

# Boardtalk

June 2019

Issue 50



## President's Report

It is important to be informed in a professional life. It is important to have balance.

As president of the Board I am always excited by a new issue of Boardtalk as it provides the most reliable and up-to-date source of regulatory information available to the veterinary profession in NSW.

Our Board must maintain avenues of communication with the profession to ensure that we are all effectively playing by the same rulebook. Regular visits by our hospital inspector, Glenn Lynch, maintains one of those avenues, as do our regular email updates, but in my veterinary life before I joined the Board, Boardtalk was the go-to resource to begin the process of understanding our legislative responsibilities and answering those spikey regulatory questions. Over time the accumulated collection of articles has become an outstanding resource, and this edition continues to add to that bank of data.

It should be no surprise that the Board relies heavily on that bank of data in determining the outcomes of complaints. Along with the veterinary literature, the information disseminated through Boardtalk provides a cogent basis for the concept of “current standards” in our profession. It thereby provides

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### *President's report continued*

an excellent mechanism to ensure that the Board does bring balance to its decision making and this is particularly important when determining complaints.

One of the characteristics of our profession that has always fascinated me has been our robust independence. It leads to a certain larrikin, maverick nature which I see repeatedly in my colleagues. In a typically Australian way it leads to a healthy disrespect for authority, particularly when that authority is overly bureaucratic, petty or disengaged.

I am pleased to report that the structure of the NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board has both community representation and veterinarians from a range of roles in the profession, which in my opinion, provide the balance necessary to keep the regulatory environment in NSW relevant to both the profession and the community we serve.

I particularly enjoyed the contribution of my colleagues from the Northern Tablelands at the Board's Annual General Meeting. Their comments reflected an understanding of the topical issues for our profession, both in a regulatory sense and in a wider societal sense. I look forward to finding ways to further enhance the AGM as an avenue of communication between the Board and the veterinary profession in NSW in the future.

My own clinical work, and the business of running a veterinary practice can sometimes seem overwhelming and I take great pleasure in a number of other interests. I am a passionate advocate for birds in captivity, and I balance that with my joy at watching them in the wild. My local area of the Hunter Valley and Lake Macquarie provides many opportunities for birdwatching.

Recently I have had the pleasure of observing large flocks of critically endangered Swift Parrots feeding on the Swamp Mahogany about the southern border of Lake Macquarie. These times provide, for me, an opportunity for quiet reflection and reconnection.

I encourage all veterinarians to cultivate those other interests which provide balance to the huge responsibility that is our professional life.

Mark Simpson

### Confidential Help for Veterinarians

Doctors Health Advisory Service  
24 hours a day.

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### **From the Registrar's Desk**

Whilst the main operations of the Board focus on registration of veterinarians, licensing of veterinary hospitals and investigation of complaints arguably the most important work for members of the Board is in relation to strategy or development of plans to ensure the achievement of outcomes defined by the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (Act).

The Act (s3) has the object of regulating the veterinary profession in NSW for the following purposes:

- a) To promote the welfare of animals
- b) To ensure that consumers of veterinary services are well informed as to the competencies required of veterinarians
- c) To ensure that acceptable standards are required to be met by veterinarians so as to meet the public interest and national and international trade requirements
- d) To provide public health protection

Just as veterinarians need to ensure they are on the right path to success either personally or in business so does the Board. We must review our plans and policies in the light of changes

to the profession, developments in technology, and changes in attitudes and expectations of the public in order to ensure we are still achieving the outcomes defined by the legislation.

It is important therefore that Board strategy and any accompanying policies are clearly aligned with achieving the above outcomes. Policies are vital in that they communicate these plans to Board staff, the veterinary profession, the public and other stakeholders. Importantly, policy enables the Board staff to implement strategy.

In this issue of Boardtalk there are details of revisions to policies and guidelines for hospital licence holders as well as the release of a new guideline for veterinarians in telemedicine. The Board is seeking your opinion on these policies and guidelines before they are implemented.

### *A shortage of veterinarians?*

As noted above, one of the purposes for the Board is to regulate the veterinary profession to promote animal welfare. A shortage of veterinarians has the potential to detrimentally affect animal welfare and the health and welfare of veterinarians.

The Board has a more direct role in assisting with a shortage of veterinarians in three ways. Firstly, it is possible for a veterinarian who does not possess the qualifications for full registration in NSW to be granted limited registration. Limited registration is granted for a specific purpose including to assist with development of practical skills to pass the National Veterinary Exam (after passing an English test and series of multiple choice questions) or where there is an identified need and no person capable of being granted full registration is available who has the necessary qualifications or experience to fulfill the role.

Limited registration is typically granted with specific conditions, including working under supervision, working only in a specific area and for a specific employer. Limited registration is generally only possible for up to one year.

For further information please review the Board policy [Requirements for Limited Registration](#) available from our website (Resources, Policies).

Secondly, the Board is able to assist the profession through data collection and dissemination. This has been limited to some extent in the past due to the lack of some data being collected (for example full time or part time employment) and the Board's database itself (it was not initially designed for this purpose).

Based on currently available data the Board has recently provided the following publications which may assist further discussion of this issue.

1. [Where are the new graduates?](#) (see Boardtalk December 2017)
2. [Number and movement of veterinarians in NSW](#) (2018 AGM presentation)
3. [Annual Report](#) (see Statistics Section for each year)

The Board has made a number of changes to the database in recent years and is conducting a major revision of the database this year. As a result, more specific information will be available from the Board in the future to assist with workforce planning.

Finally, all veterinary boards have agreed to assist the Australian Veterinary Association with dissemination of the [Australian Veterinary Workforce Survey](#) every 2 years and with reporting results from these surveys. This survey was specifically designed to assist universities, the profession and other stakeholders with workforce planning.

John Baguley

# From the Hospital Inspector's Car

## Estimates

The Board requires evidence that veterinarians have complied with the Veterinary practitioners code of professional conduct (Code) (clause 16) which states:

### *16 Fees for veterinary services*

A veterinary practitioner must, where it is practicable to do so and before providing veterinary services in relation to an animal, inform the person responsible for the care of the animal of:

- (a) the likely extent and outcome of the veterinary services, and
- (b) the estimated cost of those services.

The vast majority of veterinary hospitals and mobile practices already comply with this provision by recording the estimate for the veterinary service (the evidence), either on a consent form or within the history, so this is business as usual for them.

It is well recognised that estimates for some veterinary services are difficult to provide given the variables which may exist. In some cases a 'dollar range' must be provided or, an estimate to a certain point of the treatment with further updates to the person responsible for the care of the animal, so they can decide if they wish to continue.

