



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Vetboard's first newsletter for 2026.

We recognise that many veterinary practitioners may have been treating animals affected by bushfires and extreme heat, while also experiencing personal challenges in this ongoing emergency.



As circumstances can change rapidly, we encourage you to seek support where needed. Links to relevant updates and resources for veterinarians and the wider community are included on page 7.

In December, the Victorian Government announced proposed public sector reforms, including the creation of a new Business and Professions Regulator. This would involve expanding the role of the Business Licensing Authority to regulate veterinary practitioners, architects and surveyors. Information about this significant proposed change is provided on page 3. We understand that these changes have generated some concern. The Board will continue to work closely with government to ensure continuity, stability and the ongoing integrity of veterinary regulation. For now, it remains business as usual at Vetboard Victoria.

In registration news, the Board extends a warm welcome to all new graduates who have recently registered in Victoria. We wish you every success as you begin your veterinary careers. On page 4 we outline requirements for veterinarians registered in other Australian jurisdictions who intend to practise in Victoria, either temporarily or permanently.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate colleagues recognised this year for their contributions to our profession and country, Professor Virginia Studdert AO - a former Deputy President of our Board, Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman AM, Dr Robin Stanley AM, Dr Warren Henry AM (QLD), and Dr Rodney Straw AM (QLD).

With every good wish for a successful and healthy year.

John Harte
President

CONTENTS

President's message.....1

BOARD UPDATES

Complaints overview Oct to Dec 2025.....2

Presenting care options to clients.....2

Regulator consolidation proposal.....3

AVBC director recruitment.....3

Registration requirements in Victoria.....4

Prescription, supply and storage of compounded medicines.....5

CPD reminder for non-clinical vets.....6

Board webinar6

Victorian vets honoured in 2026.....6

New veterinary specialists.....6

GOVERNMENT UPDATES

2026 bushfire emergency.....7

Updated Emergency Animal Disease Field Guide.....8

VetWatch Dec 2025 newsletter.....8

SUPPORT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Support & resources for practitioners.....10

AVBC Director and Chair recruitment

Following changes to its constitution, the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) is recruiting four Non-Executive Directors and a Chair for its newly established Board of Directors. Applications close on 16 February with more information on page 3.

Also in this edition

Complaint data from the last quarter is provided on page 2. In response to some of the matters raised over the past year, the Board also offers guidance on this page for effectively presenting care options to animal owners.

The article on page 5 provides information on prescription, supply and storage of compounded medicines.

If you missed the Board's webinar held in November, you can view a recording on request (details page 6).

COMPLAINTS OVERVIEW

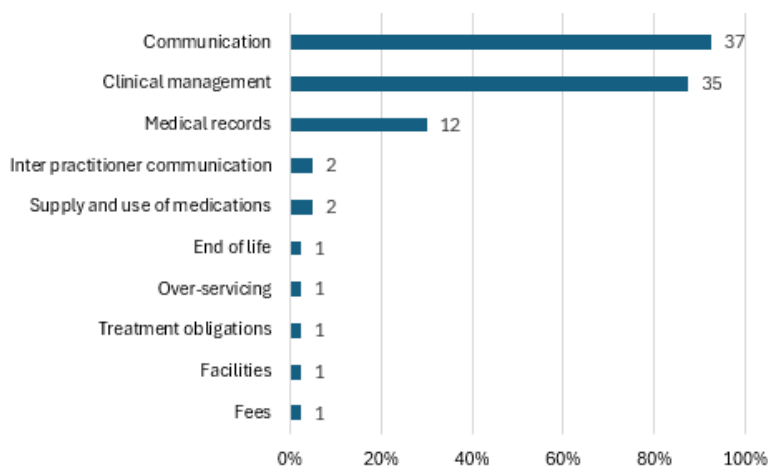
In the second quarter of 2025-26, the Board received 66 preliminary enquiries and 35 written complaints about the conduct of veterinary practitioners.

The Board considered 40 complaints (including some from the previous quarter).

Of the 40 complaints considered, the Board determined 22 were lacking in substance and 18 were to be investigated.

