



VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SA NEWSLETTER

November 2008 – VSBSA



Inside Stories

Page 2

- CASE STUDIES
- NEW BOARD MEMBERS
- OUTGOING AVBC REP / BOARD MEMBERS

Page 3

- REGISTRATION RE-NEWALS
- NOTICE OF CLAIMS MADE AGAINST VETS
- EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR EMERGENCY CONTACT

Page 4

- CLOSING TIME OVER CHRISTMAS
- DEER VELVETING AND ACCREDITATION
- ADDRESS OR NAME CHANGE
- HAVE A LAUGH

2009 Renewals

Renewal of Registration is due by 31 December 2008.

You can renew your registration by returning your Renewal Form with payment, or you can renew online. Go to www.vsbsa.org.au and the Renew Registration page.

Payment by MasterCard or Visa is accepted for on-line renewals.

See page 3 for more advice about Renewals.

L B Bull Oration

Professor Chris Daniels presented the first L B Bull Oration on Friday 19 September 2008. 50 people attended to hear his enlightened and very entertaining talk about the relationship between humans and animals.

Professor Daniels discussed the history of urban development in Adelaide particularly, and observed that only a very small percentage of Adelaide and its surrounds is park-land – contrary to popular belief that Adelaide is the ‘park-land’ capital.

This has a significant effect on the ecology of Adelaide. He went on to say that the recent trend for development makes it even harder to maintain the diversity of native

wildlife in our urban environment. This is because of the move to smaller blocks of land for housing, which reduces the natural wildlife corridors that existed by virtue of the intersection of gardens in the old ‘quarter acre’ blocks. Birds and other wildlife in the urban environment are affected by this trend.

Professor Daniels then went on to talk about the recent survey of blue-tongue lizards conducted by the University of SA.

Using the resources of ABC radio where listeners were encouraged to participate in the survey by recording their observations, along with University researchers, the survey revealed some very interesting results. The number and dispersment of lizards around the

metropolitan area was mapped through the survey, along with age and other data about the reptiles.

Professor Daniels also noted that the age-groups most interested in participating in the survey were young people, and people over 55.

While this latter group reflected the demographics of ABC listeners, Professor Daniels said that they were significantly over-represented. He suggested people in this age-group are the members of the community most able to contribute to the environment and native wildlife.



National Registration - incremental start-up dates

National registration is moving forward, and will be implemented incrementally over the next few years in Australia.

States and Territories are now drafting legislative amendments to their various acts and regulations to enable ‘deemed’ registration. These amendments need to pass in each state/territory Parliament before that jurisdiction can accept ‘deemed’ registration.

‘Deemed’ registration is where a veterinarian with full registration is ‘deemed’ to be registered

in another state or territory by virtue of their registration in their home state. It will only apply to veterinarians with full or specialist registration.

Veterinarians should not assume that when one state has introduced ‘deemed’ registration you are ‘deemed’ to be registered in all States or Territories in Australia.

Victoria has introduced amendments to their veterinary practice act into Parliament. Depending on its passage through both houses, the Victorian Veterinary Practitioners Regis-

tration Board expects to introduce ‘deemed’ registration in 2009.

Other states are in the process of drafting amendments to respective legislation with the likelihood of ‘deemed’ registration being introduced in SA and NSW by 2010.

All veterinarians wishing to work in another State or Territory of Australia should continue to contact the Registrar in that State or Territory to discuss their requirements for registration.

Outgoing AVBC Representative

The Board extends its gratitude to Dr Julia Nicholls, outgoing AVBC representative of the Board. Dr Nicholls has provided the Board with many years of service in this role, and has earned South Australia the reputation of 'punching above its weight' at AVBC.

Dr Robert Baker will take over the role of the SA representative on AVBC in 2009.

Outgoing Board Members

The Board wishes to express its sincere thanks to:

- Ms Helen Radoslovich
- Ms Helena Jasinski
- Dr Ian McBryde

for their many years of service to the Board.

Current Board Members are:

- ◆ Ms Debra Lane, Presiding Member
- ◆ Dr Andrew Carter, AVA representative
- ◆ Mr Charles Goode, Layperson
- ◆ Ms Adele Steel, Layperson
- ◆ Dr Karen Hunter
- ◆ Dr Jane McNicholl
- ◆ Dr Robert Baker

Deputy Members are:

- ◆ Mr Paul Leadbeter
- ◆ Dr Kirsten Hailstone
- ◆ Mr John Counihan
- ◆ Dr Mark Peters
- ◆ Dr Chris Munchenberg
- ◆ Dr Andy Doube
- ◆ Dr Celia Dickason

Some recent case studies

Euthanasia and communication

The owner of an aged dog complained about the way the dog had been euthanased by the vet, who attended at the owner's home. There were a number of issues of concern to the owner, but in particular was the fact that the owner was not present when the injection was administered, only coming into the room to find the dog being put into a body bag.