Whenever these updates are provided (usually by telephone), the date and time the call was made, the person's name they spoke to, discussions around options, consents and estimates must be recorded to ensure the practitioner has evidence of compliance with the Code.

It is important that practice owners and superintendents inform all veterinary practitioners and nurses who may be involved in this process of the requirement to provide estimates and maintain evidence of this process where practicable (a topic for staff meetings).

## Hospital licence requirements

As mentioned in this newsletter, over the last few months, the following documents have been reviewed and we are seeking input from the profession.

Assessment of Veterinary Hospital Licences  
Minimum Requirements for Veterinary Hospitals  
Self Assessment Checklist for Veterinary Hospital Superintendents

Once these documents have been ratified, they will form the basis of current standards and the profession will be notified.

When I inspect a practice, the first question I shall be asking is 'did you download these documents from the Board's website and have you conducted your own self assessment?'

I'm hopeful the answer will be yes!

Glenn Lynch

## Updating your veterinary hospital details

Hospital licence renewals were sent in the first week of June.

You can use the [Find a vet or hospital](#) function on our website to see the details we currently hold for your veterinary hospital.

If you have recently [changed ownership](#) or the [hospital superintendent](#) has changed you need to submit the required form to the Board.

Please note that the Board licenses the premises (including the land) and therefore if you are going to move your current hospital to a new location you need to [apply for a new hospital licence](#).

The legislation requires that any change in your licence details (particulars) be updated within 14 days and that licence details be confirmed annually.



## The Complaints Committee Report

The Board has reviewed and determined 24 complaints made against veterinarians between November 2018 and April 2019. Of these, 14 complaints were dismissed, 1 complaint was dismissed with a recommendation, 7 veterinarians were found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and cautioned, 1 veterinarian was found guilty of professional misconduct and reprimanded.

Two complaints were withdrawn after the veterinarian's response to the complaint was received by the complainant and the complainant withdrew the complaint.

### Unsatisfactory professional conduct

One veterinarian was cautioned and fined after being found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct in breach of *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (s 35(k)) when failing to investigate the extent of injuries in a kitten that had suffered multiple trauma, providing treatment which was not in accordance with current standards, and failing to utilise the skills of colleagues by consultation or referral. The veterinarian was required to provide validation of any continuing professional development undertaken in the previous 3 years so that the Board could review these activities and provide specific recommendations for continuing education activities which may assist the veterinarian in managing similar cases in the future.

A second veterinarian was cautioned and fined after demonstrating a lack of skill, judgment and care in the dental treatment given to a dog and by failing to provide necessary post-operative discharge instructions. The procedure undertaken in the dog's treatment was one that is not recommended and is known to be associated with a higher risk of complication. The veterinarian also failed to keep medical records in sufficient detail to enable another veterinary practitioner to continue the dog's treatment.

A third veterinarian cautioned and fined after the ovariohysterectomy that he performed in a cat was incomplete and demonstrated a lack of skill, judgment or care. A caution and fine was imposed.

Two veterinarians in one veterinary hospital were cautioned and fined after treating and rehoming two cats where the clients of both cats had requested euthanasia. The failure to euthanase these animals when requested was improper. Although the

actions were made to save the animals' lives and the treatment given to the cats was appropriate for the conditions for which they presented, no consent for this treatment had been given and the clients were deceived as they were led to believe that their cats had been euthanased. The animal's medical records were also falsified and maintained this deception. Both veterinarians apologised sincerely for their actions and advised that they would not be tempted to repeat this behaviour.

A sixth veterinarian was cautioned after failing to obtain informed consent from a client prior to amputating part of a dog's tail when removing a subcutaneous cyst. No attempt had been made by the veterinarian to contact the client to discuss the planned extent of treatment after the dog's tail had been examined under general anaesthesia. Where practical and before providing veterinary services, the client must be informed of the likely extent and outcome of any treatment or procedure.

One veterinarian was found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and cautioned for not abiding by conditions placed on his registration.

### Professional misconduct

A veterinarian was reprimanded and fined after supplying restricted substances to cattle that he had not physically examined or had under his direct care in breach of the Veterinary practitioners code of professional conduct (Code) (cl 20 (1) (a)), and failing to ensure a detailed record of any consultation, procedure or treatment was made in accordance with the Code (cl 15) over the previous 3 years.

The Code (cl 20 (1)(a)), requires that a veterinary practitioner may supply a restricted substance only to a person responsible for the care of an animal that the veterinary practitioner has physically examined or has under his or her direct care and only in respect of that animal. The veterinarian in this complaint had not visited the property where restricted substances had been supplied within the previous 3 years and had not physically examined any animals on the property during this time and, as such, there was no evidence that these animals were under his direct care.

Veterinary herd consultants are expected to record any observations made on farm visits. Records of telephone or farm discussions must be kept and

records of any drugs supplied must include the product dispensed, date, amount dispensed, indication for use, instructions for use and withholding period applicable. The veterinarian failed to label the medication dispensed, in accordance with poisons and therapeutic goods legislation which is considered not in accordance with the current standards of (veterinary) practice and was therefore in breach of the Code (cl 4)

### **Dismissed Complaint with a recommendation**

Of the complaints that were dismissed in this reporting period, as the result of one complaint a recommendation was made to one veterinarian. The veterinarian was advised to review his veterinary practice's discharge procedures to improve client communication and to note any client communication in medical records. This veterinarian was also advised, as the superintendent of the veterinary practice, to ensure that all veterinarians working within the practice list all medication and doses administered in medical records.

The number of complaints received by the board has steadily increased over the last few years. The reasons for this may be the result of increased numbers of veterinarians and companion animals being treated, societal attitudes, increased expectations of clients and the higher level of veterinary care that is expected and often provided which can involve considerable expense.

Medical records are the primary source of information regarding an animal's care if a complaint against a veterinarian is investigated. Medical records should be made as soon as practicable. Medical records should also include a record of client communications and the substance of those communications.

The Board requires that any alteration or addition to a medical record should be identified as to when that addition or alteration is made. An audit of any medical record with respect to alterations and additions may be requested in the investigation of a complaint.

## **CPD points**

The CPD year for each veterinarian runs from 1 April to 31 March and you are required to report the number of structured and unstructured CPD points attained during this time in your Annual Return. You have been invited to submit your Annual Return in May together with payment of your annual registration renewal fee.

