



## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Welcome to the end of year newsletter. It is now 12 months since the proclamation of the *Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Act 2011*, and apart from an unintended drafting error which I outlined in the Winter newsletter, the Act seems to be working well. The Board submitted a request to the Minister for correction of the error and for inclusion of a couple of other minor administrative matters. Our understanding is that this will happen, but of course it all has to go through Parliament, so we continue to wait patiently.

So far this year, the Board has hosted two meetings with the profession, one in Hobart and a mid-year one in Launceston. A third meeting will be held in Ulverstone in late November following on from the next Board meeting. These meetings seem to be well received with some vets commenting that they would like to see them held more frequently. Although we do hold these meetings on the evening of a scheduled Board meeting, they do add to the cost of the day and we are very aware of this, particularly now that the Board is responsible for its own finances.

The inspections of northern practices are well underway with very good feedback on the general standards. It would appear however, that non-compliance with S8 safe requirements is still a bug-bear. Please check with Pharmaceutical Services Branch (Jim Galloway) for clarification of these requirements. It is proposed that inspections of north-west premises will take place in the first half of 2014.

The Board is progressing with its review of the published Standards of Veterinary Practice, the latest one being Standards of Veterinary Premises. It is important that the standards stay contemporary and that new standards are considered as veterinary practice changes. If anyone has comments on the draft Standard for Veterinary Premises, please feel free to make a submission.

As always, if you have any queries please feel free to contact the registrar, Anne Horner or any of the Board members.

The Board wishes all vets and their families a happy Christmas and prosperous 2014.

Neil Leighton

Chair

November 2013

## INVITATION

### North West Meet the Profession Meet the Board

All northwest based vets are invited to attend the *Meet the Profession-Meet the Board* meeting at the Lighthouse Hotel, Ulverstone at 7.30pm on Thursday 28 November 2013.

## VETERINARY SERVICE STANDARDS

### Record Keeping by Veterinary Surgeons 1/2013

Following the consultation on the above Standard, the final Standard was declared on 4 September 2013\*.

### DRAFT "Standards of Veterinary Premises"

Enclosed with this newsletter is a consultation draft of the updated Standard "**Standards of Veterinary Premises**" which will replace the current "*Standards For Premises Where Major Surgery Is Undertaken*". The new standard applies to traditional veterinary clinics and hospitals and incorporates equine and farm/production animal practices, mobile practices and house call practices.

Comments may be sent to the registrar at [vbt@netspace.net.au](mailto:vbt@netspace.net.au) by 31 December 2013.

\* A copy is available on the Board website <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au> Home > [Biosecurity](#) > Veterinary Board of Tasmania

**Poisons Act requirements:  
Approved safes, s8 'doses' and  
sample prescriptions forms**

A reminder that S8 drugs must be stored separately and securely in an approved safe. The size and type of the safe depends on the number of doses held.

Doses are calculated as 'human' doses and Pharmaceutical Services Branch (PSB) advises the following as a measure for calculating doses:

Butorphanol: 4mg (a 10ml vial of 10mg/ml = 25 doses);

Codeine: 30mg ; Methadone: 10mg;

Fentanyl: 100mcg for injection or one transdermal patch;

Morphine: One ampoule or 10mg if in a multi-dose vial;

Pethidine: One ampoule or 50mg when in a multi-dose vial (a 50ml vial of 50mg/ml pethidine represents 50 doses).

An Information sheet\* *Storage of Schedule 8 substances in a Day Safe whilst veterinary practices premises are open* is also available on the website.

The Board has, in conjunction with PSB, prepared a sample prescription form for practitioner use. For further information about writing prescriptions, see the December 2012 newsletter\*.

For security reasons the Pharmaceutical Services Branch safe specifications information and the sample prescription form are not publically available. Please contact the registrar for a copy.

**National Recognition of Veterinary Registration  
Queensland joins the scheme**

NRVR commenced in Queensland in September 2013, joining the other eastern states (NSW, Victoria and Tasmania). This means that a Tasmanian vet may undertake locum work/part time in Queensland, NSW and Victoria without being required to hold secondary registration in those States.

Under NRVR, Tasmania recognises all other States and Territories registration, so interstate registered vets may undertake locum or short term work in Tasmania without being registered in Tasmania. However, if an interstate registered vet moves to Tasmania, they must be registered in Tasmania within a reasonable time of settling here.

**Registration Renewal due 31 December**

Enclosed with the newsletter is your 2014 registration renewal form and survey. The renewal fee has increased by CPI (of 1.8%) to \$356.

If paying by direct deposit, please ensure that you include your name as the reference, and if you are deferring payment to the end of the month, please advise the payment date on the renewal form.

**2012-2013 VBT ANNUAL REPORT**

The 2012-2013 Annual Report was tabled in Parliament by the Minister, the Hon Bryan Green MP on 15 October 2013\*.

For those interested in statistics:

- 244 veterinary surgeons were registered with the Board as at 30 June 2013 (an increase of 4 from the previous year).
- 25 new primary registrations were approved.
- Of the 202 annual surveys returned for 2012, 55% of vets work full time and 35% work part time. 46% work in small animal practice, 34% in mixed practices, and 9% in equine practice.
- The Board met in person five times during the year, in Launceston (4) and Hobart (1).

**Complaints:**

- Nine complaints were finalised, (3 carried over from 2011-12 and 6 received during the year).
- The animals involved were 5 dogs, 1 cat and 1 rabbit.
- Five complaints were dealt with by inquiry.
- The inquiry decisions included fines, a caution and dismissal. Both matters which resulted in fines related to surgical procedures.
- Two complaints were dealt with by informal proceedings and cautions were issued; and two matters were dealt with on the papers and were dismissed.

**Members of the Board**

Dr N Leighton (Chair) AVA nominee  
Dr N Ward AVA nominee  
Ms J Bradley Ministerial appointment (community)  
Dr K Ellard DPIPWE nominee  
Dr T Frazer-Oakley AVA nominee.

\* A copy is available on the Board website <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au> Home > Biosecurity > Veterinary Board of Tasmania