On the evidence, the Board assessed that the vet had not taken time to discuss the procedure with the owner, and had assumed the owner did not want to be present at the time of the injection. This assumption was made by the vet as he judged the owner was distressed.

The vet attended a Board meeting to discuss the complaint. The vet agreed to apologise to the owner on the basis of unintentionally causing further distress.

New Board Members

A number of Board appointments expired during September 2008; the Board is pleased to introduce several new members to the Board, along with the reappointment of previous members, for a 3 year term.

- ◆ Ms Debra Lane (LLB), has joined the Board as its new Presiding Member. Debra is a partner at Mouldens Solicitors, and has an active role with other professional bodies.
- ◆ Mr Paul Leadbeter (LLM), previously in the Presiding Member role, has been appointed as

The vet also agreed to review his routine for euthanasia procedures, so that in future he would have a full discussion with owners as to their intention to proceed, and their wish to be present, or not, at the time of the final injection.

Assumption about payment; issue with record keeping

A dog was presented in labour after hours to a vet - it was assessed as requiring a caesarean as a pup was stuck in the birth canal. The owners had a past payment history with the practice, and said they did not have sufficient funds to pay in full for the operation at the time. The vet treated the animal and said to take it to another vet where payment could be negotiated. The owners agreed, and then made full payment for the service provided.

The dog was treated the following day, but was in

considerable distress on arrival at the vets.

The Board noted there was disagreement between the vet and owner on whether euthanasia had been offered; it could not therefore determine on the question as to whether the owners were given this option.

However, it decided that on the evidence, the vet assumed the owner was not able to pay for any service at the time. Therefore no offer was made to keep the dog and monitor it until the owner could make alternative arrangements for a caesarean.

The Board also was concerned that records for the consultation were incomplete, with no recording of the dog's respiration rate, temperature, heart rate etc. The Board could only assume the examination did not include a full assessment. The vet was reprimanded.

Deputy Presiding Member, replacing Helena Jasinski.

- ◆ Dr Andrew Carter has been reappointed for a second term in the position of Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Member.
- ◆ Dr Kirsten Hailstone has joined the Board as Deputy AVA Member, replacing Dr Ian McBryde. Dr Hailstone graduated in 1986 from Murdoch University.
- ◆ Mr Charles Goode, a new member of the Board, has been appointed in the Lay Mem-

ber position, replacing Helen Radoslovich. Mr Goode is a self employed grazier and farmer and Rural Financial Counsellor.

- ◆ Ms Adele Steel has been reappointed for a second term to the position of Lay Member with a specific interest in animal welfare.
- ◆ Dr Mark Peters has been reappointed for a second term as Deputy Lay Member with a specific interest in animal welfare.





Renewal of Registration: On-line or by Post

Enclosed is your Annual Renewal of Registration form for 2009. Forms must be returned by no later than 31 December 2008.

Please complete all sections of the form, and sign the declaration. Failure to fully complete the renewal form will hold up your renewal and can impact on professional indemnity insurance.

If your renewal is not returned by the due date, your name is automatically removed from the Register. A penalty applies for reinstatement.

If you do not wish to remain on the Register, please circle the appropriate section on the renewal and return the form.

POSTING RENEWALS

Before returning your completed renewal form please make sure that you have included:

- the signed declaration
- payment
- CPD details

Give Alison a ring at the office (08 8269 3216) if you have any queries.

Annual Practising Certificates will be returned to you as soon as possible.

Please note that this certificate is also your receipt for taxation purposes, so keep it in a safe place. We are unable to issue another original if it is lost.

RENEWING ON-LINE

This year, renewals can be completed on-line. Go to the website, then to the Renew Registration page under 'Vets', and log on with:

User: vsbsa09
Password: nrvr23

All required sections of the form must be completed – otherwise your renewal will not be processed. Renewing on-line is only available if you pay by credit card (Visa or MasterCard). If you are paying by cheque or money order you will need to complete the renewal posted to you.

Contact the Office if you have any queries.

Renewal checklist

Whether you renew on-line, or by post, you must make sure you have completed all sections of your renewal. Incomplete renewals will result in delays. You must complete

1. name and address details
2. Insurance – if exempt, please identify on the form
3. Declaration – tick the relevant boxes and sign
4. CPD – complete the number of units if renewing primary registration (graduates in 1st year of practice are exempt) - if by post include a copy of your return
5. payment details

Claims made against veterinarians – requirement to inform the Board

Under the Veterinary Practice Act, all veterinarians are required to inform the Board if any person makes a claim for damages or compensation against the veterinarian for alleged negligence.

