

## Veterinary Surgeons' Board of WA

**From:** Veterinary Surgeons' Board <admin@vsbwa.org.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 October 2021 4:37 PM  
**To:** Veterinary Surgeons' Board of WA  
**Subject:** October newsletter 2021



### Veterinary Surgeons' Board



## FROM THE REGISTRAR

Congratulations to Dr Paul Davey and Dr Tony Leeftang who received the highest number of votes at the recent election for the two elected members of the next Board.

Unfortunately the number of votes received was quite low at 320. I put this down to the current Act requiring a paper based election and a short time frame of only 21 days between the close of nominations and the election being held rather than a shortage of willing voters. It is expected that the Veterinary Practice Act 2021 will provide for electronic voting which will make voting easier and more accessible.



This newsletter contains articles on some of the most commonly asked questions we regularly answer at the Board. If you have any suggestions for articles that should be in the newsletter, please let me know.

Dr Sue Godkin  
Registrar



## BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Voting for the two elected members to serve on the Board for its next three year term commencing 1 January 2022 closed at noon on 13 October 2021.

Votes were received from 320 veterinary surgeons. The Registrar declared the two candidates who obtained the highest number of votes, Dr Paul Davey and Dr Tony Leeftang, to be elected.

The Board will be making a recommendation to the Minister that Dr Davey and Dr Leeftang be appointed to the Board for its next term of office.

## RENEWALS OF REGISTRATION, APPROVALS AND AUTHORISATIONS FOR 2022

Just a gentle reminder that the [Board website](#) facility for paying your renewals for registration as a veterinary surgeon, approval as a veterinary nurse or authorisation as a trainee veterinary nurse online for 2022 is now active.

**The absolute deadline for payment of renewal fees is midnight 31 December 2021.**

If you do not pay by then your name will be removed from the Register on 1 January 2022 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 Friday 24 December 2021 to 8.30am Tuesday 4 January 2022. During this period you will not be able to contact Board staff for assistance with renewing so it is strongly recommended that you make sure you can access your online account before the shutdown.

## INTERNATIONAL VET NURSE DAY

On Friday 8 October 2021 many veterinary practices celebrated International Vet Nurse Day.

Veterinary nurses have been approved by the Board and recognised as veterinary professionals in Western Australia since 1977. Currently we have 1956 approved veterinary nurses and 1778 registered veterinary surgeons in the state.



The Board would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contribution and support veterinary nurses deliver to the veterinary industry.

## UWA AEC CATEGORY A MEMBER REQUIRED

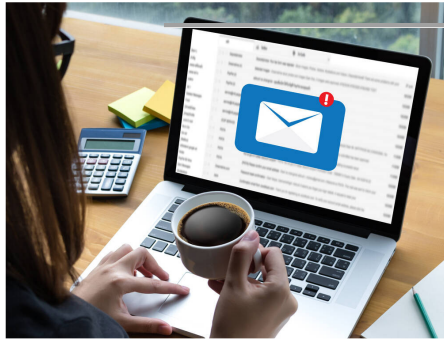
The University of Western Australia Animal Ethics Committee (UWA AEC) performs a vital role for the University in monitoring our research and teaching programs involving animals and ensuring that such work is carried out to the highest ethical and scientific standards. The University is especially grateful to members, who give up their personal and professional time to assist us in this important work.

According to Section 2.2.4 (i) the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes ("the Code");

**Category A** – a person with qualification in veterinary science that are recognised for registration as a veterinary surgeon in Australia, and with experience relevant to the institution's activities or the ability to acquire relevant knowledge.

The UWA AEC is currently seeking a Category A member, with a view to commencing end of 2021. Sitting fees, frequency of meetings and time commitments can be discussed upon expression of interest.

Please email [aeo@uwa.edu.au](mailto:aeo@uwa.edu.au) for further information



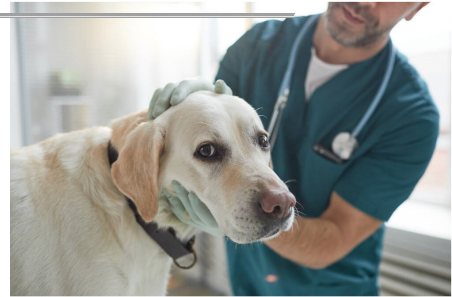
## EMAIL ADDRESSES AND PRIVACY

The Board's preferred method of written communication is by email. The Board assumes that you are comfortable with all Board communications being emailed to the email address that you have supplied.

Please be aware that sometimes sensitive information may be sent to that email address. It is recommended that you provide an email address to the Board that only you have access to and check regularly.

## REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

The Board office regularly receives requests for clarification as to the maximum length of time between examination rechecks legally allowable for a repeat prescription. There is a common erroneous belief that an animal must legally be seen every six months. However, this is a requirement in some other Australian jurisdictions.



In reality the WA veterinary legislation requires that a veterinary surgeon has discussed the health of the animal with the owner within the previous 7 days and has reasonable grounds to believe that an examination of the animal is not necessary in order to establish that it is appropriate to prescribe a further course of treatment with the scheduled drug.

In some cases six months is too long between examinations and in others longer than six months may be appropriate. Veterinary surgeons need to use their professional judgement as to the appropriate time period and be able to justify their reasoning.

## WHO CAN MICROCHIP CATS AND DOGS?

This is a common question from veterinary surgeons and the public. Microchipping of animals is an act of veterinary surgery which can only be performed by a veterinary surgeon. However dogs and cats may also be microchipped by veterinary nurses or qualified lay persons.

For cats and dogs the regulation of microchipping and microchip providers comes under the Dog Act 1976 and the Cat Act 2011. For further information Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries ([DLGSC](#)) should be contacted

*Congratulations*

## NEW SPECIALIST

Congratulations to Dr Elodie Yam who was granted registration as a specialist in veterinary emergency and critical care on 12 October 2021.

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This email was sent by The Registrar, Veterinary Surgeons' Board, PO Box 1721, Melville, WA 6171, Australia to [admin@vsbwa.org.au](mailto:admin@vsbwa.org.au)

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