



Spring 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Registrar's Reflections	1
Renewals For 2017	1
Email Scam Alert	2
Alert - Baits Containing Papp Released	2
Notice to Veterinary Surgeons Regarding Androgenic Anabolic Steroids	2
Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Scheduled Drugs	3
Veterinary Surgeons and Wildlife Rehabilitators- Prescription Drugs	3
Vaccination Certificates	4
Specialist Registration	4

REGISTRAR'S REFLECTIONS

Welcome to the Spring edition of the newsletter. It has been a long cold wet winter for most of the state and I, like most people, am looking forward to some warm dry weather at last!

Spring is traditionally the season for spring cleaning and in that vein the system for renewing registrations for veterinary surgeons and renewing the approval for veterinary nurses has been updated.

The most significant change is that, in line with other Australian and New Zealand veterinary regulatory bodies, the Board now requires that you provide information about matters that may impact on your ability to practise. These include health issues, disciplinary matters and criminal convictions.

Most of the professions, especially health professions, now ask these type of questions at renewal time and the public has come to expect that regulatory bodies make these enquiries of professionals on a regular basis.

If you do answer positively to any of the questions, you will be asked to provide more information and the Board will determine whether further action, if any, is required. However, your disclosure of these matters will not affect your ability to renew your approval or registration. Guidance notes on the questions are available on the Board website after you login and start the renewal process or from the Board office on request.

If you have any questions, please email the Board office on admin@vsbwa.org.au or phone on 9317 2353. Confidential enquiries should be directed to Sue Godkin or Chris Lloyd.

In this issue are a couple of alerts and some practical "how to" articles that have been requested by veterinary surgeons that I urge you to read and perhaps file for future reference.

We endeavour to make this newsletter as practical and useful as possible so if you have any issues that you think the profession should know about please contact the office.

RENEWALS FOR 2017

In late September 2016, you will receive an email notifying you that the Board website is now available for you to pay your 2017 registration renewal online. Please make sure that you notify the Board if you change your email address or you will not receive your renewal notification.

This year, in line with the other Australian jurisdictions, the Board will be requiring all veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses to answer questions about their fitness to practise. Matters that may bring a veterinary surgeon's or veterinary nurse's fitness to practise into question include health issues such as mental and physical conditions, substance abuse, adverse disciplinary findings, criminal convictions and any investigations that may result in disciplinary or criminal proceedings.

All sensitive information disclosed will be dealt with very carefully, observing confidentiality and privacy principles.

Guidance notes for each of the questions will be available on the Board's website or on request. If you have any further questions you can contact the Registrar at registrar@vsbwa.org.au or phone 9317 2353.





EMAIL SCAM ALERT



The Board has recently been alerted by a veterinary surgeon about an email scam that is doing the rounds of veterinary practices. In this particular scam, which is a variation of an earlier scam, the scammer arranges for their cat to be boarded then claims they are in hospital and unable to arrange to pay a removalist with cash, which is the only payment method they will accept.

The scammer offers to provide their credit card details so the practice can put through \$3,324.00, which is \$324 for cat boarding and \$3,000 for the practice to pay the removalist on their behalf.

Veterinary staff are urged to be vigilant and treat unusual email requests, especially from new clients, with caution.

ALERT - Baits containing PAPP released for wild dog and fox control – with potential consequences for domestic pets



A new toxin for wild dog and fox management is being released in Australia. As of 13 July 2016 it had not been released in WA. Veterinarians may be presented with cases of off-target poisoning of domestic pets, so you need to be aware of the mode of action of the toxin and its antidote in order to attempt management of these cases.

Known as DOGABAIT and FOXECUTE®, the new baits contain the chemical para-aminopropiophenone (or 'PAPP'), which induces methaemoglobinemia following ingestion. Products containing PAPP have been approved for use by the APVMA, and are manufactured and distributed by Animal Control Technologies Australia (ACTA).

PAPP is considered to be a humane toxin, and has the potential to replace 1080 use in many situations. It has an additional advantage in that it has an antidote, Methylene Blue. Limited trials show that, if an animal is administered the antidote relatively quickly by IV injection (likely within one hour of bait exposure), it can recover with no long-term effect. At this stage, this antidote can only be administered by a veterinarian.

ACTA have prepared a tailored briefing note on PAPP baits specifically for veterinarians which can be accessed at www.ava.com.au/node/73627

NOTICE TO VETERINARY SURGEONS REGARDING ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROIDS IN RACING ANIMALS

Veterinarians should note that under the respective rules of racing it is prohibited in Australia for any Thoroughbred, Standardbred (Harness) or Greyhound to be administered an androgenic anabolic steroid at any time during the period encompassing their birth until their retirement from racing.

The only allowed exemption to this ban is for the provision of the excepted substance ethyloestrenol to Greyhound bitches for the sole purpose of oestrus management.

For more information contact Dr. Judith Medd, RWWA Racing Industry Veterinarian or visit the RWWA website at www.rwwa.com.au/home

Phone: (08) 9445 5459

Email: judith.medd@rwwa.com.au





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING SCHEDULED DRUGS

Recently the Board sought clarification from the Department of Health regarding some of the questions the Board is asked about, including the use, storage and recording of scheduled drugs. Below is a summary of the information received.