Issues raised

Noting that a single complaint may involve multiple issues, the issues raised are set out in the graph below. The main issues were communication with clients (92.5%), clinical management and treatment of the animal (87.5%) and veterinary medical records (30%). Other issues included supply and use of medications (5%), inter-practitioner communication (5%), plus treatment obligations, end of life issues, fees, over-servicing and veterinary facilities (all 2.5% each).



Investigation outcomes

In this quarter, the Board referred 2 matters to informal hearing.

Sixteen (16) matters were finalised:

- 3 with no further action
- 7 with an educative letter
- 2 with an educative letter requiring a reflective piece
- 1 with an educative letter requiring participation in a continuing professional development program
- 3 with an undertaking.

Five (5) matters were closed after veterinarians whose compliance with Board requirements was being monitored completed their obligations.

PRESENTING CARE OPTIONS TO CLIENTS

Recent complaints to Vetboard Victoria have outlined events in which veterinary practitioners presented a range of care options to clients without explaining the risks of those options, or presented several options to clients as if each were equally appropriate.

These included:

- In addition to suggesting immediate treatment or referral to an emergency and critical care centre, a vet proposed observing an animal overnight, and the client opted for this without understanding the risks of that choice.
- Among other options, a vet proposed sedating an animal for transport and/or treatment purposes without clearly explaining the requirements and risks. The client chose sedation, and the animal subsequently developed complications.
- An animal was disabled to such an extent that ongoing care was likely to prolong suffering, making euthanasia the more appropriate option, yet the vet also presented diagnostics and alternative treatments (including surgery) as options, with the client deciding against euthanasia.

Failing to explain options and associated risks may result in clients opting for action (or inaction) that leads to adverse outcomes for their animals or themselves financially.

It is generally accepted that you and your client may consider multiple options for diagnosis and treatment – from more conservative and less expensive approaches to intensive and (usually) more expensive diagnostics and treatment.

Where there is a range of care options, you should be clear about what you believe is the best option for the animal’s health and wellbeing. While your client generally decides the plan for the animal, it is you who must advise them of:

- the advantages, risks, and most likely outcome for each option
- whether additional testing or treatment might be needed
- the costs associated with each option.

You should also only present care options if they are appropriate in the circumstances.

Continued next page.

Presenting care options continued

How you present various care options is important. Your client may be feeling uncertain and distressed. They may be facing the prospect of losing their animal and may want to try anything to avoid that outcome, but your responsibility is to understand and navigate the context (e.g. the owners ability to provide ongoing care including financially), advise the client of the most probable prognosis, cover the risks associated with care options, and recommend the best option for the animal.

You may need to emphasise your views more strongly or repeat certain information so you can be sure your client understands which care option you think is more appropriate in the context.

AVBC DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

Applications close 16 February 2026

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) is a not-for-profit service organisation that works to ensure a consistent Australasian approach to the accreditation of overseas veterinary specialists, veterinary graduates, and veterinary schools. The AVBC provides services to veterinary practitioners' registration boards across New Zealand and the Australian states and territories.

Following recent constitutional changes, the AVBC has established a formal, skills-based Board of Directors responsible for the oversight, strategic direction and accountability of the organisation to the AVBC Council. The Board is accountable to the Council for the effective management of the AVBC's operations and resources, including the establishment and maintenance of appropriate budgets, internal controls, and reporting frameworks.

All Directors are expected to demonstrate high standards of governance and integrity, with a strong understanding of effective corporate governance and a clear appreciation of the role, responsibilities, and duties of company directors.

The AVBC is now seeking to appoint:

- One (1) Chair
- Four (4) Non-Executive Directors.

Appointments are open to suitably qualified candidates based in Australia or New Zealand. For further information or to apply: <https://boarddirection.com.au/info/avbc-ned-chair-recruitment>.

REGULATOR CONSOLIDATION

In December 2025, the Victorian Government announced the next phase of regulator consolidations, which includes bringing the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria ("Vetboard Victoria"), the Architects Registration Board and Surveyors Registration Board into the Business Licensing Authority to form a new Business and Professions Regulator.

