

Veterinary Surgeons' Board of WA

From: Veterinary Surgeons' Board <admin@vsbwa.org.au>
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Veterinary Surgeons' Board



FROM THE REGISTRAR

Veterinary Nurse Day is on Friday 9 October this year. Veterinary nurses are essential to the running of veterinary practices and are often the first person at the practice that animal owners interact with but they don't always get the recognition they deserve.

On the same note it is pleasing that the contribution of veterinary nurses to the veterinary profession is being acknowledged in the consultation draft of the Veterinary Practice Bill 2020 by the inclusion of a veterinary nurse member on the Veterinary Surgeons' Board.

Other "must read" information in this newsletter is how to book for a free online lecture on the update of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and Regulations, and further details on cannabis based products and the news that veterinary surgeons' addresses will no longer appear on the Board's online register.

As always, your feedback and questions are very welcome.

Keep safe

Dr Sue Godkin
Registrar



UPDATE OF THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT AND REGULATIONS

Staff from the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions will be delivering a free online presentation on changes to the Biodiversity Conservation Act on Wednesday, 2nd September at 7.30pm AWST.

In this presentation, Dr Simone Vitali, together with Dr Juanita Renwick and Mr Lyle Gilbert from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, will focus on

important changes to the Act and Regulations that veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses need to be aware of when managing wildlife cases in their practices.

Registration, while free, is a must via [Eventbrite](#).

PUBLIC ADDRESSES ON THE ONLINE REGISTER

The Board has ceased to publish any addresses for veterinary surgeons on the online register of veterinary surgeons on its website www.vsbwa.org.au This brings the online register inline with other Australian jurisdictions that do not require addresses to be included on online registers.

VETERINARY NURSES DAY - Friday 9 October 2020

With the ongoing pandemic this has been a particularly challenging year for everyone, including veterinary nurses, trying to adapt to the "new normal". This is an opportunity to show your appreciation of your veterinary nursing staff and acknowledge their efforts during these difficult times.



MORE ON CANNABIS BASED PRODUCTS

The article on cannabis based products in the last Board newsletter generated a lot of interest and questions. The following information is provided to address the most asked queries.

Most medicinal cannabis products are classed as S8 for human therapeutic use only. Veterinary surgeons have not been given authority to prescribe these products so they revert to S9(Prohibited)

With regard to cannabidiol, that is a schedule 4 product if used for therapeutic purposes (human or animal). Veterinary surgeons may prescribe these products. However, to be classed as cannabidiol, the total amount of cannabinoids present must not exceed 2%. If this is not the case then the product would revert to schedule 9 and be a prohibited drug which cannot be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon.

Any possession of a schedule 4 medicine without a valid prescription is an offence, so if clients are sourcing the oil from the internet they may be committing offences under the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2014*.

UPDATED BOARD GUIDELINES

The following Board guidelines have recently been updated

[Guidelines for Registration as an Honorary Veterinary Surgeon](#)
[Guidelines for the Direction of Authorised Persons](#)

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