



Veterinary Surgeons' Board



FROM THE REGISTRAR

Dear Colleagues

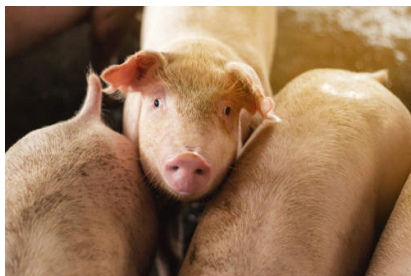
Many practices are finding demand for their services has increased during the pandemic and lockdown measures are an added pressure.

Just a reminder that the Board will fund two counselling sessions for any veterinary practice staff who need some extra help during this time. To arrange this you can contact the Board office by phone 9317 2353 or email: admin@vsbwa.org.au.

Included in this newsletter is timely advice from the Health Department about using disinfectants safely and appropriately in veterinary premises.

Stay safe and look after each other.

Dr Sue Godkin
Registrar



NEW VARIANTS OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER REPORTED IN ASIA

The Food and Agriculture Organisation has issued a heightened risk alert for African Swine Fever following reports of new variants of African Swine Fever emerging in Asia.

For further information click [here](#).

USE OF VETERINARY DISINFECTANT ON CLOTHING AND AIR SPACES

In mid-December 2020 the Department of Health WA became aware of a premises spraying visitors' clothing on entry with a veterinary disinfectant containing the actives: 54g/L Benzalkonium Chloride and 4g/L Poly (Hexamethylene Biguanide Hydrochloride or Polyhexanide) Hydrochloride.

The Health Department would like to alert users that this product is a space spray and for direct application on hard surfaces and equipment and not for direct application onto people or their clothing. When it is applied as a space spray, it is expected that the application is conducted when people are not present and that the applicator uses appropriate personal protective equipment as may be required. It should not be sprayed into spaces when people are present, doing so constitutes misapplication.

This misapplication may pose a health risk to the general public as well as an occupational health and



safety risk to their employees. Benzalkonium chloride is a known sensitiser and irritant at low concentrations. There have been reports of bronchospasm when benzalkonium chloride is inhaled. Polyhexanide is a known Category 1 skin sensitiser. The European Union recently reduced the allowable concentration of polyhexanide in cosmetics where its applications may result in inhalation from 0.3% to 0.1%.

The Department of Health advises that any premises applying this product as a space spray while people are present should immediately cease this practice.

The product label can be viewed on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA Approval No#: 54149 / RV0518L).

The APVMA has scheduled a review of the labelled instruction to ensure the deficiencies in the label statements are addressed and that the label meets the current requirements.

Everyone is reminded to use products as intended per the label and that, veterinary products cannot be used on people. If you are uncertain contact the APVMA on p: 1300 700 315 or e: compliance@apvma.gov.au.

LABELLING PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES AND CONTROLLED DRUGS SUPPLIED TO OWNERS OF ANIMALS BY VETERINARY SURGEONS

The Board has received a number of queries from veterinary surgeons about labelling of drugs supplied to owners of animals. Labelling requirements come under the Medicines and Poisons Act 2014. 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) ([external site](#)).

Advice from the Department of Health on labelling is below.

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.

Pharmacists must also include the prescription reference number corresponding to the record made in their dispensing system.

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".

For further information please visit the Department of Health's [website](#).



DID YOU KNOW?

When prescribing for your own animals you are still required to generate a clinical record and label any dispensed prescription drugs appropriately. The same applies to animals belonging to family members.

If you only have a black and white printer, you can have your labels preprinted with the information that must be in red, such as "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN" and "FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY".



Lint in the filters of clothes dryers is a fire hazard and needs to be removed after each drying cycle. (Fires have started in veterinary practices this way)

VETERINARY PREMISE PLANS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

The Board has been concerned that the plans for a number of applications for registration of a veterinary premise have been of a poor standard which has not allowed the Board to properly assess the suitability of the premises. This has resulted in delays in the approval process as the applicants have had to resubmit acceptable plans.



Applicants are advised that hand drawn plans will no longer be accepted unless they are of an architectural standard. All plans must be detailed and in particular they must include:

- the size of all rooms (m2)
- clear labelling of all rooms and spaces to identify their purpose or use
- the location of
 - equipment, furniture and fittings, plumbing;
 - pharmacy, S8 and S4 drug storage; and
 - location of sinks and doorways.

Plans must also be compliant with the requirements set out in the Board Premise Registration Application Form 1 which can be located on the Boards [website](#).



NEW SPECIALIST

Congratulations to Dr John Carr who was granted specialist registration in Pig Management and Diseases at the Board's 12 January 2021 meeting.

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