This announcement is one of the Government's responses to recommendations made in the Independent Review of the Victorian Public Service led by Helen Silver AO. The Silver Review was tasked with:

- helping ensure the primary focus of Government spending is on supporting Victorians with the cost of living and providing access to essential services in health, housing, education, transport and community safety
- identifying waste and inefficiency, with the goal of returning the non-frontline public sector to pre-pandemic employment levels.

Creating a Business and Professions Regulator for architects, surveyors and veterinarians builds on the Government's ongoing work to cut red tape by halving the number of business regulators. This aims to make it easier for businesses and the public to navigate government efficiently and focus on service delivery.

As each Board operates under separate laws with specialised registration, investigative and other regulatory functions, the changes will likely take some time.

The Board is working closely with the Government to ensure continuity, stability and integrity of veterinary regulation.

In the meantime, it is business as usual at Vetboard Victoria, and our functions and processes remain unchanged.

Further information:

- [Final report: Independent review of the Victorian public service - June 2025](#)
- [Government response: Ensuring the public sector is focused on what matters most - December 2025.](#)

REGISTRATION IN VICTORIA: WHAT VETS & EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW

Veterinary practitioners registered in other jurisdictions, and their potential employers, often contact the Board seeking clarification about Victorian registration requirements.

► Employers should note that employing a vet who does not have appropriate registration may expose the business and clients to unnecessary risks, including possibly invalidating insurance. Check registration at [Search for a Vet](#).

Permanent place of residence

In Australia, vets must register in the State or Territory that is (or will be) their permanent place of residence. Vets registered interstate can practise in Victoria for brief periods, but if they are going to be living here for the foreseeable future they must register in Victoria.

Moving to Victoria: when to register

The timing of registration depends on which Australian jurisdiction a veterinarian is coming from:

South Australia and the ACT: vets must apply to register **immediately** after moving to Victoria. The Boards in those jurisdictions will remove a vet from their register once Victoria becomes a vet's principal place of residence.

New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia: vets must apply **in the first week of June** (the month before registration expires), to commence Victorian registration from 1 July.

Northern Territory and Queensland: vets must apply **in the first week of December** to commence Victorian registration from 1 January the following year.

Living interstate but temporarily practising in Victoria

Veterinary practitioners with current interstate registration may practise in Victoria on a temporary basis if both of the following apply:

- their principal place of residence remains interstate
- their work in Victoria is brief, occasional or time-limited.

In these circumstances, the Victorian Board automatically recognises a vet's interstate registration as giving them the right to practise in Victoria (under section 3A of the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997* and the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992 (Cth)*). You do not need to inform the Victorian Board of your entry or exit. Note that other States and Territories have different requirements for vets entering their jurisdictions.

This automatic recognition of veterinary registration also applies to vets who live in another State or Territory close to the Victorian border and who frequently practise in Victoria, as long as their principal place of residence remains outside of Victoria.

NOTE if a vet has conditions, limitations or restrictions on their interstate registration, they may NOT be able to practise in Victoria at all. Please contact the Board before commencing work.

Obligations while practising in Victoria

All vets practising in Victoria, including those practising here temporarily under interstate registration, must comply with Victorian laws relating to veterinary practice and the Board's Guidelines for appropriate standards of veterinary practice and veterinary facilities. The Board has power to investigate concerns about the professional conduct of veterinary practitioners practising in Victoria, regardless of where they are registered.

Not in clinical practice

The Board is often asked if vets who are not in clinical practice must hold registration as a veterinary practitioner in Victoria.

Veterinarians work in many fields, not solely clinical practice. The Board's general position is that registration is required when a person is employed because they hold a veterinary qualification and others are aware that they are a vet and call on their expertise in that capacity, whether paid or unpaid. This includes, but is not limited to, veterinarians employed: to teach or undertake research in veterinary science, as veterinary pathologists, in the veterinary pharmaceuticals field, in laboratories, and in insurance assessing veterinary insurance claims.

Veterinarians employed or consulted by Government for their veterinary expertise must also be registered, as well as those appointed to committees because of their veterinary qualifications, e.g. committees of peak veterinary organisations such as the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, an animal ethics/welfare committee; or a Government policy committee or working group.

Ultimately, if a person is employed in a role because of their veterinary qualifications, registration should be assumed to be required.