Over any 3 year period you must attain 60 CPD points including at least 15 structured points. Structured and unstructured CPD point allocations were developed by the AVBC and the AVA and the [points allocation table](#) is available from our website ([Guidelines](#)).

The amount of CPD you have reported in the last 2 years of Annual Returns will be available for you to see when you [login](#) to our website so you will easily see how many points you are required to attain in the current year. The current year (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019) will appear as zero until after you submit your Annual Return.

If you have not completed sufficient CPD points for the 3 year period the Board will contact you after 30 June.

The Board's policy to assist veterinarians who have [failed to meet their CPD requirements](#) is available from our website ([Policies](#)).

## Survey Research: Disability and Disclosure

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council has approved consultation within the profession to consider pathways by which veterinary education providers can communicate with veterinary surgeons boards about the attainment of Day One competences of graduating veterinarians, including reporting of issues significant for registration that may fall outside of traditional university reporting requirements.

This process inherently must balance confidentiality, equity and public interest in veterinary education and registration.

The AVBC, therefore, invites all stakeholders within the profession to contribute to this discussion by completing the anonymous survey available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AVBC-disability-disclosure>

Individual respondents cannot be identified but participants interested in further contributing to this discussion are invited to include contact information, if desired.

This issue impacts on student, university and public good; importantly this impacts also on the profession. A number of approaches have been considered by the AVBC, and it is considered important that a wide and diverse range of opinions is obtained from multiple stakeholders within the profession prior to implementation of any change to registration practices.

The survey will remain open until 30 June 2019.

Completion and submission of a response will be accepted as informed consent to participate in the questionnaire, and the process has been approved (13/05/2019) by the Human Ethics Committee at Charles Sturt University (H19082).

It is anticipated that survey findings will be provided through the Australian and/or New Zealand Veterinary Journals. Further information can be obtained via [admin@avbc.asn.au](mailto:admin@avbc.asn.au)

## Confidentiality and patient photos

A recent [disciplinary decision](#) by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in the UK highlights the importance of obtaining consent from clients before you upload any images of their animals to social media.

A commentary on this decision has also been provided in the Vet Record 4 May 2019. Editorial: Social media case has lessons for all vets.

Whilst the legislation in NSW is different and any finding and disciplinary action may also be different this decision is a timely reminder to veterinarians in NSW that they must obtain consent from the client before uploading any images of them or their animals to social media platforms. As always, it is best to obtain written consent but it is acceptable from the Board's perspective for a contemporaneous note to be added to the medical record regarding discussions with the client when obtaining consent.

The Board re-published an [article on confidentiality](#) in the December 2018 issue of Boardtalk. The purpose of the article was to reinforce obligations under the Veterinary practitioners code of professional conduct (Code) cl 12 which states 'except as otherwise required by this code of conduct, a veterinary practitioner must maintain the confidentiality of information obtained in the course of professional practice'.

The Board often receives questions about releasing records to other veterinarians, insurance providers, the RSPCA and the police, and these questions were covered in that article. Patient photos are simply another form of confidential information obtained during the course of your professional practice.

## **Survey investigating veterinarians' knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding zoonoses**

Worldwide, seventy-five percent of emerging infectious diseases are zoonoses, a number of these being unique to Australia. These growing threats, along with other local endemic zoonotic infections, have the potential to present unique challenges to medical and veterinary practitioners both now and in the future.

In the face of these threats, we are seeking your participation in a unique research project investigating knowledge, attitudes and practices of Australian GPs and veterinary practitioners regarding zoonotic diseases, where we will be running parallel surveys of GPs and veterinarians. This research project is being conducted by a cross disciplinary team with backgrounds in medicine, public health, veterinary science, veterinary public health and epidemiology.

We are asking all Australian veterinarians to complete a short online survey which should take about 10-15 minutes and can be accessed through the link below:

<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=HWMT9WMNPF>

Any information collected will be kept anonymous. Information collected will be used in the future to assist practitioners to achieve better health outcomes for their patients. You can elect to go into the draw for 10 x \$100 direct debit cards at the end of the survey.

Kind regards

Assoc Professor Jenny-Ann Toribio (Sydney School of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney)  
Assoc Professor Siobhan Mor (Reader in One Health, Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool, UK)  
Professor Robert Booy (Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney; Senior Professorial Fellow at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance)  
Sandra Steele (PhD student, Sydney School of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney)

## **Building, buying, owning or selling a veterinary hospital**

### **Are you working away from a licensed hospital?**

If you are performing a procedure that according to current standards should not be undertaken without the administration of an anaesthetic, other than a local anaesthetic, and including a spinal anaesthetic, then you need to perform this procedure (defined as 'major surgery') at a licensed hospital.

There are exceptions for emergencies, if it is impractical to move the animal, or if it is dangerous to the health of the animal for it to be moved.

### **Building and owning a hospital**

When building a veterinary hospital you need to submit an application for a licence, floor plans and a nomination of a superintendent to the Board for approval. The following guidelines are available from the Board's website (see Resources and [Guidelines](#)) to assist:

1. Minimum Requirements for Veterinary Hospitals
2. Responsibilities of a Veterinary Hospital Superintendent
3. Self Assessment Checklist for Veterinary Hospital Superintendents

Links to these documents are also available from the Hospital Licensing section of the website, under [Apply for a hospital licence](#).

The Board is currently seeking comment from the profession on updates to these documents as noted in the article Hospital licensing policies and guidelines.

The application and plans are assessed by the Board and if suitable the hospital is given approval subject to inspection. If not



approved, it is possible for the applicant to attempt to address the issues identified and resubmit the application.

With some [exceptions](#), the legislation does require that a veterinary practitioner or veterinary practitioners have a controlling interest in the licence which is defined as the capacity to determine the outcome of decisions about the financial and operating policies of the business.

There is a national register for business names and you are required to register your business name with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). Please note that registering a business name does not give you exclusive rights over the use of that name.

When an application is submitted to ASIC for a veterinary hospital name the applicant will need to provide evidence that the premises have been approved for a licence by the Board.

The Board has limited powers regarding the naming of veterinary businesses and has developed a policy on [Business Names for Veterinary Premises](#) to assist veterinarians in complying with this aspect of veterinary practice legislation.

## Buying a hospital

When buying a veterinary hospital the Board requires submission of an [Application to Transfer a Veterinary Hospital Licence Form](#) in order to transfer the licence from the existing owners to the new owners. All the existing owners with a controlling interest (veterinarians) and all the new owners with a controlling interest need to sign the form. The form is in two parts for completion firstly by the existing owners or licence holder(s) and then by the applicant or proposed new licence holder(s).

