members are expected to declare any relevant interests; we do not, however expect them to declare a negative interest or contact (i.e that they do not have any links) with any particular body.

For your information, we attach an extract from the RCVS Council Members' Handbook in relation to Principles of Good Conduct. We can confirm that no Council Members have declared any interest or links with the pet food industry.

*Yours sincerely,
J C Hern*

J C HERN
Registrar



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Mrs L V Hill MRCVS
Vice-President
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgrave House
62 – 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF

29th May 2005

Dear Mrs Hill,

On 28th April and 17th May we asked the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons for information regarding:

The name of the pet-food company for which you worked, the period of employment and job description.

Whether you retain either formal or informal links with the pet-food industry.

Unfortunately, both of these questions have remained unanswered, or have been avoided.

Please provide the sought-for information.

We note the Principles of Good Conduct, as set down in the *RCVS Council Members' Handbook* - May 2005 Edition. As concerned pet owners we are delighted that the RCVS has a published code. Please advise to what extent observance of the code is monitored and enforced.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Marriott (Mrs)
UKRMB

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4th June 2005

Dear Mrs Marriott

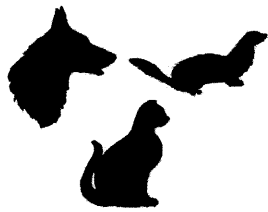
The JVP, Mrs Hill, has asked me to reply to your letter to her of 29 May 2005. She is fully aware of our previous correspondence and while she can see no reason to answer questions about her previous employment, when the reason for needing the information has not been disclosed, she is happy for me to send you her cv.

In my previous letter I reported to you the interests which she has formally disclosed to the RCVS. No formal or informal links with the pet food industry have been disclosed.

Council Members are invited to update their declarations of interest on an annual basis. Should it ever come to light that an interest which should have been disclosed has not been disclosed this matter would be drawn to that Council Member's attention either by the President or myself.

J C Hern
Jane C Hern

J C HERN
Registrar



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Mrs L V Hill MRCVS
Vice-President
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgrave House
62 – 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF

9 June 2005

Dear Mrs Hill,

Thank you for the 4 June 2005 response and curriculum vitae communicated on your behalf by Miss Jane Hern, Registrar of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). Please find enclosed copy of 7 December 2004 Early Day Motion No.335, *Processed Pet Foods and Vets*.

We note that in your curriculum vitae you do not mention the name of the pet food company for which you worked as European Marketing Manager. The Registrar of the RCVS states that you have not declared any formal or informal links with the pet-food industry. Please advise:

* The name of the pet-food company for which you worked and the period of employment.

* Whether you maintain professional, personal or business links with the named pet-food company or any other pet-food company, whether in a private capacity or in your capacity as Director of the Clinical Services Division of the Royal Veterinary College, University of London or as a representative of the British Veterinary Association or the British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

We understand that your term as President of the RCVS will commence on 8 July 2005. During your term of office and in keeping with the RCVS *Principles of Good Conduct* will the RCVS break its silence and respond to the concerns of 55 Members of Parliament as set out in the Early Day Motion No.335? Will you require Councillors of the RCVS to declare any pet-food industry related professional, personal or business interests in respect of themselves, their employers and professional bodies which they represent?

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Marriott (Mrs)
ukrmb

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13 June 2005

Dear Mrs Marriott

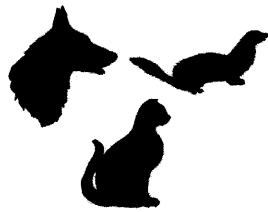
I write in reply to your letter of 9 June 2005, addressed to Mrs Hill, who is currently away on holiday.

I enclose a copy of the statement which the RCVS issued in response to the Early Day Motion and reiterate what I have said previously to the effect that RCVS Council Members are requested to disclose any relevant interests.

I will show this correspondence to Mrs Hill on her return from holiday but I would suggest that if you would like her to supply you with any further information it would be helpful if you could explain why the information is relevant to you.

There is no obligation that I am aware of which requires an officer of a public body to put full details of previous employment and contacts into the public domain.

Yours sincerely,
Jane C. Hern
Registrar



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Mrs L V Hill MRCVS
Vice-President
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgrave House
62 – 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF

24 June 2005

Dear Mrs Hill,

We are grateful for the copy of the December 2004 *RCVS Position* regarding the Early Day Motion — Processed Pet Foods and Vets, provided to us in your absence by Ms Jane Hern, Registrar of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

Our questions regarding your affiliations with the processed pet food industry and declarations of interest remain unanswered at a time when the consumption of processed foods by man and animals is a matter of public concern. Ms Hern, the Registrar, seeks to create further legalistic barriers.

The RCVS slogan 'Promoting and Sustaining Public Confidence in Veterinary Medicine' suggests that you and the RCVS would welcome the opportunity to make a prompt, full disclosure. Please do so at the earliest.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Marriott (Mrs)
UKRMB

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Secretary & Registrar: Miss J C Hern



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E-mail: l.evans@rcvs.org.uk
Website: www.rcvs.org.uk

13 June 2005 (sic)
(July)

Dear Mrs Marriott,

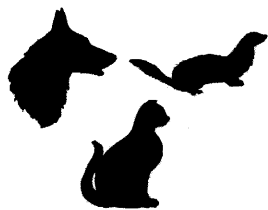
In reply to your letter dated 24th June 2005, I write to confirm that I worked for Hills Pet Nutrition from August 1995 until March 1998.

I have no links formal or informal with that Company now.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'L V Hill'. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

L V HILL MVB MBA MRCVS
Junior Vice President



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Mrs L V Hill MRCVS, President
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgrave House
62 – 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF

8th August 2005

Dear Mrs Hill,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2005, confirming that you worked for Hills Pet Nutrition from August 1995 until March 1998.

Every year since 1997 around 10% of voters in RCVS elections have recommended that the RCVS take action to combat the pet food scam. The RCVS has repeatedly refused.

In December 2004 55 Members of Parliament called upon the RCVS 'to make a definitive statement on the active endorsement and promotion of processed pet foods by vets.' The RCVS, relying on information supplied by the Pet Food Manufacturers Association, sought to dismiss the MP's concerns.

Despite allegations of scientific and consumer fraud levelled against the processed pet-food industry and despite the closeness to the pet-food industry of several RCVS Councillors, no Councillor has declared an interest. In recent correspondence the RCVS went to considerable lengths to obscure your involvement with the processed pet-food industry. In your curriculum vitae you state that you 'took up a position with a commercial company working eventually in their European Office as European Marketing Manager'. You did not disclose that your role as European Marketing Manager was to market processed pet foods for Hills Pet Nutrition, a division of Colgate-Palmolive.

From your time as a pet-food company marketing manager you will be aware of the widespread consumer concerns and the serious scientific, social and legal implications arising from the pet-food fraud.

Please advise if, under your presidency, the RCVS intends to regularize its position.

Your sincerely

Jackie Marriott (Mrs)
UKRMB



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Mrs L V Hill MRCVS, President
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgrave House
62 – 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF

24th August 2005

Dear Mrs Hill,

Attached please find a copy of our letter to you dated 8th August 2005.

We look forward to your early reply.

Your sincerely

Jackie Marriott (Mrs)
UKRMB

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24th August 2005

Dear Mrs Marriott,

Thank you for your letter dated 8th August 2005.

I do not believe there is anything to be gained by continuing our correspondence. The RCVS position has been set out on a number of previous occasions.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne V Hill
President