

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 doesn't seem like nearly three years since the last time a Board election was held, but it is that time again and all registered veterinary surgeons should have recently received a nomination form. It will be a little different this time as the new Board may only sit for a short time, or not at all. See below for more information.

Next newsletter we will be publishing information about recycling and "Going Green" in veterinary practices. If you have any tips or ideas that you would like to share please email them to the Board for inclusion in the newsletter. I am sure that we will get some interesting and creative ideas!



What should go on dispensing labels is one of the most asked questions we get at the Board office. See below for all the information about labelling you need to know plus several other articles of interest.

As always, feedback, suggestions and comments are very welcome.

Dr Sue Godkin
Registrar



BOARD ELECTIONS

The three year term of office for the current Veterinary Surgeons' Board (**Board**) expires on 31 December 2021. The *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960* (**Act**) stipulates that two of the Board members must be registered veterinary surgeons who are elected by the registered veterinary surgeons in WA.

As you may be aware, the Veterinary Practice Bill 2021, which will replace the current Act, was introduced to Parliament on 12 May 2021. This means it is likely this will be the last time Board elections will be held.

If the Bill and regulations are passed prior to 31 December 2021, then the newly appointed Board

will not take office. If this does not occur by 31 December 2021, then the new Board will take office, but only until the Bill and regulations are passed, proclaimed and gazetted, at which time the new Veterinary Practice Board will be appointed.

Please note that under the proposed Veterinary Practice Bill 2021, the Veterinary Practice Board will be expanded from 5 to 8 members (4 veterinarians, a veterinary nurse, a consumer representative, a legal practitioner and a Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development veterinarian).

Notification regarding the nomination for the two elected positions on the Board have been emailed to all veterinary surgeons registered in WA. Further information about sitting on the Board is [here](#). A Nomination form can be accessed [here](#). Nominations close at noon on 23 September 2021.



RANSOMWARE ATTACKS

The Board is aware of three veterinary practices that have recently been victims of ransomware attacks.

Veterinary practices are advised to check that they have ransomware protective measures in place to protect their clinical records and other sensitive and essential data.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE REGISTRATION OF SPECIALISTS IN WA - UPDATE

In response to the Board's request for feedback on proposed changes to the registration of specialists, 51 submissions were received. Of those only two were totally against the registration of applicants who hold specialist qualifications but whose primary veterinary degree is not recognised by the Board.

The remaining 49 were in favour of these applicants being registered under certain conditions. A number of respondents were of the view that registration should also be granted to those studying for specialist qualifications.

The issue was discussed at the 28 May 2021 meeting of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC). The registrars of the Australian and New Zealand Board were tasked with further exploring the issues and reporting back to AVBC.

The Board has deferred finalising its policy on the issue until the AVBC has finalised its position. In the meantime the Board will continue to make determinations on non standard applications for registration on a case by case basis.





YOUR ACCOUNT ON THE BOARD WEBSITE

By now most people are used to paying their renewals as a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse online.

However, did you know that you can also download your receipts and registration certificates online?

If you change your email address, postal address or phone number, these can all be updated from your account as well.

When you first access your account your username will be the email address you have registered with the Board. For security reasons we don't issue you with a password but you can set one by clicking the "lost password" button.

If you have any difficulties accessing your account please contact the Board office by email on admin@vsbwa.org.au or by phoning 9317 2353.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES REGULATORY SYSTEM IN AUSTRALIA

The Final Report of the Independent Review of the Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory System in Australia can be found [here](#).

What the proposed changes mean for veterinarians is summarised on page 301. The recommended changes include consistency of approved uses across Australia, greater access to international medicines, form recognition of the role of compounded medicines, live updates to product labels and improving the system for adverse experience reporting.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPENSING LABELS ON MEDICINES

The Board has received a number of queries about the requirements for labelling veterinary medicines. The following information is from the Department of Health WA website.

Prescription medicines and controlled drugs supplied to patients by both pharmacists and prescribers (including veterinary surgeons) must be labelled in accordance with Appendix L of the [Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons](#) (SUSMP).



Labels must be in English and include the following information:

- "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN" (in red on a white background)
- generic or brand name of the medicine
- strength and form of the medicine
- directions for use
- total quantity in the container
- patient name
- name, address and telephone number of the supplying pharmacy/ prescriber
- date of supply.

Where the medicine is supplied for an animal, the species of animal and the name of the animal's owner must be on the label as well as the words "FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY".

Where the medicine is for topical use, the words "FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY" or "POISON" must be added (in red on a white background).

Further information can be found [here](#).

INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

Sally Grimson is a student in the Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) (Honours) at Charles Sturt University. As part of her Psychology Honours Dissertation, she would like to talk to Australian veterinarians to try to better understand the impact of occupational experiences of loss.

Participation involves an interview of around sixty to ninety minutes in duration. The attached [Information Statement](#) provides more information on the study.

While there is no payment or reward for participating in this study, participation provides an opportunity to share your views and experiences as a veterinarian and may contribute to the development of a better understanding of the veterinary profession and the work that is performed by veterinarians.

For further information contact Sally at sallygrimson@hotmail.com

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