If there is a change of name for the veterinary hospital at this time then this can be made on the Application to Transfer a Veterinary Hospital Licence form.

You are also required to submit a detailed floor plan (architect or draughtsman quality) in order for the Board to assess whether these premises remain compliant with the Minimum Requirements for Veterinary Hospitals.

All the required forms can be found under Hospital Licensing and [Transfer a hospital licence](#) or from the Resources, [Forms](#) section of our website.

## Selling a hospital

When selling a veterinary hospital the Board requires a transfer of hospital licence to be submitted and this needs to be signed by all the existing owners and all the new owners as above.

Please note that selling or transferring a hospital licence includes any change in the ownership or ownership structure of a hospital licence. For example, a change to members of a partnership, a change to percentage controlling interest in the licence, or a change from a partnership to a company structure.

Please remember that records of any consultation, procedure or treatment must be retained for at least 3 years after they are made. Records would typically now belong to the new owners of the veterinary hospital.

## **A message from the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission**

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has recently released statistics confirming that 5,885 swab samples were taken at the track and during kennel inspections with 23 instances of prohibited substances detected and action taken against those responsible since 1 July 2018.

The Commission is concerned about how and where participants are purchasing these substances, with particular concern for online pharmacy purchases where the origin and active ingredients of a substance may not be consistent with labelling. Some positives to anabolic steroids are of particular concern to the Commission as these substances are permanently banned in racing greyhounds.

Vets treating greyhounds are urged to familiarise themselves with the [Rules of Racing](#) and avoid administering permanently banned substances or medications which may result in a positive swab, close to the time of racing. Further information about detection times for medications is available [here](#).

It is important that the Commission continues to develop relationships with veterinarians across the state, enabling a reporting channel for any professionals who are concerned about the welfare of racing greyhounds or who have information regarding inappropriate training or husbandry practices.

Vets who do hold concerns or have any queries are encouraged to contact the Commission's Chief Veterinarian, Michelle Ledger on [michelle.ledger@gwic.nsw.gov.au](mailto:michelle.ledger@gwic.nsw.gov.au). If vets would like to share information in confidence, the Commission has an online form that can be submitted anonymously [www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/whispli](http://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/whispli).

Vets treating injured greyhounds may expect payment under the new [Race Injury Rebate Scheme](#) that was recently introduced by Greyhound Racing NSW. The scheme provides eligible greyhound owners with the

financial support needed to ensure greyhounds who sustain serious injuries while racing can receive appropriate diagnosis and treatment. The aim of the scheme is to avoid unnecessary euthanasia and ensure greyhounds with serious but recoverable injuries have every opportunity to live out their natural lifespan as a companion animal.

The cooperation of NSW vets is also vital when it comes to the reporting of greyhound euthanasia. The Greyhound Re-Homing Policy outlines the obligations participants must meet when they no longer wish to remain the custodian of a greyhound. This includes the accurate reporting of details around how a greyhound has died or why it was euthanased.

The Commission actively tracks the lifecycle of a racing greyhound and the vets who treat greyhounds contribute important information that assist in this process. Reporting of this information can also assist the Commission in developing strategies that reduce the number of greyhounds being euthanased because they are considered unsuitable for re-homing.

GWIC have a team of permanent and contracted vets who attend race meetings across the state to ensure greyhounds are healthy and fit for racing. They are also available to provide immediate first aid in the event of a race incident. Race meetings cannot proceed without a Commission vet present.

The Commission's vets are an integral component of the industry's welfare reforms. The Commission aims to ensure a high level of service when providing advice and educating trainers on all aspects of greyhound health. There is also a focus on consistent management and stabilisation of injuries sustained at the track, with a decision-making matrix now finalised.

For more information on the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission visit [www.gwic.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au).

## Hospital licensing policies and guidelines

The Board has recently reviewed its policy Assessment of Veterinary Hospital Licences and guidelines Minimum Requirements for Veterinary Hospitals and Self Assessment Checklist for Veterinary Hospital Superintendents.

The review of these documents has been based upon the requirement for veterinarians to practice in accordance with current standards and accordingly for veterinary premises to implement procedures for quality improvement.

The Board appreciates that when implementing such changes there will be some licensed premises that may not comply with these updated requirements in relation to facilities. The Board's approach is not to apply these requirements retrospectively but to encourage veterinary hospital licence holders to improve their facilities over time and to look to these minimum requirements.

Reports from the Hospital Inspector reveal that many veterinary hospitals have been re-built or renovated in recent years and these premises and facilities are generally working beyond these proposed minimum requirements.

You can view these draft policies and guidelines from the online version of this issue of Boardtalk under the heading Hospital licensing policies and guidelines:

- Policy: Assessment of Veterinary Hospital Licences
- Guideline: Minimum Requirements for Veterinary Hospitals
- Guideline: Self Assessment Checklist for Veterinary Hospital Superintendents

You can compare these documents with the current versions under Resources, Policies, Hospital Licensing (for [Assessment of Veterinary Hospital Licences](#)) and Resources, Guidelines, Hospital Licensing (for [Minimum Requirement for Veterinary Hospitals](#) and [the Self Assessment Checklist for Veterinary Hospital Superintendents](#)).

With respect to equipment and processes the Board is of the opinion that all premises are required to achieve minimum requirements in these areas. Additions to these documents in relation to equipment and processes have been based on both the development of current standards and information gathered through complaint investigations.

By incorporating recommendations from complaint investigations within its policies and guidelines and through the hospital inspection processes the Board is aiming to improve compliance with the Veterinary practitioners code of professional conduct and reduce the incidence of complaints.

If you have comments on any of these documents please contact the Board at [admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au)

### Updating your details

Veterinary registration renewal notifications were sent by email in May to all veterinarians with full, specialist and honorary registration.

If your contact details have changed you can use your [Vet Login](#) to ensure we have the correct email contact and other contact details for you.

If you do not yet have a Vet Login click on the '[Forgotten your password](#)' link from the Vet Login page and login details will be sent to the email address we have on our database.

The legislation requires that any change in your details (particulars) be updated within 14 days.

## Recovering fees and charges

Only a veterinarian or the holder of a hospital licence is able to recover fees or charges from doing restricted acts of veterinary science. Further, only an individual veterinarian, a corporation or firm in which one or more veterinarians has or have a controlling interest, or an exempt corporation, firm or body is able to hold a veterinary hospital licence.

There is no provision in the veterinary practice legislation for a trust to be the holder of a veterinary hospital licence.

