



Veterinary Surgeons' Board



## FROM THE REGISTRAR

It is great news that WA has a [roadmap](#) that will see the slow lifting of restrictions and easing into a new normal. This has been a tough time for many in the profession but hopefully we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Some other great news is that the consultative draft of the Veterinary Practice Bill 2020 is now out for public consultation. Submissions are being sought so this is your opportunity to have your say about how you think the veterinary profession should be regulated. Further information and a link to a webinar on the Bill can be found [here](#).



African Swine Fever continues to be a concern and is approaching closer to the Australian mainland. Read the below article to see what you can do to help prevent its spread.

Ever had an adverse reaction to a drug and not known where to report it? The APVMA article explains how to lodge a report.

Keep well and keep safe.

Dr Sue Godkin  
Registrar

## WRITING PRESCRIPTIONS FOR S8 DRUGS

Recently the Department of Health was presented with a couple of prescriptions for s8 drugs written by veterinary surgeons with repeats specified. The Medicines and Poisons Act 2014 does not allow veterinary surgeons to write prescriptions with repeats for s8 drugs. Prescriptions with repeats of s4 drugs are permitted. The veterinary surgeons concerned were contacted by an inspector and advised of the legislation regarding prescription writing.

## AFRICAN SWINE FEVER RECENTLY DIAGNOSED IN NEW GUINEA

African Swine Fever (ASF) has been present in sub-Saharan Africa since the 1990s, and increasingly found in eastern Europe since 2016.

Since 2018, ASF has moved into Western Europe (notably Belgium) for the first time, and into Asia. It continues to move quickly through South-East Asia over the past few months, with cases being confirmed in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, North Korea, South Korea, the Philippines, Timor Leste, Indonesia and most recently Papua New Guinea.



On Saturday, March 28, the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Agriculture Department announced that ASF infection had been confirmed in the Southern Highlands Province capital city, Mendi. This outbreak so close to the Australian mainland is of grave concern.

Further information on ASF and what can be done to prevent its spread can be found on the Animal Health Australia [website](#)



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## DBCA FAUNA REHABILITATION LICENCE

In January 2019 the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 came into force. It is now a requirement for people and organisations taking sick, injured and abandoned fauna into care for more than 72 hours to have a Regulation 35 fauna possessing (other purposes) license for rehabilitating fauna to the wild. The implementation of this new license followed extended consultation with the rehabilitation community in late 2018 and 2019.

One of the key reasons for implementing this license is to support people and organisations undertaking this important service by providing transparency and an appropriate framework for all to adhere to. DBCA is confident this approach will lead to appropriate outcomes for fauna being rehabilitated in WA.

The application form can be found [here](#).



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## ADVERSE EXPERIENCE REPORTING PROGRAM (AERP)

The AERP is a program of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority ([APVMA](#)) that assesses reports of adverse experiences associated with the use of a registered veterinary medicine or agricultural chemical product.

An adverse experience may involve:

- Risks to safety in animals
- Risks to safety in humans using or exposed to the product/s
- Lack of efficacy, when the correct label dose is used
- Other unintended or unexpected side effects.

The APVMA encourages veterinarians to report adverse experiences, including those where a product has been used off-label. Highlighting concerns with products of particular pharmacological significance, such as antimicrobials, is also strongly encouraged.

All adverse experiences reported to the APVMA are assessed to determine causality. Where it is observed that a product or active constituent has an incidence rate that would lead us to question its safety or efficacy, or in other certain circumstances, the APVMA may pursue regulatory action such as batch testing, label variations or product recalls.

The AERP has an online reporting form and welcomes emails ([AERP@apvma.gov.au](mailto:AERP@apvma.gov.au)) or phone calls (1800 700 583) to discuss cases if there are concerns. The APVMA is also in the process of updating web content so any feedback on these webpages is welcomed.

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## RESEARCH PROJECT - ETHICALLY CHALLENGING SITUATIONS FOR VETERINARIANS, VETERINARY NURSES AND ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic has raised additional and perhaps unforeseen ethically challenging situations (ECS) for those working in veterinary clinical settings. As part of her PhD study, Dr Anne Fawcett is conducting a survey to determine the frequency, stressfulness and nature of these ethical challenges.

The survey is open to veterinarians, animal health technicians and veterinary nurses around the world who are over the age of 18. It will take 15-20 minutes to complete.

To **read the participant information statement and** complete the survey, please COPY and PASTE the following link into your browser: <https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=KDFEFHCKX3>

This is an anonymous survey. You are welcome to share the link with colleagues.

For further information about this study, contact Anne Fawcett: [anne.fawcett@sydney.edu.au](mailto:anne.fawcett@sydney.edu.au)

**Please note that the Veterinary Surgeons' Board is not involved in the research, and has no means of determining whether you participate in the survey, nor will it have access to any responses.**

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