PRESCRIPTION, SUPPLY AND STORAGE OF COMPOUNDED MEDICINES

The information in this article applies to treatment of individual patients. For herd animals, additional restrictions may apply under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992* and other legislation.

Compounded medicines may be appropriate, and sometimes necessary, when other pathways to access medicines are not suitable for a patient.

They are usually prepared “extemporaneously” by a pharmacist or veterinarian, meaning they are prepared for an individual animal in response to a specific identified need shortly after presentation. In Victoria, compounded medicines can also be purchased and stored for a future episode of patient care (see more information below).

Board guidance and legal framework

While compounded medicines are not specifically referred to in the Board’s [Guideline 14: Supply and use of veterinary medicines](#), the guideline applies to both compounded and registered medicines. This means there must be an established veterinary practitioner-owner-animal relationship, the animal must be under the care of a vet, and there must be a therapeutic need for the medicine.

Both Commonwealth and Victorian laws allow the compounding of veterinary medicines. Under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code (AgVet Code)* a medicine does not need to be registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association (APVMA) if it is compounded by a veterinarian or by a pharmacist after receiving instructions from a vet.

When not to compound a medicine

There is longstanding guidance about when compounding is not appropriate, including if:

- a registered veterinary medicine already exists, is available and appropriate for the animal. These can be checked on the [APVMA PubCRIS database](#) or [Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods \(ARTG\)](#).
- there is no evidence that the compounded medicine is a safe and appropriate treatment
- the vet does not have the right equipment and required knowledge and skills to compound the medicine safely for animals

- a pharmacy will be involved, but the pharmacist does not have the equipment, knowledge and skills to compound the medicine safely.

Guidelines for pharmacies and veterinarians

When a vet issues a prescription for a pharmacist to supply a compounded medicine, the pharmacist must follow the Pharmacy Board of Australia’s [Guidelines on compounding of medicines](#) (issued October 2024).

This is reinforced in the Australian Veterinary Association’s (AVA’s) policy, [Veterinary use of compounded pharmaceuticals](#) and its [guidelines for the preparation and use of compounded pharmaceuticals](#) (2020). These guidelines contain essential information on the preparation, labelling and pricing and wholesaling of compounded medicines by vets or pharmacists. The decision flow chart in the guidelines (reproduced on page 9) may help vets decide if, when and how to use compounded medicines.

Obtaining and storing compounded medicines

The AVA’s guidelines recommend that, where practicable, compounded medications should be ordered by prescription for *individual* patients.

However, the AVA acknowledges there are situations in which a veterinarian might need to order compounded medications for multiple animals such as reasonably foreseeable emergency use or treatment of multiple animals of the same owner.

Victoria’s *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* and *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017* do not restrict or limit the quantity of compounded (unapproved) scheduled medicines that a registered veterinary practitioner may obtain or possess.

The Victorian Department of Health advises that a registered veterinary practitioner may purchase and store compounded medicines for use in a future episode of patient care, provided they are administered or supplied when a therapeutic need arises.

The Board does not intend to issue a separate guideline on compounded medicines and advises veterinary practitioners to consult the decision flow chart and resources on page 9.

CPD REMINDER FOR NON-CLINICAL VETS

Veterinary practitioners who are in roles other than direct clinical practice are still required to be registered as explained on page 4.

Accordingly, they are required to undertake continuing professional development (CPD) to maintain competency in their field of veterinary practice.

Example: if you sit on an animal ethics committee overseeing the health and welfare of laboratory animals and biosecurity in laboratories, you are required to be registered.

CPD for such a role could include acquiring and maintaining knowledge of: the relevant animal species, pain relief and appropriate anaesthesia and analgesia for those species, prescription and administration of veterinary medicines for those animals (including appropriate administration of antibiotics as vets are antimicrobial stewards) and infection control.

VIEW LAST BOARD WEBINAR

The webinar update held on November 2025 can now be viewed on request.

At the webinar, President Dr John Harte gave a brief update, Wayne Robins of the Conservation Regulator (DEECA) introduced the role of that agency in wildlife care, and Board members answered questions from vets on a range of topics.

Following questions and feedback from attendees during and after the session, the Board is committed to disseminating more information on its strategy and on other topics, including responsible use of AI in veterinary practice and the role of non-veterinary personnel.