When recovering fees and charges all businesses are required to provide proof of transaction, such as a tax invoice or receipt, to consumers for goods and services valued at \$75 or more.

Proof of transaction must provide the following:

- supplier of the goods or services
- supplier's ABN, if they have one
- supplier's ACN, if they have one but do not have an ABN
- date of the supply
- goods or services supplied to the consumer, and
- price of the goods or services.

Importantly, for a veterinary hospital the ABN and the name of the supplier of the goods or services must be the veterinary hospital licence holder.

## Research into human poisoning with veterinary products

The University of Sydney in conjunction with the NSW Poisons Information Centre (PIC) is conducting research on human poisonings and exposures to veterinary products. This includes veterinarian and veterinary practice staff exposure and the general public who contact veterinary practices or veterinarians after exposure to veterinary products.

Our research team has designed a survey for registered veterinarians to complete. The survey is voluntary and all data presented from research will be completely non-identifiable. Completion of the survey is considered consent, however you can exit the survey at any time.

More information about the survey is provided in the survey link. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

Most registered veterinarians will have received an email to their practice or hospital email address with access to the survey (email addresses were not supplied by the Board). Alternatively if you wish to participate and have not received the email please contact the study team for details on how to participate, or follow the link provided below.

<https://www.research.net/r/NSWvets>

If you have any questions about the study or would like more information please contact Professor Nicholas Buckley: [nicholas.buckley@sydney.edu.au](mailto:nicholas.buckley@sydney.edu.au)

This project has been approved by Sydney Children's Hospitals Network Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the conduct of this study, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Officer of the Ethics Committee (02 9845 3066) and quote approval number: LNR/18/SCHN/436.

Thank you in advance.

Sarah Bestwick, Dr Claire Wylie, Prof Nicholas Buckley



## Selling or giving away a cat or dog?

Pets play a central role in family life in NSW for many people, and ensuring the welfare of our cats and dogs is a key part of our responsibility as pet owners.

The NSW Government continues to make changes to improve welfare outcomes for our companion animals in response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Companion Animal Breeding Practices.

If you are involved in buying, selling, rehoming or adopting cats and dogs, there are specific changes you need to be aware of.

From 1 July 2019, if you are selling or giving away kittens, cats, puppies or dogs, you will need to include an identification number in any advertisements. The identification number can be either:

- a microchip number
- a breeder identification number, OR
- a rehoming organisation number.

This new rule applies regardless of:

- the age of the animal
- the place you plan to advertise
- whether you are a hobby or professional breeder; or your cat or dog has had an accidental or one-off litter
- whether or not you bred the animal
- whether or not the animal you are selling or rehoming has been born yet.

If you advertise a cat or dog for sale from 1 July 2019, and don't use an identification number, or you falsify a number, you could be issued with an on-the-spot fine or face court, where a maximum penalty of \$5,500 applies.

The changes help people looking to buy a cat or dog search the NSW Pet Registry to see the animal's:

- breed
- sex
- age
- whether it is desexed
- whether or not it is already registered
- whether any annual permit is in place (from 1 July 2019).

A breeder identification number search will also display any business name listed in the Registry.

This enables buyers to do further research and make informed purchasing decisions. It also helps to promote responsible cat and dog breeding and selling.

Over time, our enforcement agencies will be able to use this information to identify 'problem' breeders to enforce animal welfare laws.

In order for these changes to be effective, it is really important that pet owners keep information in the NSW Pet Registry up to date.

Cat and dog owners can easily create an online profile to help ensure they are reunited with their pet if it becomes lost.

The Registry allows you to update your contact details, report your pet as missing, change the ownership of pets, and pay the lifetime registration fee.

Cat and dog breeders are also encouraged to have an online profile. A breeder identification number will be generated which can be used to easily register litters and transfer the animals to their new owners. This breeder identification number can also be used as an identification number in advertisements.

We appreciate your help to spread the word and make sure as many cat and dog owners and breeders are aware of the new rules.

You can learn more about the new rules by visiting [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/companion-animals](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/companion-animals). To update your details in the NSW Pet Registry, [click here](#).

### How you can help

We need your help to reach as many people as possible before 1 July 2019. We have created a digital promotion pack including:

- social videos and tiles
- e-Newsletter content
- a poster
- 'how to' guides
- brochures.

We'd love you to use these materials on your social channels, on your website, in your newsletter and in your offices!

Due to the large size of files, we have created a [Dropbox folder](#) that hosts all the materials. If you are unable to access Dropbox, or would like hard copies of the posters or brochures, please [contact us](#).

### Key messages to use in your social media posts

Selling or giving away a cat or dog in NSW?  
From 1 July new rules will apply.

You will need to include a microchip, or breeder, or rehoming body number in your ads. Find out more by visiting: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/companion-animals](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/companion-animals)



## Has an unusual non-native animal been handed in to your clinic?



Report via the online report form [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityreport](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityreport)

### Why are vets being asked to assist in managing pest animals?

Because veterinary practitioners are often involved in looking after the health and well-being of people's pets, they are occasionally called upon to treat unusual non-native (or non-indigenous) species. Certain non-native animals are classed as 'prohibited dealings' and regulated in NSW to ensure their biosecurity risks are appropriately managed.<sup>1</sup> For this reason, if you become aware of unusual animals in the wrong place or illegal activities such as the unlicensed movement, keeping, breeding and sale of prohibited dealing non-native animals it is important that the NSW Government is notified as soon as possible. Your action could help to protect the NSW environment, economy and your local community from the negative impacts of introduced pest animals.

<sup>1</sup> The *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) regulates the movement and keeping of certain non-native animals (classed as prohibited dealings) in NSW: *Biosecurity Act* (Schedule 3).

### Balancing a vet's responsibilities and obligations

Veterinarians often have to balance a variety of responsibilities and obligations when determining the most appropriate course of action to take with respect to the animals in their care. The Veterinary practitioners code of professional conduct covers responsibilities including professional conduct and client confidentiality whilst legislation such as the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) includes obligations for vets to inform authorities of notifiable diseases.

Under section 152 of the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*, it is an offence for a person, (including a vet) to keep, have possession, care, or otherwise deal with a prohibited dealing animal. For this reason, vets are asked to balance their professional and legal obligations when becoming aware of or treating prohibited dealing non-native animals. Options for appropriate action from a vet include:

- informing the client of the need to be appropriately licensed to keep prohibited dealing animals,
- providing notification of animals with known or suspected [notifiable animal diseases](#),
- providing notification of known or suspected prohibited dealing animals where client confidentiality will not be breached e.g. where the information provided is not obtained during the course of a veterinarian's professional practice.