Do schedule 4 drugs have to be locked up if a veterinary surgeon is in the veterinary premise, but not present in the room where the drugs are kept?

The Poisons Regulations require that S4 drugs be locked up and the key to be in the possession of a veterinary surgeon, if a veterinary surgeon is not present in a veterinary premise. However, if a veterinary surgeon is in the immediate vicinity and the S4 drugs are being used for animal treatments, the S4 drugs do not need to be locked up.

Can I keep S8 drugs overnight in my car as long as they are in a safe which is bolted to the car?

A number of veterinary surgeons, especially mobile and mixed animal practitioners have expressed the view that as they have a safe bolted to their car it should be acceptable to keep S8 drugs overnight in their cars. Unfortunately, cars belonging to veterinary surgeons are regularly stolen. Many practices advertise that they are veterinary surgeons on their cars, which makes them a target for theft.

S8 drugs must NOT be stored overnight in cars, even if the car is garaged.

If a veterinary surgeon regularly wishes to keep S8 drugs on their property overnight, they should apply for their residence to be included on the poisons permit for the practice they are working at. Mobile practice veterinary surgeons need to apply for a Poisons Permit for their residence if they are using S8 drugs.

Are two signatures required for entries in the S8 register book HA14?

The Department of Health only requires that the veterinary surgeon prescribing the S8 drug signs the S8 register. Practices may, as a matter of policy, require that more than one person signs.

What should I do if a bottle containing an S8 drug is broken?

Breakages of bottles of S8 drugs should be reported to the Department of Health within 24 hours of the breakage occurring. Photographs and witness signatures as to the circumstances are encouraged. Reporting can be by email to RSTU@health.wa.gov.au or by phone to 9222 6883.

What is the correct process for destroying returned and expired S8 drugs?

At present veterinary surgeons are not authorised to destroy S8 medicines without a witness. The witness must be a pharmacist or a medical practitioner. However, veterinary surgeons can discard part ampoules of S8 drugs where they cannot use the rest of the ampoule due to sterility/stability concerns. The Department of Health does not have an issue with part ampoules being discarded into a sharps bin.

Can we use electronic S8 registers?

On 3 August 2016, the Department of Health approved Vets8 software for use in WA. No other electronic registers are approved.

How often are audits of the S8 register required?

The S8 register must be audited by a veterinary surgeon at least monthly. This is an area of concern as it appears that a significant number of practices are failing to do this. Without proper record keeping and auditing it is impossible for veterinary surgeons to demonstrate that all S8 drugs have been properly accounted for.



VETERINARY SURGEONS AND WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The Board has received several enquiries from wildlife rehabilitation centres and veterinary surgeons about keeping S4 drugs at the centres in stock for use on wildlife by the staff.

There is no provision in the Act for a veterinary surgeon to provide a wildlife rehabilitator with a general stock of scheduled drugs to be administered to wildlife. However, a veterinary surgeon may prescribe, label and dispense a drug to a wildlife rehabilitator for the treatment of a specific animal after establishing a bona fide practitioner-patient relationship.





VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

The Board has received several complaints regarding incomplete vaccination certificates, from veterinary surgeons who have examined animals vaccinated by other practices. Examples of incomplete certificates include the failure by the veterinary surgeon to record basic information such as the type of vaccine administered, the name of the owner or a description of the animal which had been vaccinated.

A vaccination certificate should be issued for each dog or cat that is vaccinated including individuals in litters. The certificate should include:

1. Name of the owner at time of vaccination;
2. Species;
3. Breed;
4. Sex;
5. Date of birth. If unknown an estimate of age is appropriate;
6. Colour;
7. Distinguishing features if appropriate;
8. Microchip number if appropriate;
9. The date the vaccine is administered;
10. Vaccine administered, preferably listing the product name/brand and the batch sticker;
11. The date for the next vaccination and the type of vaccine to be administered;
12. Name and address of veterinary surgeon and veterinary practice;
13. Personal signature of the veterinary surgeon – a stamp is not acceptable.

It is extremely important to ensure that any veterinary surgeon reading a vaccination record will be able to determine which vaccine(s) have been administered and the intended booster.

To comply with Regulation 30 relating to the dispensing and/or supply of scheduled drugs, the veterinary surgeon should ensure that this information is recorded in the clinical record for the animal.

Attention is also drawn to Regulation 33D.

“33D False or inaccurate certificates

A registered veterinary surgeon must not issue a certificate –

- (a) knowing it to contain false information; or
- (b) without having reasonable grounds for believing that the information contained in it is accurate.”

SPECIALIST REGISTRATION

Congratulations to Dr Jane Day who has recently been granted specialist registration in Veterinary Radiology.



VETERINARY SURGEONS' BOARD OF WA

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

- Chair: Dr Peter Punch – AVA nominee
- Deputy Chair: Dr Maryanne Culliver – Elected member
- Dr Graham Harradine – Elected member
- Dr Michael Paton – Dept of Agriculture and Food nominee
- Ms Catherine Carroll – Ministerial appointee

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