Request webinar recording via > [contact form](#)

VICTORIAN VETS HONOURED IN 2026



The Board extends sincere congratulations to the three Victorian vets awarded Australian Honours in January 2026:

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the General Division awarded to Emeritus Professor Virginia Perryman Studdert (AVA Life Member) for distinguished service to veterinary science, to tertiary education, to animal disease research and comparative medicine. Professor Studdert was also a Board member for nine years.

Member of the Order of Australia (AM) awarded to:

- Emeritus Professor Colin Burton Chapman for significant service to pharmacy and pharmaceutical science research, education and practice
- Dr Robin Grant Stanley (AM) for significant service to veterinary ophthalmology, and to tertiary and vocational education.

NEW VETERINARY SPECIALISTS IN VICTORIA

Congratulations to the veterinary practitioners newly endorsed as specialists since November 2025

- Dr Irina Gramer [V10214]
Specialist in Veterinary Oncology
- Dr Sally Nixon [V4653]
Specialist in Animal Behaviour

Looking for articles previously published in this newsletter?

Check out our [newsletter archive](#) or use the [keyword search](#) on our website www.vetboard.vic.gov.au

▶ PARTICIPATE IN SURVEYS FOR THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

The Australian Veterinary Association advertises surveys conducted by national and international veterinarians and vet students. You can contribute to supporting the veterinary profession and advancing veterinary science by completing the surveys at: [Surveys for members of the profession](#)

2026 BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY

Bushfires and extreme heat in Victoria have had a major impact on animals in affected areas. The situation on the ground remains complex for all involved, including veterinary practitioners.

This page contains information from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and other sources (current at 11 February 2026).

DEECA update

Animal welfare on farms and rural properties:

Significant agricultural impacts and losses have been reported, with more than 1,000 properties affected. Agriculture Victoria field staff have inspected fire grounds that are safe to access. Specialised incident management teams have contacted farmers to identify urgent animal welfare needs, understand agricultural loss and damage, and refer any personal needs to relevant agencies.

Wildlife: DEECA is the lead agency responsible for managing wildlife impacted by fire in accordance with the [Victorian Response Plan for Wildlife Impacted by Fire](#). Coordination of any response is essential to ensure the safety of responders and effective deployment of resources to protect and help affected wildlife. Wildlife assessment teams have been assessing the situation to determine whether to activate the Wildlife Emergency Support Network.

Involvement of private veterinarians: Agriculture Victoria has worked with some private veterinary practitioners in this response. Private vets are pivotal in protecting the health and welfare of animals and the agriculture industry including in emergencies.

Vets interested in assisting in animal emergencies can register their interest at: [Private veterinarians in an emergency response](#). Note that Agriculture Victoria may take time to assess ongoing needs and respond to submissions because the situation is changing rapidly, many Department staff are involved in the fire response, and assistance arrangements are already in place with some private vets.

Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) update

The AVA is supporting communication between veterinary practitioners and Victorian disaster response agencies by distributing information and providing a pathway for veterinary practitioners to raise veterinary/animal issues, operational challenges or specific support needs.

There is a WhatsApp VIC Veterinary Disaster Communications Group for vets involved in the Victorian bushfires to share updates, ask questions, coordinate assistance, and exchange relevant information.

Vets can contact the AVA and/or ask to be added to the WhatsApp Group via its [LinkedIn](#) and [contact](#) pages.

Prepare for a long fire season

Victorians are advised to prepare for the rest of the fire season, which could extend into the middle of the year. Access a list of simple steps to help reduce your risk from bushfire: [message from Victoria's Chief Fire Officer](#)

Thank you

The Board genuinely appreciates the readiness of Victorian veterinary practitioners to assist in the care of animals at these times. We thank all vets who have treated affected animals during this emergency.