To access an infographic with instructions for vets to use if you have had an unusual non-native animal handed into your vet hospital or for brochures or posters, please click on this [drop box](#) link.

## What are the risks?

On mainland Australia, at least 73 non-native animal species have established wild populations including 25 mammal species, 20 species of birds, four species of reptiles, one amphibian species and at least 23 freshwater fish species.<sup>2</sup> Notable examples of non-native pest animals that have established invasive populations in Australia include the cane toad, fox, cat and rabbit. The impact of established non-native animals on Australian agriculture alone is estimated to be greater than \$1 billion per annum through impacts including disease transmission, predation and competition for resources. However, there are many other less common non-native animals which can have adverse biosecurity impacts on our environment, economy and communities so, effective management of these animals is crucial.

## Prohibited dealings

The list of non-native animal species classed as prohibited dealings includes mammals, reptiles, amphibians and some birds. It is illegal to keep prohibited dealing species in NSW without an appropriate licence and penalties for breaches include heavy fines and imprisonment.

<sup>2</sup> Bomford. M (2008) Risk assessment models for establishment of exotic vertebrates in Australia and New Zealand. Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

## Examples of prohibited dealing non-native animals <sup>3</sup>

- hedgehog
- monkey
- squirrel
- all non-native reptiles

## Examples of non-native animals that can be kept in NSW (subject to local government guidelines)

- dogs
- cats
- horses
- goats
- rabbits
- guinea pigs
- mice
- rats
- ferrets
- selected non-native birds

## Report prohibited dealing non-native animals to NSW DPI

Movement, keeping, breeding and sale of any prohibited dealing non-native species without the appropriate authority can be reported to NSW DPI via the following online report form: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityreport](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityreport) or alternatively by telephoning 1800 680 244. Protecting wildlife, agriculture and the community from invasive pest species is crucial for the long term health of the environment and the NSW economy.

## Further information

Further information is available by contacting NSW DPI at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

<sup>3</sup> A comprehensive list of prohibited dealing non-native animals and details on their management is available via the following link [NSW DPI](#).



## New Veterinary Permits

Permit No.	Description	Issued date	Expiry date
<b>Poultry and birds</b>			
PER87963	Paracox-8 Anticoccidial vaccine / Chickens / Coccidiosis	15-Apr-19	30-Apr-20
PER87827	NOBILIS ILT VACCINE/ Broiler Chickens / Avian infectious laryngotracheitis	14-Mar-19	30-Sep-20
PER86180	Rotavax / Pigeons / Pigeon rotavirus disease	14-Dec-18	31-Dec-20
<b>Cattle</b>			
PER87758	Cloxacillin / Dairy Cows/ Colostrum	28-Mar-19	31-Mar-22
PER85797	Buparvaquone / Bovine / Theileriosis	19-Mar-19	31-Mar-22
PER83649	VARIOUS ACTIVE / VIRUS / FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE	20-Dec-18	31-Dec-23
<b>Pigs</b>			
PER85187	Custom Inactivated Streptococcus suis Vaccine / Porcine (Pig) / S. suis infection	9-Jan-19	31-Jan-23
<b>Aquaculture</b>			
PER87785	COOPERS STRIKE/ MURRAY COD/ ANCHOR WORM	14-Mar-19	31-May-19
PER86878	Iodine / Atlantic salmon / Effective against viruses, bacteria & fungi on salmonid eggs, & equipment	21-Dec-18	31-Dec-21

### When are veterinary medicines pesticides?

Veterinary medicines that are ectoparasitides, that require dilution prior to application, are regulated under the Pesticides Act.

These chemicals are primarily dips and sprays for flies, ticks and other ectoparasites. They also include many of the ectoparasitides used in aquaculture.

### So what does this mean for vets?

Off-label prescribing, allowed under the *Stock Medicines Act 1989*, does not apply to these products. The *Pesticides Act 1999* requires users to follow label instructions. Users must also complete compulsory training and record keeping.

Prepared by  
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Biosecurity and Food Safety  
NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Email: [jenene.kidston@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jenene.kidston@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or phone 02 6391 3625

**Doctors Health Advisory Service Helpline**  
**02 9437 6552**

**LIFELINE**

**24 hour Crisis Support:**  
**Suicide Prevention**

**131114**

## NSW Department of Primary Industries update on *Salmonella* Enteritidis in NSW

Prior to September 2018, *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) had not been detected in commercial egg laying poultry flocks in NSW. Because of the potential impact that SE could have on the poultry industries and public health if it were to become widespread in Australia, SE is a notifiable disease under NSW legislation (Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017).

When human cases of SE are detected in Australia, they are usually associated with recent overseas travel. Most cases are thought to be acquired from travelling to countries where SE is endemic. However, since May 2018, NSW Health has been investigating cases of locally acquired SE. The affected people had no history of overseas travel or other potential risk exposures, so investigations were undertaken to determine whether their infections had been acquired locally.

Some of the cases of human illness were able to be traced back to commercial poultry egg farms in NSW, with a small number of commercial poultry egg properties have been identified as infected. For up-to-date information on the outbreak please see the NSW DPI [Salmonella Enteritidis website](#).

The approach taken by NSW DPI to manage infected properties in NSW has remained consistent with the principles outlined in the industry SE response plan developed on behalf of Australian Eggs by Dr Peter Scott: <https://www.australianeggs.org.au/what-we-do/leading-research/salmonella-enteritidis-response-plan/>

SE-infected properties in NSW are being managed through the use of one or more Individual Biosecurity Directions (IBDs); a legislative tool issued to property owners/

managers by authorised officers under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The IBDs issued during the current SE outbreak contain directions relating to movement controls and decontamination.

Under the *Food Act 2003*, some SE-infected premises in NSW have had prohibition orders placed on their operations, have been issued with improvement notices and have conducted voluntary product recalls. Product recalls, advisories and consumer information are published on the NSW Food Authority website: <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/news> and <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/foodsafetyandyou/special-care-foods/eggs-enjoy-safely>.

Infectious disease alerts are also published on the NSW Health website:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/default.aspx>.

NSW has strong systems in place at all points along the food supply chain, from paddock to plate and since 2014 has reduced the rates of illness caused by *Salmonella* in humans by 22%. These same measures are helping to manage the risk of SE.

The current management approach to the SE outbreak in NSW ensures that infected properties meet certain requirements before resuming commercial egg production, including surveillance and compliance checks.

Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) has been carried out on samples of SE from each of the infected properties in NSW and the one infected property in VIC. The WGS for samples of SE from all of the infected properties is identical, and matches to samples taken from human cases of gastroenteritis caused by SE in NSW.

Several resources have been developed since September 2018 and have been made available to assist producers in protecting their poultry farms from SE. These include:

a. NSW DPI Primefact about SE

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/poultry-and-birds/health-disease/salmonella-enteritidis>)

b. NSW DPI “Prevent the Spread of *Salmonella* Enteritidis”

[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/885718/prevent-the-spread-of-salmonella-enteritidis.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/885718/prevent-the-spread-of-salmonella-enteritidis.pdf)

c. NSW DPI “Rodent control and *Salmonella* Enteritidis”

[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/916950/rodent-control-and-salmonella-enteritidis.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/916950/rodent-control-and-salmonella-enteritidis.pdf)

The National *Salmonella* Enteritidis Monitoring and Accreditation Program (NSEMAP) is available to all commercial egg producers in Australia and is administered by NSW DPI. Further information on the NSEMAP is available from: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/poultry-and-birds/health-disease/national-salmonella-enteritidis-monitoring-and-accreditation-program>

## Registration number format is changing

The Board is now referring to registered veterinarians in NSW using the following format NSW V12345.

Veterinarians must add their registration number when certifying documents or signing off as a veterinarian. The format previously recommended was N12345 with the “N” standing for NSW (although maybe it was registration number).

Unfortunately “N” is ambiguous in that it could also apply to the Northern Territory and it is not a common abbreviation for NSW. Adding to confusion, both Victoria and Western Australia adopted the prefix “V” for Victoria and veterinarian respectively. The prefix “N” is used in Western Australia for a registered veterinary nurse.

With the implementation of National Recognition of Veterinary Registration (NRVR) it is important for clients, colleagues, and the Board to easily determine where a veterinarian is registered and to be able to check his or her registration status.

Currently under NRVR a veterinarian registered anywhere in Australia is able to work in NSW (and any other Australian jurisdiction except WA and NT unless also registered in these jurisdictions). So, where a veterinarian is registered is not immediately obvious under the current numbering system.

Future correspondence from the Board to veterinarians registered in NSW will display your name followed by NSW V and your registration number. Your registration number will of course remain the same.

Please adopt the above format when certifying documents or signing off as a veterinarian in NSW.

## Registration Renewals

It is registration renewal time for veterinary practitioners who are registered in NSW so please remember to submit your Annual Return and registration payment before 30 June. Here are some important points to remember:

Registration renewal is a two-step process (submission of Annual Return and payment of the registration fee) both steps can be easily completed using your [Vet Login](#).

Alternatively, you or your employer can pay your registration renewal using your website reference number (contained in your emailed letter of renewal) and you can submit your Annual Return using your [Vet Login](#).

If you do not have a Vet Login just go to the website [www.vpb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.vpb.nsw.gov.au), click on the large [Vet Login button](#) to the right of screen and then click on the Forgotten your password link. An email will be sent to the address held on our database enabling you to create your secure password. Any problems please just call our office for assistance.

Before you go to the website to submit your Annual Return please work out your structured and unstructured CPD points for the return period (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019).

If you do not plan on remaining registered in NSW after 30 June this year please complete a Voluntary Removal from the Register Form. If you do not renew and do not remove yourself from the Register and then wish to restore yourself at a later date you will be charged a penalty fee.

If your contact details change during the year it is vital that you advise the Board. You can check that we have the correct contact details for you using your Vet Login. Changes to these details can be made using your Vet Login or by completing our Notification of Change of Details Form and by emailing [admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au) or posting this completed form to the Board's office.

It is important to note that failure to submit both the payment and the Annual Return by 30 June will attract a late fee (\$50) and failure to complete either of these steps by the Board meeting in July will result in your removal from the Register and requirement to pay a

restoration penalty fee (currently \$300) should you wish to return to the Register in NSW.

Whilst veterinarians with Honorary Registration are not required to pay the annual fee there is no provision within the legislation to exempt these veterinarians from submitting an Annual Return.

All registered veterinarians must submit an Annual Return before 30 June.

Please contact our office if you have not received your annual registration renewal notice by email or if you experience any difficulties with your Vet Login.

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## Telemedicine

The Board has recently developed a guideline for veterinarians interested in telemedicine and is seeking comment from the profession.

The guideline is available from the Resources section of the website under Guidelines and Registration and is called [Technology-based patient consultations](#).

The above terminology has been used to distinguish technology-based consultations with clients and patients from those with colleagues. The latter has also been referred to as teleconsulting. Simply consulting with clients alone would not be a restricted act of veterinary science (unless the advice was 'veterinary' advice).

The aim of the guideline is to assist veterinarians in complying with the Veterinary Practitioners Code of Professional Conduct when providing technology-based patient consultations in NSW.

If you have comments on any of this document please contact the Board at [admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au)



## Racing NSW Update

Racing NSW would like to inform all practitioners that Racing Australia has recently redrafted and put into effect a new version of the Australian Rules of Racing (1 March 2019).

This new version represents a more streamlined document, seeking clarity for participants whilst not changing the substance of effect of the rules as they were prior to 1 March 2019. Racing Australia has sought to modernise the rules, significantly altering the language, structure and number of the Rules of Racing. Included with the Rules, is a Table of Comparative Provisions (Schedule 5), providing comparison between the Australian Rules of Racing as at 7 January 2019 (old rules) and 1 March 2019 (new rules), and vice versa.

Veterinarians are referred to Schedule 1 – Prohibited Substances Lists. Part 1 of this Schedule is a list of specified substances and categories of Substances Prohibited At All Times. These substances are considered to have no place for use in racehorses and their detection in a sample taken from a racehorse at any time, including in out of competition, or their discovery in a racing stable would be considered a serious offence under the Rules. Penalties include mandatory periods of disqualification for any person found to have administered, attempted to administer or be party to the administration of particular substances.

This list is updated from time to time to accommodate new substances and classes of substances that are identified by Racing Australia as risks to the integrity of racing and to the welfare of the horse. Further, harmonisation with the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities is the preferred option to support integrity, necessitating updates to the Rules from time to time.

The complete Rules of Racing of Racing NSW can be accessed at: <https://www.racingnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/NSWRules20180801.pdf>

Schedule 1 – Prohibited Substances Lists

Part 1 – Substances Prohibited At All Times

Division 1 – Prohibited List A

23) Zoledronic acid and any other bisphosphonate drugs not registered for veterinary use in Australia;

Veterinarians are advised that zoledronic acid, and any other bisphosphonate drugs not registered for veterinary use in Australia, are prohibited at all times. Their detection in a sample taken from a racehorse at any time or their discovery in a racing stable or licensed premises is considered an offence under the Rules of Racing.

