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Increase in Fees – On-line Renewals

The Board has increased registration fees, including renewal fees this year. Fees were last increased in 2005, and this is a result of the increasing costs in fulfilling the Board's role.

The Board aims to improve the services it can provide to the profession. A new initiative is that renewing your registration can now also be done on-line (see page 3 for advice about Renewals).

New vet school – Information Evening for the Profession

The University of Adelaide Information Evening on the new Vet School was well attended, with approximately 70 people attending the evening.

The academic model is for a 3 year undergraduate degree through the B.Sc (Animal Science) - followed by a further 3 years postgraduate study resulting in a Vet Science Degree. This last 3 years will include 2 years of coursework, and one full year of rotating 'internship'.

Prof Iain Reid outlined the \$30m investment required to establish the new School at the Roseworthy Campus. With funding now committed, the School will enroll its first students in 2008. The first intake for the Postgraduate course will be in 2011 with the first graduates emerging at the end of 2013.

Dr Susan Hazel discussed the development of the curriculum; and Prof Philip Hynd overviewed the facilities at Roseworthy and the

changes that will be made to the campus to accommodate the new School.

The Commonwealth has committed to funding 40 places each year in the B.Sc, and 50 places each year in the postgraduate degree. Full fee paying students from within Australia and overseas are also expected to be attracted to the new program.

Selection of students will be by TER score, competency and possibly interview.

The School will have a focus on rural practice, large animal/ equines, aquaculture and biosecurity.

The University is also examining the possibility of establishing a Bridging program of between 12-18 months duration, for students with a different entry degree than the B.Sc (Animal Science). Further, the School expects it will provide opportunities for continuing professional development for registered vets in SA.

The University is now in the process of selecting a candidate for the Head of School. Once appointed, the selection process for other staff members will commence. The University expects the School to have more than 40 staff members – with a ratio of 7.5 students/1 staff.

The Accreditation process for the new school will commence at the end of November 2007. A team from VSAAC (Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee) will visit to assess progress, and if satisfactory, a Letter of Reasonable Assurance will be provided. Future VSAAC visits will be required to complete the accreditation process for the new School.



Some National News

National registration

National registration continues to wind its way through the system. All State and Territory Boards have agreed to the model – to recognise primary registration across Australia. The next step is for all Primary Industries Ministers to adopt the recommendation. This is ex-

pected to occur in the first half of 2008. It is then likely that legislation will have to be changed in most States and Territories, to enable the recognition of primary registration across all states.

Record keeping

The NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board recently

reprimanded a vet for making changes to clinical records a week after the record was completed on the day of the consultation.

The vet was also required to pay costs to the Board – this came to the attention of the Board through a complaint and it considered the revision to the record was deceptive.

Equine Influenza

A major impact on the Australian horse industry has been the diagnosis of Equine Influenza (EI) for the first time at a number of locations. South Australia is free of EI, however while the disease remains in New South Wales and Queensland, South Australia is on high alert.

It is important to make every effort to stop the spread of the disease, and non-infected states can make an important contribution by using some basic biosecurity and hygiene measures.

EI is an acute, highly contagious, viral disease which can cause rapidly spreading outbreaks of respiratory disease in horses and other equine species.

To obtain information about the EI situation, and keep updated, visit these websites:

National pests & disease outbreaks:
www.outbreak.gov.au

Your local department of primary industries:
www.pir.sa.gov.au

The Australian Veterinary Association:
www.ava.com.au

The Australian Horse Industry Council:
www.horsecouncil.org.au

You can also phone the National Hotline on 1800 234 002 (8am - 8pm daily). Or you can contact PIRSA Animal Health on 1800 675 888 for general information about equine influenza and horse movements.

Some recent case studies

Professional co-operation

A recent complaint considered by the Board involved two professional practitioners. The Board were concerned that the lack of co-operation and communication between the veterinarians caused considerable inconvenience to an elderly client. He was caught in the middle of a dispute and was uncertain what to do. This should have been resolved between the two professionals without reference to the Board. It is important that veterinarians behave in a professional manner when dealing with each other as a lack of co-operation can impact on clients and affect the welfare of their animals.

Record keeping

Another complaint dealt with by the Board was a fairly straight forward mat-

ter. But it was delayed by at least 8 months because the veterinarian did not assist in providing relevant details, including the clinical record, to the Board. The outcome was that when the record was provided, it was clear that the veterinarian's standard of record keeping was insufficient. The veterinarian was reprimanded about the record keeping problem, and for failing to respond adequately to the Board's enquiries into the complaint. This complaint is also a reminder about the importance of good record keeping. The Board's principle of *'if its not written down its not done'* was used in assessing the complaint and this resulted in the reprimand about failing to keep adequate records.

Cremation protocol

Another complaint involved the cremation of a dog. The owners wanted a private cremation, but after 7 days, the animal was sent to the AVL for public cremation. The Board found there was some uncertainty whether the owners had advised the vets about the type of urn they wanted for the ashes; but considered this did not warrant the dog being sent to AVL without the owner's being informed. The Board were advised the practice acknowledged there was a miscommunication problem. They reported their cremation protocol had changed. Now, if there is some uncertainty about the owner's wishes, owners are contacted before animals are sent to AVL.