Bushfire response resources

Board updates

- [Responses to January 2026 Victorian bushfire emergency](#) - Vetboard Victoria

Preparation, relief and recovery

- [Bushfire message](#) - Chief Fire Officer Victoria
- [January 2026 Victorian bushfires](#) - Vic Gov relief and recovery hub
- [Prepare and get ready](#) - Vic Emergency
- [Relief and recovery](#) - Vic Emergency
- [Help for farmers](#) - Vic Emergency

Emergency animal welfare (Government)

- [Emergency animal welfare](#) including info on pets and emergencies, horses and livestock in emergencies, managing animals at relief centres - Agriculture Victoria
- [Wildlife impacted by fire](#) - DEECA
- [Wildlife Emergency Support Network](#) - DEECA
- [DEECA contact information](#)

Emergency animal welfare (Non-Government)

- [Bushfire resources](#) - AVA
- [2026 Victorian bushfires](#) - RSPCA
- [Bushfire and heat emergency update](#) - Wildlife Victoria

UPDATED EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE FIELD GUIDE

From the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

An updated version of [Emergency animal diseases: A field guide for Australian veterinarians](#) has been released. It includes new chapters on livestock diseases that have emerged or increased in importance since the previous edition.

This field guide provides veterinarians with readily accessible information on emergency animal diseases (EAD)s. It will help veterinarians to consider relevant EADs in their list of differential diagnoses and take appropriate action if presented with signs of an unusual disease.

It complements the [Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan \(AUSVETPLAN\)](#), Australia's coordinated national response plan for controlling and eradicating EADs.

Vets can access the field guide at outbreak.gov.au, along with other information on how to identify signs of pests and diseases, steps you can take to prevent an outbreak, and what you need to do if an outbreak occurs.

Access the guide and more information:
[Emergency animal diseases: A field guide for Australian veterinarians](#) | [Outbreak](#)

DECEMBER 2025 VETWATCH

From the Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Agriculture Victoria



Dr Graeme Cooke, Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer

In the December 2025 edition of VetWatch newsletter, Victoria's CVO reviews events of the last year.

This edition of VetWatch also contains items on:

- anthrax early reporting and preparedness
- insights from recent training on control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
- an update on Buruli ulcer
- an update on the Victorian Government's Drought Support Package for farmers
- the Victorian animal health surveillance report for 1 July to 30 September 2025
- information on reporting suspected high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI).

Access VetWatch:

- [VetWatch Newsletter December 2025](#)
- [All issues of VetWatch](#)

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE (EAD) CONTACTS, UPDATES & TRAINING

- Notify all suspected EAD cases to the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on **1800 675 888**
- Report sick or dead *wild* birds and other wildlife species by [using this form](#) or calling 131 186
- Prepare for [H5N1 avian influenza](#) - Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer
- Updated Oct 2025: [Japanese Encephalitis \(JE\) current situation](#) - watch out for cases of pig reproductive failure and horse neurological conditions.
- Read [how local vets can help in Emergency Animal Disease outbreaks](#) - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
- [Training opportunities for vets](#) in emergency animal disease, poultry diseases, anthrax - Agriculture Victoria
- [National biosecurity training hub](#)
- Subscribe to EAD updates [VetWatch newsletter](#) (Victorian CVO) and [Biosecurity Matters](#) (DAFF).

COMPOUNDED MEDICINES - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Access more information on the compounding of veterinary medicines

Board guidance:

- [Guideline 14: Supply and use of veterinary medicines](#)
- Newsletter November 2025: [Clarification of prescription and supply obligations](#)

Australian Veterinary Association:

- [Veterinary use of compounded pharmaceuticals](#)
- [Guidelines for the preparation and use of compounded pharmaceuticals](#) (PDF)

Pharmacy Board of Australia:

- [Guidelines on compounding medicines](#) (scroll down to middle of page)
- [Background on the regulation of the supply and manufacture of medicines including medicines compounded by pharmacists](#) (PDF)