Racing NSW recently contributed to a subject matter reference group, tasked with discussing the use of bisphosphonates. Consensus provided that the possible deleterious and unpredictable effects associated with the administration of bisphosphonates in the athletic horse must be considered, when prescribing registered bisphosphonate containing products. These considerations are regardless of age, detection time and new Rules of Racing as they pertain to bisphosphonates.

Racing NSW advises veterinarians that this is an evolving scientific and regulatory discussion and that matters pertaining to bisphosphonates are still under consideration at Racing Australia. Veterinarians should keep themselves fully informed as more information becomes available in the near future.

Dr Toby J. Koenig  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
Racing NSW

## Registration Renewals

Registration renewals must be completed by 30 June 2019 for the registration period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

The easiest way to renew your registration is to use the [Vet Login](#). If you do not yet have a Vet Login click on the 'Forgotten your password' link from the Vet Login page and details will be sent to your registered email address.

You can use your [Vet Login](#) or website reference number (found in your offer of renewal) to pay your registration fee (\$300) online and your Vet Login to submit your Annual Return online.

Please contact the Board if you have not yet received your offer of registration renewal by email or if you experience any difficulties with your login.

Veterinary practitioners who reside in NSW and who perform restricted acts of veterinary science in NSW are required to be registered with the Board. To maintain registration in NSW you must complete two tasks:

- Pay the registration fee (unless Honorary)
- Submit an Annual Return

If you do not renew your registration by 30 June the Board will apply a late fee of \$50 to your registration fee (total fee \$350) and if you have not renewed your registration by the date of the July Board meeting you will be removed from the Register. Restoration to the Register after this day will result in a restoration penalty fee of \$300 being applied to your registration (total fee \$600).

## Hospital Licence Renewals

Hospital licence fees must be paid by 30 June 2019 for the licensing period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

You can use your website reference number (found in your offer of renewal emailed to the hospital superintendent) to pay your hospital licence fee (\$350) online.

Please contact the Board if you have not yet received your offer to renew a hospital licence.

Any premises where a procedure is undertaken that according to current standards requires the administration of a general anaesthetic or a spinal anaesthetic must be licensed.

There are some exemptions to the above requirement in relation to emergencies, if it is impractical to move the animal because of its size or type, or if it is dangerous to the health of the animal to move it to a hospital.

## Changes to the Membership of the Board

### Dr Barbara Jane Lord

Jane Lord graduated in 1980 from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree with honours and was appointed to the Board 4 July 2018 as the veterinarian representing academics in the field of veterinary science.

After graduation, Jane spent the next year as an intern at the University of Sydney Rural Veterinary Centre at Camden (equine referral hospital) where she obtained a Diploma in Veterinary Clinical Studies. She then moved into mixed practice in Albury, NSW, a year later acquiring Albury Veterinary Hospital (later known as Family Vet Centre). Jane worked as a sole practitioner and in partnership in the Hospital. In later decades she worked as an associate veterinarian in mixed practice in regional NSW.

Jane joined Charles Sturt University School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences in 2009. In the School she works with undergraduate students through all phases of the veterinary science course and is co-ordinator and academic clinician for the final year intramural small animal workplace rotation.

Jane is the Chair of the Veterinary Science Admissions Committee which oversees the selection of undergraduate students into the CSU veterinary degree. In addition, she is Superintendent of the Kay Hull Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

### Dr Magdoline Awad

Magdoline Awad has a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree from the University of Sydney and was appointed to the Board 20 February 2019 as the AVA NSW Division nomination representing veterinarians in urban areas.

Magdoline also has a graduate degree in Veterinary Professional Practice Management, and Membership of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in the Animal Welfare Chapter. She was a member of the Animal Research and Review Panel NSW from 2008-2016 and is a member of the UNSW Animal Care and Ethics Committee.

She is the NSW representative for the AVA Welfare and Ethics special interest group.

She was Chief Veterinarian at RSPCA NSW from 2008-2015, after starting with the organisation in 1996. The Chief Veterinarian was responsible for the organisation's four veterinary hospitals, including staff and financial management. The position also oversaw the development and management of community programs in remote regional areas of NSW, working with local veterinarians and government to improve the welfare of pets in those communities. Programs for the disadvantaged, including the elderly have since been incorporated into the veterinary degree at the University of Sydney. The role also included veterinary oversight of animal cruelty matters, ensuring adherence to legislation and policy and any related media.

She is currently the Chief Veterinary Officer for PetSure, working closely with the veterinary profession and industry to increase pet insurance awareness and penetration in Australia.

### Dr Ian Russ

Ian Russ retired from the Board 31 December 2018.

Ian had been the AVA NSW Division nomination representing veterinarians in urban areas and served with the Board from 5 May 2014 to 31 December 2018.

On behalf of the Board, Board staff, the profession and the public I would like to thank Ian for his commitment to the regulation of the veterinary profession in NSW. Ian brought a strong professional ethical foundation to Board discussions and his thoughtful, respectful and diverse contributions ensured sound decision making.

## **Animal Biosecurity Emergency Hotline**

Report suspect exotic, notifiable  
or emergency animal diseases and  
pests or biosecurity events to the 24  
hour Animal Biosecurity Emergency  
Hotline

**1800 675 888**

## **Boardtalk**

A publication of the Veterinary  
Practitioners Board of NSW

**Address:** Suite 7.09  
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Mascot, 2020

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### **Board Members:**

Dr J Mark Simpson (President)  
Dr Magdoline Awad  
Dr Georgina Child  
Mrs Wendy Cochrane  
Dr Steve Ferguson  
Dr B Jane Lord  
Mrs Lisa Minogue  
Dr Kylie Parry

### **Board Staff:**

Dr John Baguley (Registrar)  
Mary Lydamore (Deputy Registrar and Complaints officer)  
Glenn Lynch (Hospital Inspector and Investigator)  
Melanie Robson (IT and Admin Support)  
Des Lyttle (Registration Officer)  
Kathryn McCarthy (Finance Officer)

### **IMPORTANT:**

The information contained in this newsletter  
reflects the policies of the Veterinary Practitioners  
Board and the current NSW legislation.

Any advice on specific issues not relating to  
Board policy should be obtained from either the  
AVA or appropriate government department or  
your own legal advisors.