



Winter 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Registrar's Reflections	1
Board Elections	1
Increase In Registration, Approval and Authorisation Fees	2
Nomination Papers	2
The Mind in the Veterinary Machine	3
Ownership of Clinical Records	3
Public Access to Postal Addresses of Veterinary Surgeons	3
Have You Changed Your Name Recently?	3
Badges for Veterinary Nurses	3
From The Board Inspectors' Desk	4

REGISTRAR'S REFLECTIONS

The current Board's three year term ends at the end of this year and an election for a new Board for the next three years will be held on 4 September 2015. All registered veterinary surgeons can nominate for a position on the Board and take part in the voting. I urge all registered veterinary surgeons to take the opportunity to vote and have a say about who serves on the Board and regulates the profession. A nomination form is included in this newsletter and ballot papers will be posted out in late August 2015.

The Board has launched a new website. The website contains all the information available on the old website but in a more user friendly, crisper format. A major change is that all veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses will be able to log in to the website and pay their annual renewal fees as well as amend their contact details listed on the Board register. All registered veterinary surgeons and approved veterinary nurses will receive their login details and password by post. So that you receive your login details please make sure that the Board has your current postal address.

Another major change is that the website will contain an electronic searchable register of veterinary surgeons in Western Australia.

Make sure that you have a look at the comments from the Board inspectors about their most recent inspections of veterinary hospitals and clinics. The inspectors set out in an easy to read format what the most common issues are and answer the most common questions they are asked.

Enjoy the newsletter and any feedback or comments are very welcome.



BOARD ELECTIONS 2015

The current term of office for all Board members expires on 31 December 2015. An election for the two elected members of the Board will be held this year. The term of office for the new Board is three years expiring 31 December 2018.

The timetable for the election process is as follows:

1. A nomination form is included in this newsletter;
2. Noon 14 August 2015 - Nominations close;
3. Ballot papers posted to all registered veterinary surgeons by 21 August 2015;
4. Noon 4 September 2015 – All ballots papers must be in receipt of the Registrar;
5. 1.00pm 4 September 2015 – ballot papers counted; and
6. Results announced by email and on the Board's website by 8 September 2015

Thinking of nominating for the Veterinary Surgeons' Board?

Below is a summary of the time commitment for Board members. A substantially greater time commitment is required by the Chair of the Board.

Item	How Often	Time commitment
Board Meetings	Minimum 12 per year	Thursdays 8am-3pm Average of five hours per month
Read Agenda	Minimum 12 per year	3-4 hours per month
Read and respond to emails	Several times a week	2-4 hours per week
Attend mediations or meetings with stakeholders	Zero to six per year	Half a day to a full day each
Comment on policies, protocols, procedures, guidelines or other documentation.	One or two per week	2 to 4 hours per week

Please ensure that if you agree to nominate for election to the Board, you are willing and able to fulfil the above time commitment. Reasonable expenses are covered by the Board and remuneration is given for each meeting attended





INCREASE IN REGISTRATION, APPROVAL AND AUTHORISATION FEES

As a matter of necessity the Board must aim for cost recovery when setting registration, approval and authorisation fees. For veterinary nurses and trainee nurses a cost analysis of the fees revealed that the fees charged are well below cost recovery. As a consequence the fees for veterinary nurses and trainee veterinary nurses have been increased above CPI. For veterinary surgeons, specialists and body corporates the fees have been increased by CPI to keep up with inflation. The increases are detailed below.

Type of Fee	Date Last Updated Increase	Old Fee (\$)	New Fee (\$)
Annual Registration			
Body Corporates	13 October 2009	\$365.00	\$410.00
Veterinary Nurses	13 October 2009	\$45.00	\$65.00
Specialist	13 October 2009	\$70.00	\$80.00
Veterinary Surgeons	13 October 2009	\$365.00	\$410.00
Veterinary Surgeons Non Resident	13 October 2009	\$180.00	\$200.00
Veterinary Surgeons Honorary	13 October 2009	\$45.00	\$50.00
New Graduates	13 October 2009	\$110.00	\$125.00
Application Fees			
Body Corporates	13 October 2009	\$110.00	\$125.00
New Graduates	13 October 2009	\$110.00	\$125.00
Veterinary Nurses (Includes one year of registration)	13 October 2009	\$65.00	\$105.00
Trainee Veterinary Nurses	13 October 2009	\$20.00	\$25.00
Veterinary Surgeons Honorary	13 October 2009	\$25.00	\$30.00
Veterinary Surgeons Non-resident	13 October 2009	\$110.00	\$125.00
Veterinary Surgeons	13 October 2009	\$110.00	\$125.00
Veterinary Specialist	13 October 2009	\$165.00	\$185.00

VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT 1960 NOMINATION PAPERS

To be returned by noon 14 August 2015

To the Returning Officer, Veterinary Surgeons' Board, PO Box 1721, Melville South WA 6156

We, the undersigned veterinary surgeons, registered under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960, hereby nominate

(a) (BLOCK LETTERS)
as a candidate for election as a member of the Veterinary Surgeons' Board.

Dated the..... day of..... 2015

Signed..... Signed.....

I, the above mentioned candidate, hereby consent to this nomination and am willing to act if elected.

Signed.....

(Note - this nomination paper must be signed by two registered veterinary surgeons and also by the candidate).

(a) Insert full name of candidate





OWNERSHIP OF CLINICAL RECORDS

The Board regularly receives queries from veterinary surgeons and the public about who owns clinical records for an animal and a veterinary surgeon's obligations, if any, to provide the records to other veterinary surgeons and the public.

The Board expects that, in the interests of animal welfare, practices will cooperate and liaise professionally in relation to the transfer or release of records. Veterinary practices should, when requested by a second veterinary surgeon attending an animal on behalf of the owner and with the owner's consent, provide copies of the clinical records or a summary of the relevant clinical history.

It is the view of the Board that it could be unprofessional for a veterinary surgeon not to pass on sufficient and relevant clinical records to another veterinary surgeon when requested by the owner of an animal, if the failure to pass on the clinical records could be shown to have compromised the welfare of the animal.

However, what about the situation where an owner asks for their animal's clinical records directly from the veterinary surgeon? Are veterinary surgeons obliged to give them to the owner? Do owners have a right to them? In particular, owners may expect to be provided with radiographs on request as it is routine for human health professionals to provide these to their patients.

In Queensland in 2007 this issue became the basis of legal action when the Queensland Court of Appeal dismissed an application to overturn the decision of the Supreme Court that refused to order a veterinary surgeon to provide a client with her case records for the client's animals.

The Court of Appeal Judge said that there was no basis in law for making an order for the veterinary surgeon to hand over the records.

The Judge referred to a precedent case in the medical profession where the High Court found a client had no right to her medical records and that the doctor's notes were his property, compiled for his own information in treating a patient.

THE MIND IN THE VETERINARY MACHINE

We know it is vital to keep our mental health in top condition because it is challenged regularly in veterinary professional life.



Professor Stephen Ilardi, a psychologist at Kansas University in the U.S., asserts much of the depression we see is a result of civilisation. He is a firm advocate of doing three things to avoid depression.

1. Exercise.
2. Correct diet enriched with Omega 3 fatty acids.
3. Connection e.g. community involvement, voluntary work.

You can listen to him at:
<http://youtu.be/drv3BP0Fdi8>

Dr Brian Mc Erlean OneLife and Veterinary Benevolent Fund.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME RECENTLY?

Veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses are reminded that they must only practise under the name that they have registered with the Board. If you wish to change the name you have registered with the Board you need to provide supporting evidence such as a certified copy of a marriage certificate and request that your name be changed on the veterinary register.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO POSTAL ADDRESSES OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960 all registered veterinary surgeons must provide the Board with a current postal address and this address is available to the public on request. It is recommended that you provide a PO Box or work address as your primary address if you do not wish your home address to be used for this purpose.

BADGES FOR VETERINARY NURSES

From 2016 all approved veterinary nurses will be issued with a badge with the year of registration. Each year veterinary nurses will receive a new badge with a different coloured border and year so that it is easy to identify whether a veterinary nurse is registered for that year.