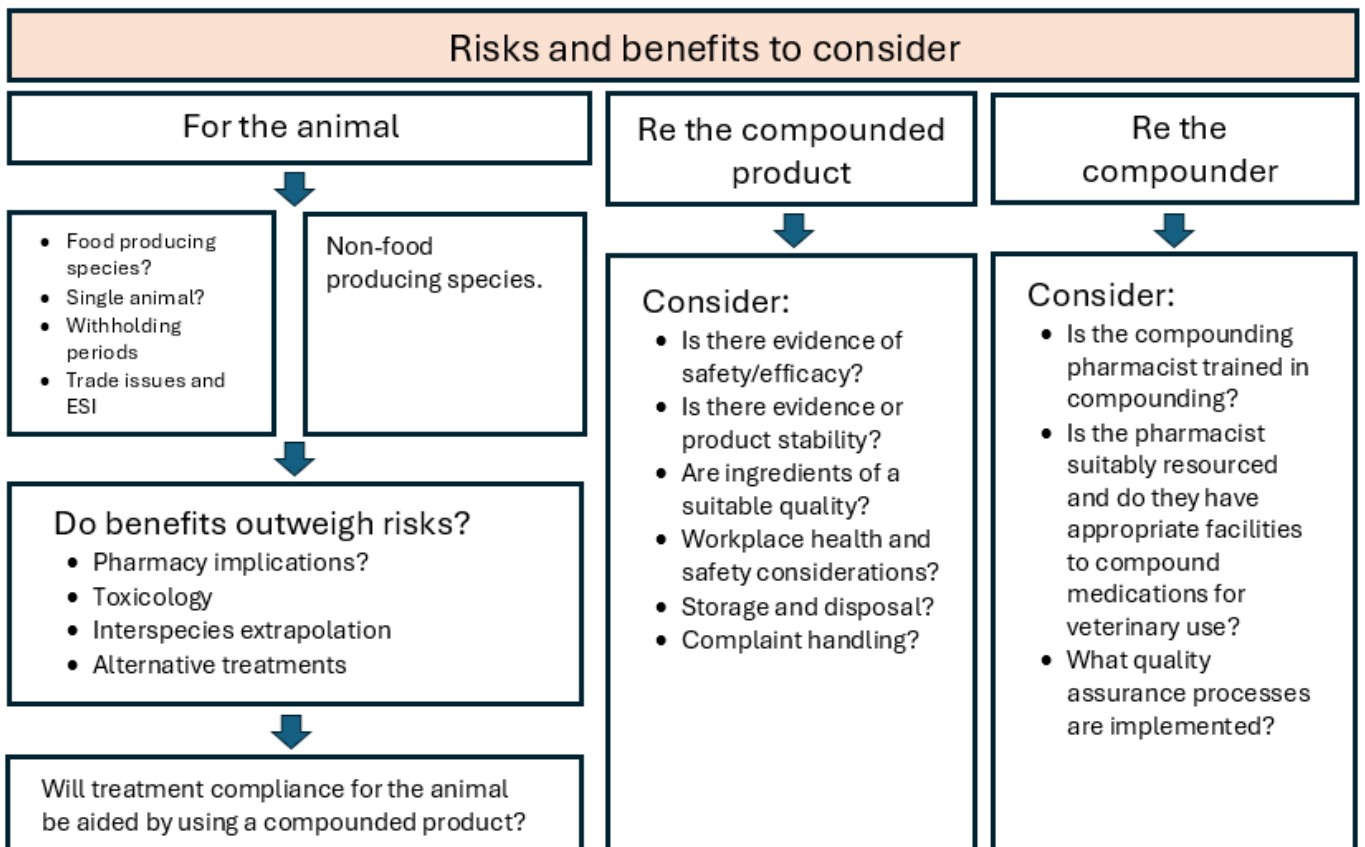
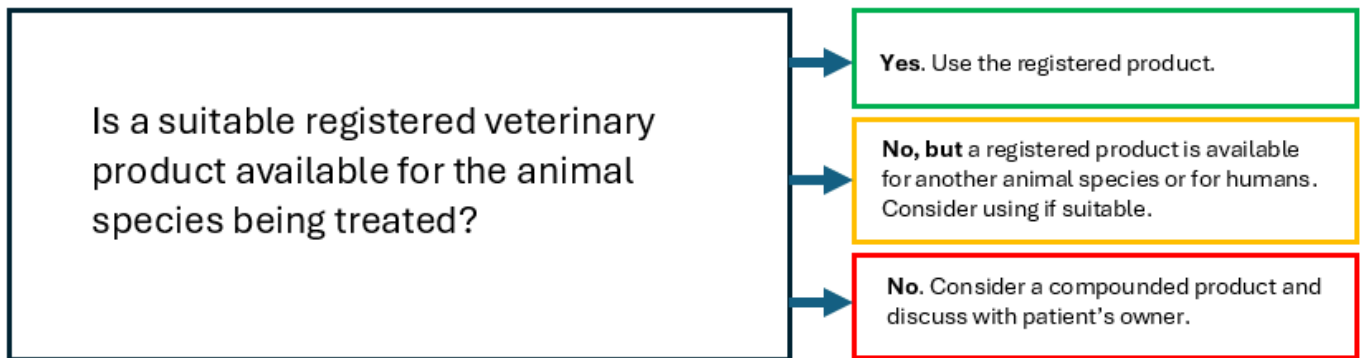
Agriculture Victoria:

