



Veterinary Board of Tasmania

December Newsletter 2018

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Welcome to the 2018 end of year newsletter. With a comparatively quiet 6 months since the last newsletter there is not a lot to report on from my perspective.

Practice inspections continued throughout the year with many meeting or exceeding the standards. Given that the new Standards for Veterinary Premises have been in place since July 2014 and they have been referred to in many of the Board newsletters, there really are no excuses for not being aware of the requirements.

Practices that have not been inspected after July 2014 should pay particular attention to the standards as you are likely to be on the inspection list for 2019 and although you have met the requirements under the previous standards this may not now be the case – be prepared. Do not hesitate to contact the registrar in the first instance if you ever have any doubt about the classification of your premises as it relates to the Standard of Veterinary Premises.

Complaints have continued to trickle in with communication problems and poor clinical records featuring as common lowlights. Please don't wait for the fright of a complaint to galvanise action in these areas.

A note, too, on websites or other forms of advertising describing your clinic or premises. Be very careful and thoughtful with word selection such that any descriptions accurately reflect what you actually provide or offer. Do not use words or descriptors like 'specialised', 'state of the art', 'the best available', 'the most up-to-date' etc

unless it truly is the case. If any doubt, seek advice from the Board. (The word 'specialised' should not be used unless the service is being offered by a veterinary specialist.)

The term of the current Board ends in mid 2019 so you will all be receiving nomination forms well before that time. For those who might be considering 'having a go' but would like more information on what the role entails please feel free to contact any of the Board members via our registrar Anne Horner.

The Board wishes all Tasmanian vets and their families a very **merry Christmas** and prosperous New Year.

Neil Leighton
Chair

Review of Standards of Veterinary Premises: the requirement to provide radiography equipment

The Board is currently reviewing Standard 3.3.1(b); that is, the requirement that a veterinary clinic, centre or hospital must provide facilities and equipment for the taking, processing and viewing of radiographs.

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Standard is adequate as drafted or whether the Standard should be amended to provide that the provision of facilities and equipment for the taking, processing and viewing of radiographs is not compulsory.

If the Standard is amended, consideration needs to be given to what conditions or limitations

should be placed on practices which choose to not offer radiology facilities.

The consultation paper is included with this newsletter. Please send your written submissions by email to vbt@netspace.net.au by 31 January 2019.

2017-2018 Annual Report

For those who like some light reading, the Board's 2017-2018 Annual Report was tabled in the Houses of Parliament in October 2018. A copy of the Report is available on the Board website*.

S8s - when to record an owner's date of birth

A reminder to vets that when issuing a prescription for an S8, or supplying an S8 to an owner for the owner to administer to the animal, the vet MUST record the owner's date of birth on the prescription and in the vet's records. The date of birth is not required if the vet administers the S8 to the animal.

See *Guideline: Veterinary Surgeons' rights, duties and responsibilities under the Poisons Act & Regulations* available on the website*.

Research project: Uni of Melbourne Veterinary Ethics and Equine Welfare

Equine vets are invited to complete an online survey as part of a postgraduate research project in veterinary ethics and equine welfare at the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences Melbourne Uni.

The purpose of the research is to investigate whether an equine veterinarian recognises an "ethical trilemma", the main factors that impact their decision and analyse the impact that decision has, or has the potential to have, on equine welfare.

An "ethical trilemma" occurs where you need to balance your own obligations and duties as a veterinarian with the welfare of your patient (the horse) and the interests of your client (the owner and/or trainer).

The research project will consider the well-being, moral stress, regulatory and insurance consequences of the "ethical trilemma" on equine veterinarians.

https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_02Okha0KQrcnpf7

Please pass the newsletter on to your colleagues if it is received at a general practice email address.

*<http://dpiwve.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/veterinary-board-of-tasmania>