Two new Guidelines: New Graduates and Client Confidentiality

The Board recently approved 2 Guidelines: one concerns Employing New Graduates, and the other relates to Client Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information.

The first was developed as a response to the issue which was raised as a national concern at AVBC —

the context was the importance of supporting new graduates in their first year of practice.

The second Guideline was developed as a result of many queries from the profession about privacy, confidentiality and copies of records (both client and patient history).

Comments from the profession, AVA and Guild Insurance were considered by the Board for both documents.

Copies of both Guidelines are now available on the website, or you can contact the Office and a copy will be sent directly to you.

New Website for the Board - www.vsbsa.org.au

The Board has recently redesigned and updated its website. The address remains the same: www.vsbsa.org.au

The new website will be maintained and updated 'in house'; this means that it will be kept up to date with all the latest news and Board information.

The Board hopes that it becomes a more useful

resource for the profession in the future.

Some of the major changes to the website include:

- the facility to renew registration on-line, if using credit cards (Visa/MasterCard)
- all recent Guidelines, Codes of Practice, Standards are now loaded on to the site

- an extract of the Register will be placed on the site

- a page on Frequently Asked Questions has been included for members of the Public.

If you have any suggestions to improve the website, please contact the Office and speak to Alison or Sue.



Renewal of Registration: On-line or by Post

Enclosed is your Annual Renewal of Registration form for 2008. Forms must be returned by no later than 31 December 2007.

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.

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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 logon with

User: vsbsa08
Password: xy3bm2

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

Veterinary Hospital Accreditation Process and Standards

The Board has now finalised, and endorsed, the *Standards for Veterinary Hospitals*, along with a new accreditation process.

Comments on the revised Standards, and process of accreditation, were sought from Veterinary Hospitals; the VSBSA Hospital inspectors (Dr John Hamilton, Dr Jenny Weston and Dr Andy Doube); and the ASAVA Hospital Inspector, Dr Julia Nicholls.

The main changes to the Hospital Accreditation Process include provisional approval is no longer granted; accreditation is only approved after all conditions have been fulfilled; and the establishment of a dispute resolution process.

Changes to the *Standards for Veterinary Hospitals* include new sections on Level of Care, and Records

and Consent Forms; and the need for clients to be advised in writing if no one is on the hospital premises overnight to monitor the animals in care. The Board considered it was important for members of the public to be fully aware about monitoring of their animals.

The Standards, and new accreditation process, aim to provide the veterinary profession with a clearer understanding about veterinary hospitals and the process of accreditation, and to ensure there is consistency for all future applicants and those currently accredited as veterinary hospitals.

Copies of the documents are available on the website, along with the current Hospital Application form; or contact the Office if you want to discuss the accreditation process or receive copies of these documents.



Email Addresses

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

This can be included on your 2008 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, and will only use your address for Board or emergency purposes.

Board Members

The Minister for Agriculture recently appointed Dr Karen Hunter to the Board. Dr Hunter replaces Dr Chris Munchenberg as the 'small animal' veterinarian on the Board. Dr Munchenberg remains with the Board as Deputy Member to Dr Hunter.

THANK YOU to all those who take the time to provide comments on draft documents. The Board appreciates receiving your comments and takes them into consideration when finalising Board documents.

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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 Friday 21st December 2007 and reopen 10am Wednesday 2nd January 2008. If you have an urgent enquiry during this time, please call 0419 826 389.

Supplying Tri-Solfen

The Board was asked to clarify its position in regard to the supply of Tri-Solfen to mulesing contractors. It agreed that Tri-Solfen can be supplied to certified mulesing contractors, because:

1. Tri-Solfen is administered topically and its dosage is not variable
2. Mulesing contractors are required by APVMA to undergo accredited training in the correct use of Tri-Solfen, and there are specific obligations on the use of the product by certified mulesing contractors (i.e. completion of forms)
3. APVMA permits (such as that for Bayer Australia for Tri-Solfen) are legal within each State
4. The wool industry is required to develop an acceptable way for the mulesing procedure (or an alternative) to be more humane by 2010

5. Tri-Solfen is undergoing a trial for the reduction of pain resulting from the mulesing operation

In essence, the Board considered that the use of Tri-Solfen by certified mulesing contractors was significantly different to the use of Acepromazine for the sedation of rams.

Even though both are Schedule 4 medicines, Tri-Solfen is considered to be safer because it does not require injecting. In addition, safety issues associated with the use of Xylazine and ACP led to the development of the Code of Practice for tranquilizing rams.

Finally, and importantly, as indicated above, the Board is aware that APVMA has placed specific requirements on Bayer Australia Ltd and certified mulesing contractors.

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: *Bear on a Rampage*

Two campers were hiking in the forest when all of a sudden a bear jumps out of a bush and starts chasing them.

Both campers start running for their lives, when one of them stops and starts to put on his running shoes.

His partner says, "What are you doing? You can't outrun a bear!"

His friend replies, "I don't have to outrun the bear, I only have to outrun you!"



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