

Veterinary Surgeons' Board of WA

From: Veterinary Surgeons' Board <admin@vsbwa.org.au>
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To: Veterinary Surgeons' Board of WA
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Veterinary Surgeons' Board



FROM THE REGISTRAR

It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us again but it is cheering that many who have been separated by border closures will be able to see friends and family again.

On a more mundane note, it is also the time of year to make sure that you pay your renewals so you can keep practising in 2021. Our online facility is working well but just to be safe it is recommended that you renew before the Board office shuts down on Christmas Eve in case you have any difficulties.

Exciting news is that the Veterinary Practice Bill 2020 has been submitted to Parliament. For more information see below. The Regulations are currently being drafted and when ready, will be available for public consultation.

I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and hope you can all enjoy some downtime during the festive season.

Dr Sue Godkin
Registrar



RENEWALS OF REGISTRATION AND APPROVALS FOR 2021

Just a gentle reminder that the [Board website](#) facility for paying your renewals for registration as a veterinary surgeon, approval as a veterinary nurse and authorisation as a trainee veterinary nurse online for 2021 is now active.

The absolute deadline for payment of renewal fees is midnight 31 December 2020.

If you do not pay by then your name will be removed from the Register on 1 January 2021 and you will not be able to legally work as a veterinary surgeon, veterinary nurse or trainee veterinary nurse in Western Australia.

The Boards' office shuts down from 12.00pm on Thursday 24 December 2020 to 8.30am Monday 4 January 2021. During this period you will not be able to contact Board staff by email or phone. It is strongly recommended that you check that you can access your account before the Board office shuts down.

VETERINARY PRACTICE BILL INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 25 NOVEMBER 2020

On 25 November 2020 the Veterinary Practice Bill was introduced to the Legislative Council. If you would like to see a copy of the version of the Bill that was introduced or read the explanatory memorandum presented in the Legislative Council they can be accessed [here](#)

STAFF WORKING AS VETERINARY NURSES WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE BOARD

Over the last few months it has come to the attention of the Board that a number of persons who hold a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing, but have not been approved by the Board as a veterinary nurse, have been performing the prescribed duties of a veterinary nurse in breach of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960* (Act). By doing so they are liable to prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Further, allowing persons who are not permitted to perform acts of veterinary surgery may invalidate the practice's insurance.

It is the responsibility of the managing veterinary surgeon at the premises where these persons have been working to ensure that staff performing acts of veterinary surgery are appropriately registered, approved or authorised to perform those duties. Failing to do so could lead to an allegation of unprofessional conduct.

The guidelines detailing responsibilities of the veterinary manager can be found on the Board's [website](#).

Up until now the Board has not prosecuted the unapproved persons in the Magistrates Court or referred the matter to the State Administrative Tribunal alleging the managing veterinary surgeon has behaved unprofessionally. Instead warnings have been issued. However, in the future, the Board is likely to consider a firmer approach.

SURGERIES, SINKS AND STORAGE

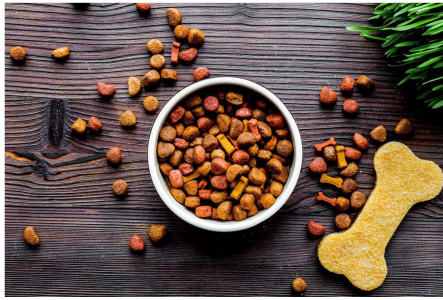
After a COVID-19 responsible delay routine premise inspections are now in full swing. However, it has become apparent from these inspections that a significant number of premises have sinks and various forms of storage in the surgery room. Sinks in a surgery room, especially if they are used for scrubbing up for surgery or cleaning instruments compromises the sterility of the room for aseptic surgery. Storage of equipment and consumables in the surgery room make proper cleaning and maintaining asepsis problematical.



The Board understands that renovating established premises can be difficult and will accept the disconnection and boarding up of the sink. New premises must not have a sink in the surgery room or be used for any storage. The Board's full guidelines on premise requirements can be found [here](#)

It is strongly recommended that plans for veterinary premises are submitted to the Board for feedback before any construction takes place. If you wish to discuss a veterinary premise application

feel free to contact the Board office to speak with an inspector on 93172353 or email on admin@vsbwa.org.au



PET FOOD ADVERSE EVENT SYSTEM TRACKING (PETFAST)

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) has recently [reported](#) a cluster of cases of megaesophagus in dogs which was identified through the PetFAST system. PetFAST is a joint initiative of the AVA and the Pet Food Industry Association of Australia (PFIAA) to identify health problems potentially associated with pet food.

Veterinarians are reminded to use the [PetFAST](#) system to report details of suspected adverse events associated with pet food, pet meat or treats in order to identify possible patterns which indicate a problem.

NEW SPECIALIST

Congratulations to Dr Josephine Louise Hardwick who was granted registration as a specialist in Equine Surgery at the 13 October 2020 Board meeting.



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