



FROM THE REGISTRAR

This week I attended a presentation by Dr Beth Cookson (Australian Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer) on emerging biosecurity threats in Australia. The 'take home message' was that Australia's isolation can no longer protect it and we cannot afford to be complacent.

Due to a number of factors, such as geopolitics, climate change, COVID-19 and increasing globalisation, the likelihood of an outbreak of an exotic animal diseases, such as Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is increasing at a rapid rate. The Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) estimated in 2021 that the likelihood of an outbreak in the next five years was 8%. A year later in April this was revised to 28% likelihood. More information about LSD can be found in the article below.



[Foot and Mouth Disease](#) is another rapidly emerging concern with an outbreak of the virus being reported in Indonesia in May this year.

Private veterinarians are increasingly on the front line for the surveillance and detection of these and other exotic diseases and are urged to remain vigilant. Information on Emergency Animal Diseases can be found [here](#). You can also call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

In this newsletter there are two research projects requesting your assistance. Please consider assisting the researchers with their projects.

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

Dr Sue Godkin
Registrar



STAYING ALERT TO LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

Australia's animal health system relies on veterinarians reporting any suspicion of an emergency animal disease. Lumpy skin disease has never occurred in Australia, but it is an emerging threat as it continues its spread through Asia and most recently into Indonesia and Singapore.

Lumpy skin disease is caused by a virus from the Poxviridae family. It is a serious disease that primarily affects cattle and water buffalo, although it has also been seen in other bovids and giraffes. There is no reliable evidence that the virus causes disease in humans.

The disease would have significant and far-reaching impacts should there be an incursion in Australia. There is currently no vaccine available for use in Australia. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus typically causes painful characteristic skin nodules which cover the body of the animal. Cattle with lumpy skin disease may show firm, raised nodules up to 50 mm in diameter which develop on the skin around the head, neck, genitals and limbs. Scabs develop in the centre of the nodules. When the scabs fall off, large holes are left which may become infected. The limbs, brisket and genitals can become swollen. Other disease symptoms include fever, watery eyes, loss of appetite, and a reluctance to move. There may also be a marked reduction in milk yield, damaged hides, and abortion in pregnant animals. While some infected animals may not show signs of disease, it can kill some animals.

The disease is highly infectious and is primarily spread through biting insects such as flies, mosquitoes, and ticks. However, transmission can also occur due to movement of infected animals, contaminated equipment and in some cases, directly from animal to animal.

Lumpy skin disease is a nationally notifiable disease. Veterinarians should report any suspected cases immediately

to the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888. This number will connect you with your state or territory's department of primary industries or agriculture.

The Emergency Animal Diseases Field Guide for Veterinarians has more specific information about lumpy skin disease, including differential diagnoses, and is free to [download](#). Further information about lumpy skin disease can also be found on the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's lumpy skin disease [webpage](#).

BRACHYCEPHALIC OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAY SYNDROME (BOAS)

We would greatly appreciate your participation in our online survey on brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome (BOAS) and brachycephalic dog management which should take less than 10 minutes of your time.

The aim of this study is to assess general practitioner veterinarians understanding and perceptions of BOAS, the recommendations they make based on their understanding and perceptions of the disease and the unique challenges they face managing brachycephalic dogs over their lifetime.

- Establish existing knowledge & knowledge gaps
- Identify extrinsic factors influencing knowledge, attitudes & perceptions
- Identify veterinary barriers to patient treatment access

Please click on the following link to begin the survey. You can save your progress and return if needed.

https://murdochuni.sydney1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9TrxTDoy8FdDeT4

Details of the study are as follows:

"A breath of fresh air" exploring veterinary-based barriers to Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) treatment.

By Madison Amy Carter

Supervisors: Dr. Carla Appelgrein & Dr. Melinda Bell

Limits to withdrawal: Your participation is entirely voluntary, however, if you change your mind about participating and wish to withdraw simply close your browser to exit the survey. Note, though, once you give consent to participate at the end of the survey your responses will be uploaded and it will not be possible to withdraw or amend them because we cannot tie responses to you as an individual. You will be prompted at the completion of the survey to provide consent to participate and for your answers to be recorded.

Possible Risks: This survey will ask about your experiences in managing the health of brachycephalic dogs. If this triggers feelings of distress for you, please do not hesitate to reach out. The following services offer 24/7 advice.

- beyondblue (1300 22 4636)
- Lifeline Australia (13 11 14)
- Black Dog Institute (accessible via www.mycompass.org.au)

Benefits of the study: While there is no guarantee that you will personally benefit, the knowledge gained from your participation may help others in the future as the industry responds to the knowledge gaps identified in this study.

Privacy: all responses are anonymous and strictly confidential.

Researchers contact details:

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This study has been approved by the Murdoch University Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval 2022/046). If you have any reservation or complaint about the ethical conduct of this research, and wish to talk with an independent person, you may contact Murdoch University's Research Ethics & Integrity on Tel. 08 9360 6677 (+61 8 9360 6677 for overseas studies) or e-mail ethics@murdoch.edu.au. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.



Have you ever treated a dog with snake envenomation?

Here is your chance to contribute to our knowledge on this interesting topic!
It only takes 5-15 minutes.

The University of Sydney is conducting an anonymous survey designed to investigate the current practices in the diagnosis and treatment of canine snakebite patients across Australia, with a focus on the number of vials of antivenom being used, the decision-making surrounding this and any adverse events. It is open to any veterinarian in Australia who has been involved with snake envenomation in dogs.



You may open the survey in your web browser by clicking the link below:
[Australian Canine Snakebite Survey](https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=F4TFHL4CC3)

If the link above does not work, try copying the link below into your web browser:
<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=F4TFHL4CC3>

Please consider forwarding this email/link to any colleagues who you feel may be able to participate. The more responses we receive, the more accurate the information.

UPDATED BOARD GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have recently been reviewed and updated;

- Guidelines for large animal mobile vet clinics
- Guidelines for use of specialist titles

The updated guidelines can be viewed [here](#)



NEW SPECIALISTS

Congratulations to Dr Kadie O'Byrne who was granted registration as a specialist in small animal surgery on 5 May 2022.

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