

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher:

My name is Dr Ian McDonald and I am a science communication professional with a strong background in research, education and community engagement, with a passion for environmental and animal welfare issues.

I am currently employed as Communications Manager with a leading pest animal research centre where I lead the implementation of the centres communications strategy to promote a diverse array of pest animal research projects.

In 2013, I completed a PhD in the field of Animal Reproductive Immunology (where I researched the oral delivery of a potential fertility control agent for wildlife) but in 2015 decided to take my career in a new direction. While working full time I am currently completing a Master of Science Communication with the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS) and the below information relates to my Masters Research Project.

Project Title: Communicating with veterinary practitioners in times of biosecurity alerts

General Outline of the Project:

- **Description and Methodology:** This research project aims to understand how authorities and leading animal health agencies should quickly and widely communicate information about the latest biosecurity threats to veterinary practitioners. The survey aims to investigate whether current communication mediums are working well or whether new processes need to be implemented.
- **Participants:** We are asking all registered veterinary practitioners within Australia to take part in this survey to assist us in answering the research question.
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** The data collected from this survey will be written up within the scientific literature and the results shared back through the veterinary sector through the same promotional channels. The results will also be used to better tailor future communication products within the veterinary practitioner sector to ensure animal biosecurity alerts are getting to the majority, quickly and widely.

Participant Involvement:

- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** Participation within this online survey is voluntary and no names, phone numbers or emails are being requested or collected. The only personal data we are asking you to disclose is your age group range and how long you have been practicing as a vet. You may choose to decide to exit from the survey at any point while you are undertaking it.
- **What does participation in the research entail?** When taking part in this online survey, participants will be asked to disclose if they are registered veterinarian in Australia and provide an age group range and how long they have been practicing as a veterinarian. Along with this we also ask you to answer questions related to how they currently receive biosecurity information and their preferred mediums, while also disclosing how they might like to receive this in the future.
- **Location and Duration:** Participants will undertake the survey online and are only required to do it once.
- **Risks:** There are no risks involved in undertaking this survey
- **Benefits:** Based on the results of the survey, it is hoped we are able to better understand how to communicate with veterinary practitioners (within their preferred formats) to ensure that animal biosecurity information, particular that related to domestic animals, can be quickly and widely disseminated, thus improving animal welfare outcomes.

Exclusion criteria:

- **Participant Limitation:** While we realised the veterinary professional sector is wide reaching and diverse, for this survey we are only asking veterinary practitioners who are currently registered in Australia to take part.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:** As stated no personal data is being collected as part of this online survey and participants will be acknowledged in scientific publications as a group and the number of participants disclosed.

Data Storage:

- **Where:** Data collected via the survey will be analysed on a password protected computer and filed on a password protected cloud based drive.
- **How long:** Raw data will be kept for a period of five years and then archived.
- **Handling of Data following the required storage period:** The survey data will be archived on a password protected server folder which won't be accessible to the public.

Queries and Concerns:

- **Contact Details for More Information:** If you require further information on the above information or online survey questionnaire please contact Dr Ian McDonald on 0439 746 556.

You can also contact Ian McDonald's supervisor

Dr Merryn McKinnon on 02 6125 4951 or via merryn.mckinnon@anu.edu.au

Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2017/317). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au