



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Welcome to the belated Winter newsletter and to the four enthusiastic new Board members (see next page for further information). I take this opportunity to thank previous members, Neale Ward (who served for 5 terms), Kevin Ellard (DPIPWE), Tessa Fraser-Oakley and Jo Bradley (consumer member), for their valuable contributions. Neale Ward has kindly offered to remain as the Board's AVBC representative until one of the new members is 'trained up' to take on this role.

As some of you may be aware there was a recent change to the selection process of Board members and as a result, a delay in the appointment of the new Board. Consequently, there was a 2 month hiatus with our trusty registrar, Anne Horner holding the fort.

As a result the new Board has some catching up to do and will be on a steep learning curve. I will deliberately keep these notes brief, and look forward to the chance of meeting with as many of you as possible as the Board moves around the State and holds our 'meet the profession' sessions over the next 12 months.

Neil Leighton
Chair

Veterinary Service Standard

Vets are advised that following from the consultation drafts, the "Standard of Professional Conduct" has now been declared. A copy is included with this newsletter and it may be downloaded from the Board website.

The Standard sets out the principles expected of vets. Also available is the document "Standard of Professional Conduct Information and Examples" to assist with the interpretation of the Standard.

Communication with clients

Communication with clients is an ongoing issue in complaints. Key messages are:

- make sure your communication with clients is clear and effective
- make sure you tell the client what they need to know

- give the client other materials (eg written information) if that will help
- check the client understands what you've told them.

Communicating clearly and making sure the client understands what's happening with their animal can help reduce the chance of clients being left unhappy and of issues being raised with us.

(Thanks to the VCNZ for this article)

S8 Registers – electronic alternative

Vets are required to keep a "narcotic substances register" (S8 register) in accordance with the *Poisons Regulations*. The Chief Pharmacist advises that he has approved the use of a commercially available electronic S8 register (subject to certain conditions) as an alternative to the hard copy book. For more information please contact Pharmaceutical Services Branch DHHS on ph 6166 0400.

Inspections

The Board has commenced its cycle of practice inspections around the State. The inspectors will be visiting practices which were last inspected in 2011, and any new practices and those which have had major renovations or have changed hands.

The inspectors will contact the practices directly to arrange a suitable time to visit. The inspectors will be assessing practices against the VSS "Standards of Veterinary Premises" (issued 2014) which is available on the Board website. There is no charge for the first /routine inspection, however if a follow up visit is required, a fee will be charged.

Registration Renewals 2016-17

Registration renewals have been finalised for the first full registration year based on the financial year. For the first time the notices and the first reminder notices were sent by email. The Board would appreciate your feedback on the changed process.

While the initial uptake seemed slow, a greater number of forms were returned electronically. No emails 'bounced' but some vets had changed addresses and so did not receive the emailed notice. Please remember to advise the Board if your postal address, email or contact phone number changes.

Members of the Board

The Board has recently been reconstituted with members being appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries & Water for the next three years. At the first Board meeting in July Dr Neil Leighton was elected Chair and Dr Jane Dunnett elected Deputy Chair. The members are:

Dr Neil Leighton is a member of the Smithton veterinary practice which is mainly involved in services to the dairy industry.

Dr Jane Dunnett qualified in 1994 from the University of Glasgow and worked in mixed, then predominantly small animal practice in the UK including a period as partner in a busy London 24 hour hospital practice.

She moved to Australia in 2010 and worked as a clinical tutor in the Emergency and Critical Care section of the University of Melbourne veterinary hospital before moving to Tasmania in December 2015 where she is currently the University Veterinarian and Animal Welfare Officer for the University of Tasmania.

Dr Andrew Davis is the DPIPWE nominee and is a veterinary pathologist at the Animal Health Laboratory.

Dr Tering Davies graduated from Murdoch University in 2005 and has practised locally as a veterinary surgeon and hospital manager. She has a particular interest in shelter medicine and Tasmanian devils.

Ms Bernadette Ulbrich-Hooper is the community member. She is a qualified and experienced veterinary nurse, having worked as a veterinary nurse in Devonport between 1981 and 1987 and again in Launceston in 1988, whilst studying part time. She also taught veterinary nursing and animal handling at the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (now the Melbourne Polytechnic), between 2001-2004.

She is a qualified and experienced legal practitioner and was admitted to the Bar in 1995. She is a director on the board of the Hobart City Mission and also Workskills Tasmania.

The Board thanks the retiring members: Dr Neale Ward, Dr Kevin Ellard, Dr Tessa Frazer-Oakley and Ms Jo Bradley for their contributions.

Dr Ward served 5 consecutive terms spanning 15 years. During that time he held the position of Deputy

Chair twice and Chair, as well as being the delegate to the AVBC.

Dr Ellard was the DPIPWE representative for nearly 6 years, Ms Bradley served 5 years as the community member and Dr Frazer-Oakley served the most recent term 2012-16.

Meet the Board/Meet the Profession meetings

The Board will be holding *Meet the Board/Meet the Profession* meetings in the three regions over the next 12 months. These meetings give the profession the opportunity to meet the Board members and raise issues of interest with them. Dates to be advised.

Setting up new practices

Vets are reminded that if they are setting up practice, whether as sole practitioners, or in a partnership or as a company, they are required to notify the Board before commencement. The forms are available on the website (*Veterinary Service Entities* page) or from the registrar.

Interstate locums or new employees & NRVR

A vet who is registered elsewhere in Australia may practise in Tasmania as a locum under national recognition of veterinary registration (NRVR) without being registered in Tasmania. NRVR also applies to new employees who are registered interstate; however they should lodge their applications for registration here within 3 months of arrival. If a vet is relying on NRVR, employers should check that their interstate registration is current (all Boards have online registers). (Please note that NRVR does not apply to overseas registrations.)

Letters of Good Standing

If you need a letter of good/professional standing (LOGS) for registration interstate or overseas, please contact the registrar. The fee for a LOGS is \$50. The LOGS will be sent directly to the relevant Board.

Surveys

Vets are invited to participate in the following surveys:

Survey of Antibiotics for Surgical Prophylaxis in Veterinary Practice (PHD survey, Melbourne Uni) closes 15 August 2016:

<https://redcap.vet.unimelb.edu.au/surveys/?s=EFCCECDETW>

AVA 2016 Workforce Survey – reminder:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBD8N98>