- [Farm management](#) > [Chemicals](#) > [Veterinary chemicals](#) > [Veterinary practitioner requirements](#)

Decision flow chart for use of compounded products by veterinarians (AVA, 2020)

Please refer to the AVA guideline for a full explanation of the process outlined below (reformatted for accessibility).

NOTE the considerations relating to pharmacists also apply to veterinary practitioners who are compounding medicines.



SUPPORT AND INFORMATION FOR VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS

VETBOARD VICTORIA RESOURCES

- [Registration](#) (Download proof of registration or update your contact details via [My Account](#))
- [Complaints](#)
- [Guidelines for appropriate standards of veterinary practice and veterinary facilities](#)
- [Newsletter archive](#)
- [Videos and factsheets about veterinary boards, how they handle complaints and how you can respond to or prevent complaints](#)
- [Veterinary Practice Act 1997](#)
- [Other laws relating to veterinary practice including Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981](#)
- [About the Board](#) and [Board members](#)
- [Annual reports](#)

MEDICINES, MICROCHIPPING, RADIATION

Medicines & Poisons Regulation (MPR)

Branch, Victorian Department of Health

- [Medicines and Poisons Regulation](#)
- [Legislative requirements for vets](#)
- [Factsheet – Key requirements for vets](#)
- [MPR Enquiry form](#)

Prescribing guidelines and resources:

- [AMR Vet Collective antimicrobial guidelines](#)

Microchipping

- [Authorised implanter course for veterinarians](#) - Victorian Division AVA
- Greyhound Microchip Registry 8329 1139

Radiation Safety Unit, Vic Health:

- [Individual use licences](#)
- [Management licences](#)

Disclaimer: Some links in this newsletter direct you to the websites of third-party organisations which are responsible for and/or may be able to assist you with the item's subject matter. The Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria has no control over and is not responsible or liable for the content of any third-party website.

SUPPORT FOR VETS

- **Australian Veterinary Association:** [telephone counselling service](#) 1300 687 327 **both** for AVA members **and** the vet professionals who work for them
- **AVA THRIVE** [veterinary wellness portal](#)
- **Lifeline** 13 1114 & [Get help](#)
- **Beyond Blue:** 1800 512 348 & [Get mental health support](#)
- **SANE** 1800 187 263 & [SANE services](#)
- **1800RESPECT** 1800 737 732 & [website](#)
- **Mensline Australia** 1300 789 978 & [website](#) (delivered by Lifeline)
- **Head to Health** [Australian Gov resources](#)
- **Mental health support** [Victorian Gov resources](#)

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA INFORMATION Emergency Disease Hotline

- 1800 675 888 to report suspected emergency diseases - staffed by vets 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Local animal health staff

- Call 136 186 to get in touch with Agriculture Victoria District Veterinary Officers and Animal Health Officers located throughout Victoria.

Avian flu

- EAD hotline 1800 675 888

General contacts

- Customer service line 136 186
- Email biosecurity queries or feedback to animal.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au
- Email animal welfare queries to pet.welfare@agriculture.vic.gov.au

General information

- www.agriculture.vic.gov.au
- [Biosecurity and animal diseases](#)
- [National biosecurity training hub](#)
- [VetWatch newsletter](#) – information about animal disease surveillance
- [Antibiotic resistant infections and information for veterinarians and veterinary staff](#)
- [Animal Welfare Victoria](#)
- [Livestock and animals](#)
- [Pet care](#)