Illustrated is the badge for 2016 with a white border. The badge for 2017 is likely to have a green border so it can be distinguished from the 2016 badge at a glance.





FROM THE BOARD INSPECTORS' DESK

The Board's inspectors have now inspected most of the veterinary hospitals and clinics in the state and are now starting on the next five year cycle of inspections. Common issues found and questions asked during those inspections are listed below.

What are the common issues that arise in the course of inspections?

- Failure to balance the s8 register with quantities in the safe every 2-3 weeks.
- Incorrect disposal of expired drugs. They must be handed into a pharmacy and you must acquire a receipt. In the case of expired s8s you need to ask the pharmacist to sign your s8 register and stamp the entry with the pharmacy stamp. There is no charge for this service from pharmacists.
- Practices in general are well equipped but some veterinary surgeons are not paying attention to the outside appearance of their practices.
- The emergency number is sometimes not clear and sometimes not visible. A client that arrives afterhours with a patient that has been in a motor vehicle accident or snake bite should not be in any doubt what number to ring and where to go for help.
- It is mandatory to have a separate sterile surgery in clinics and hospitals. You cannot combine a surgery with a treatment room.

If I bill out 1 vial of Temgesic to the client but only administer 0.5ml to the patient how do I record this in the s8 register?

0.5ml is recorded in the usual manner and 0.5ml is put down as wastage and witnessed by a veterinary nurse or another veterinary surgeon.

Can an approved veterinary nurse administer an s8 injection?

A veterinary nurse can only do so under the direct personal supervision of a veterinary surgeon such as during surgery. Veterinary nurses cannot access a safe containing s8s or sign the s8 register.

When I am given a time and date for an inspection why is it difficult to change it?

We do try to accommodate practices in various ways e.g. the time of day and year we do inspections. Practices are generally inspected in sequence and when the inspector has to double back that comes at a cost. This cost is borne by the profession through registration fees.

Why can't I leave out prescription drugs on a shelf at the front counter?

Prescription drugs have to be in a lockable cupboard preferably not visible and without a glass front. This is to prevent the public having unsupervised access to scheduled drugs.

Why do we have to have lockable fridges to store s4 drugs?

The Poisons Act 1964 requires that s4 drugs including vaccines are stored in a locked environment.

Do I still have to display my Business Name registration in the waiting room?

No. This rule has been changed but you do need to display your Hospital, Clinic or Company registration certificate.

What happens if I have a company and have different branch practices. How do I display the single registration certificate?

Ask the Board for more than one certificate or photocopy your certificate and display it in each practice.

If I sell my practice do I need to inform the Board?

Yes. The Board has to ensure that the new practice owner is someone legally permitted to own a practice.

What area is the Board currently concentrating on?

Ensuring that clinical records are adequate and compliant. Clinical records are your prescription for a scheduled drug and show that these drugs have been prescribed and dispensed appropriately. This is particularly important for s8 drugs, anabolic steroids and diazepam as there is particular potential for abuse.

Have you any good news for me?

Yes. The standards are rising and we are ensuring there is a minimum standard applied to all practices. Veterinary surgeons are getting better in the recording of their s8 drugs.

There is more compliance with the rules for over the counter sale of s4 drugs.

Many veterinary surgeons are voluntarily storing Lethabarb or equivalent in their s8 safes even though it is not an s8.



THE VETERINARY SURGEONS' BOARD OF WA

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Chair: Dr P Punch AVA Nominee

Dr M Paton Dept of Agriculture and Food

Dr M Culliver Elected Member

Dr R Stone Elected Member

Deputy Chair: Ms F Calley Ministerial Appointment

HOW TO CONTACT US

Registrar: Dr Sue Godkin

Postal Address: PO Box 1721 Melville South WA 6156

Office: Suite 1, First Floor, Melville Professional Centre,
275 Marmion Street, Melville WA 6156

Telephone: (08) 9317 2353 **Facsimile:** (08) 9317 2363

Email: admin@vsbwa.org.au **Web:** www.vsbwa.org.au