Section 45 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2003 requires that all vets advise the Board

- within 30 days after the claim is first made, and
- within 30 days after any order is made by a court, or any agreement has been entered into for payment in settlement of the claim

The Veterinary Practice Act also specifies the information which is required to be provided to the Board. This includes:

- the treatment that is alleged to have been carried out negligently
- full details of the alleged negligence
- the time, date and place where the negligence is alleged to have occurred
- details of the loss alleged to have been suffered by the claimant
- details of any orders made by the court, or agreements reached with the claimant

Notifications under S.45 of the Act should be made in writing, and should include all the required information.

This Section of the Act does not extend to situations where the veterinarian has taken legal action to recover fees which are unpaid.

However, if the client then lodges a counter claim against the vet on the basis of negligence, the information must be provided to the Board.

The maximum penalty for failing to notify the Board of any claims of negligence made, or settled, is \$10,000.

You are encouraged to contact the Registrar if you have any queries about this requirement of the Veterinary Practice Act 2003.



Email Address and Emergency contact

Could all vets please keep us updated with your *current* email address.

This can be included on your 2009 renewal form. And if your email address changes at any time, please let us know.

The office will not give out email addresses to unauthorized persons. Your address may be required for emergency contact purposes.

VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SA

Suite 13
70 Walkerville Terrace
(PO Box 218)
WALKERVILLE SA 5081

Phone: (08) 8269 3216
Fax: (08) 8342 5325
Email: admin@vsbsa.org.au

Office Hours: 10 am – 4 pm
Monday to Friday

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR REGULAR
NEWS ITEMS AND INFORMATION

www.vsbsa.org.au

The Members and Deputy Members of the Board extend their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the profession. We also thank all who have assisted the Board during the year and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season



Please note that over the Christmas & New Year period the VSBSA office will close from 4pm Wednesday 24th December 2008 and reopen 10am Friday 2nd January 2009. If you have an urgent enquiry during this time, please call 0419 826 389.

National Deer Velveting Scheme

The National Deer Velveting Scheme (NVAS) was established by the Deer Industry in association with the AVA and the veterinary surgeons boards of each state. The scheme allows farmers to access S4 drugs to enable velveting to be performed without the presence of veterinary surgeons. Strict criteria have been laid down to allow this to be done safely and ethically. This involves Farmer accreditation, followed by ongoing monitoring.

ACCREDITATION

When farmers want to be accredited, they have to complete a training course. Courses can be run by local veterinarians with experience in the field. Farmers then have to pass an open book exam. Once passed, the NVAS administrator notifies their vet and they undergo a practical exam in the presence of the vet (velveting 3-5 animals). If the vet is satisfied the farmer is competent the NVAS issues the farmer with an accreditation number.

MONITORING

At the end of each velveting season, vets must sign an audit form completed by the farmer. The form is then sent to the NVAS administrator. If it is not returned, the Administrator informs that vet that the farmer is no longer part of the NVAS and should not be supplied with S4 drugs under the scheme.

Vets should ensure farmers are accredited under the scheme. When supplying Xylazine ensure you are also following the Professional Dispensing Service Checklist (available on the website www.vsbsa.org.au). There is the potential for misuse of Xylazine by laypersons, involving health and safety factors.

For more information, go to the VSBSA website and download the protocol and Manual; or contact the office; or the NVAS Administrator (Solange Shapiro – 03 5596 2323; email Shapiro@tca-online.com.au). The SA vet representative on the NVAS is Dr Simon Arnesen in Port Lincoln (08 8682 3100).

Address or Name Change

It is vital that you update us of any changes in your details such as new address and / or change of name. If not, you may miss out on receiving important information from the Board, such as your renewal notice, and other news.

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*, states that 'a veterinary surgeon must, within 3 months after changing his or her name or personal or business address, inform the Board in writing of the change'.

Have a Laugh

Seeing a sign 'Help Wanted; must be able to type, use a computer and be bilingual; apply within', a dog walked in to apply. Puzzled, the manager said 'I can't give you the job—you can't type'. The dog sat down and produced a perfect letter. Undeterred, the manager challenged the dog's computer skills—the dog sent the manager an email with a perfect spreadsheet attached. By now very surprised, the manager said 'Sorry, but I can't give you the job because you're not bilingual'. The dog looked calmly at the manager and said 'Meow'!



This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.