

Veterinary Surgeons' Board of WA

From: Veterinary Surgeons' Board <admin@vsbwa.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2020 3:39 PM
To: Veterinary Surgeons' Board of WA
Subject: Board Newsletter - Covid 19 updates



Veterinary Surgeons' Board



FROM THE REGISTRAR

The Board office remains open during the COVID-19 pandemic with all staff working remotely as per Commonwealth and State Government recommendations.

The best way to contact us during this time is by email admin@vsbwa.org.au as we are receiving a large number of calls.

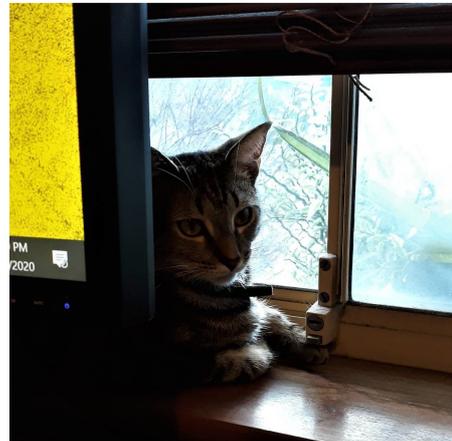
Our ordinary contact number +61 8 9317 2353 is currently diverting to a mobile phone.

Understandably many people are finding it hard to cope at the moment with the extra stressors of life during a pandemic. Please remember the Board will pay for up to two confidential counselling sessions for veterinary surgeons and veterinary practice staff. Either call our office or email to arrange.

Lastly, I wish everyone a lovely Easter and hope you manage to spend time with friends and family, even if it is remotely. It will be very different to the Easters we are used to but there will be chocolate eggs and hot cross buns.

Stay safe.

Dr Sue Godkin
Registrar



SECOND CALL FOR MECHANICAL VENTILATOR(S) THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INTENSIVE CARE UNITS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc (AVBC) has received an overwhelmingly positive response to the call out for ventilators within veterinary practices across Australia.

This email serves as a follow up to any practices that may have missed the initial email or did not

respond if they had a BIRD model ventilator (or other older working models), which could still be useful, even if it requires servicing. The state health departments are interested in any working model ventilators within veterinary hospitals.

Please submit your response using the same [Google Form](#) used for the initial surveys. This email is only for those who missed the first opportunity to respond.

The form allows live updates to be made from multiple sources on a single document. Information about the model/make/numbers of ventilators/contact person is requested in addition to your contact details. To avoid double counting of supplies please ensure your practice only replies once to the survey.

You will all be pleased to know that the first respirators from veterinary hospitals are already on their way to support the COVID-19 effort

Please note that while the initial activity has been focused in NSW, these activities are also being co-ordinated between the States and the Federal Government, so it is important that we collate information from all veterinary hospitals with ventilators, so the spreadsheet represents an Australia-wide inventory.

THE ANIMAL HEALTH COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED A POSITION STATEMENT ON COVID-19 TESTING AND SURVEILLANCE IN ANIMALS

This is copied below and can be found on the Animal Health Committee [website](#)

Updated 9 April 2020

" The World Organisation for Animal Health advises that currently there is no evidence to suggest that animals infected by humans are playing a role in the spread of COVID-19. The current spread of COVID-19 is driven by human to human transmission.

The capacity for testing for COVID-19 is not limitless. The priority remains on human health, as the known form of transmission. There have been no reports of the virus in domestic animals or wildlife in Australia.

At this time, diagnostic testing and surveillance in Australian animals for COVID-19 is not recommended, unless on the advice of human and animal health authorities. If testing is required, it should be undertaken at the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (the former Australian Animal Health Laboratory).

Animal owners/handlers should continue to implement good hygiene and farm biosecurity practices where animals are kept, including washing their hands before and after contact with animals.

People who are sick or under medical attention for COVID-19 should avoid or minimise close contact with animals as a precaution.

This policy statement will be reviewed as further information comes to hand."



INTRASTATE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

The Board is continuing to receive queries from veterinary surgeons about travel restrictions across the regions. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has provided the following advice which is current from 7 April 2020 at 3.30pm.

From 11:59pm Tuesday 31 March 2020, Western Australians are not permitted to travel outside their designated region without an exemption.

Western Australian intrastate travel is defined as movement through the boundaries of the regions of Western Australia.

Exemptions apply for:

- people travelling to work
- attending medical appointments
- transporting freight
- those who do not have access to groceries or supplies within their region
- returning to a place of residence
- attending school or an educational institution where necessary
- catering for family members
- compassionate grounds.

Check points and mobile police patrols are in place to monitor travel across boundaries and ensure people are doing the right thing.

Police have the power to enforce these restrictions, and issue fines of up to \$50,000.

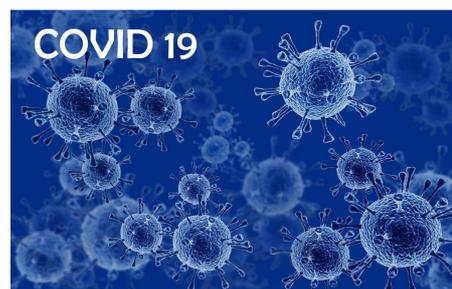
If you believe you fall under an exemption category AND are required to travel between these regions you will need to prepare documentation to present to police at the regional check points. This documentation can be a letter/email/SMS from an employer, that supports the legitimate travel.

Further information can be found on the website [Department of the Premier and Cabinet](#).

COVID - 19 LINKS AND RESOURCES

Many are finding that they are receiving too much information from many sources so I have picked out only a few links of particular interest.

- A video which explains simply to clients the new social distance requirements that may be helpful and can be accessed [here](#)
- The Australian Veterinary Boards Council has [links](#) to resources for veterinary surgeons.



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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

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