



Introducing President of the Ninth Board

Dr John Harte has held director roles with the Vet Group in Timboon and the Lort Smith Animal Hospital in North Melbourne and many other executive roles as a consultant,



director, chairperson and CEO across various sectors including government, not-for-profit, membership-based, private and public sectors. A graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), Dr Harte has held both chair and non-executive director roles with over 16 different boards.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My fellow Board members and I are pleased to have been appointed to the Ninth Board of the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria by Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney.

The nine members of the Ninth Board include five other veterinary members in addition to myself:

- Dr Kate Clarke (Deputy President)
- Dr Tracey Bradley (Crown appointment)
- Dr Charlie Blackwood
- Dr David Colson
- Professor Josh Slater (University of Melbourne appointment), and

three non-veterinary members:

- Mr Andrew Jaworski (lawyer)
- Ms Kerry Harris (CPA)
- Mrs Naomi Pye (farming sector).

CONTENTS

President's message.....	1
New specialists in Victoria.....	1
Preparation for veterinary emergencies.....	3
All vets can now reunite lost pets with their owners.....	4
Biosecurity-related changes to livestock legislation.....	4
Managing client expectations re dental procedures.....	5
Plan for new animal care and protection laws.....	6
Tick and snakebite alert.....	6
Order antimicrobial prescribing resources.....	6
Animal ethics committee vacancies.....	6
COVID-19 update.....	7
Survey on perceptions of professional conduct.....	7
Observations on CPD after registration renewal.....	7
Legal obligation to update your address.....	8
Vets removed from Victorian register.....	9
Support for veterinary practitioners.....	10

NEW SPECIALISTS IN VICTORIA

Congratulations to the 6 veterinary practitioners recently endorsed as specialists:

- **Dr Vivian Quam** – endorsed as a specialist in Equine Surgery on 1 July 2022.
- **Dr Edwina Wilkes** – endorsed as a specialist in Equine Medicine on 1 July 2022
- **Dr Angus Adkins** – endorsed as a specialist in Equine Surgery on 15 July 2022
- **Dr Andrew Stent** – endorsed as a specialist in Veterinary Anatomic Pathology on 10 August 2022
- **Dr Allyson Groth** – re-endorsed as a specialist in Veterinary Ophthalmology on 11 October 2022
- **Dr Selvi Jegatheeson** – endorsed as a specialist in Veterinary Oncology on 11 October 2022

President's message continued...

Apart from myself, the veterinary members of the Ninth Board remain the same - having been appointed for another term. Introducing our new non-veterinary members:

Mr Andrew Jaworski is a qualified solicitor with a focus on the health industry who has worked in both the public and private sectors. He is currently General Counsel of the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.



Ms Kerry Harris is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) with extensive experience in finance and business management. She is currently the Chair for Women Onside and a Committee Member on

CPA Australia's Appointments Council.

Mrs Naomi Pye has significant business management and committee experience in the farming sector, having held director and committee roles with the Gardiner Foundation, Southern Rural Water and Boldrewood Dairies, Australian Dairy Farmers, United Dairy Farmers Victoria and the Victorian Farmers Federation.



Full biographies of all Board members can be viewed at www.vetboard.vic.gov.au > About > [Board members](#).

Also on the recommendation of Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney, Governor-in-Council appointed 14 persons to conduct preliminary investigations or sit on informal and formal panels, and the Board welcomes those appointments.

The Ninth Board begins its term after two years of unprecedented change and challenge for the veterinary community as we continue to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our way of life, staffing, and the delivery of veterinary services.

Changes at the Vet Board over the 2020-22 period include the establishment of a team of legally qualified regulatory investigative staff plus a veterinary technical officer, to assist the Board's investigation functions and decision-making.

In May 2022, the Board appointed Ms Lisa Tickell as General Manager and Registrar (after farewelling Ms Michelle Cunningham who held the role during "peak COVID"). Ms Tickell, a practising lawyer, brings significant experience in regulatory investigations, including most recently as Investigations Manager at the Victorian Institute of Teaching and before that as Investigations Team Manager with the Vet Board for two years.

In June, the incoming Ninth Board attended an induction on the work of the Board. Many thanks to former President Dr Fiona Hendrie and fellow Eighth Board members for their comprehensive handover.

It is an exciting time for the Board as we enter a new phase of stability and reinvigoration.

Central to this is the Board's Strategic Plan and risk-based Regulatory Strategy developed earlier this year. The priorities of the Ninth Board over the period 2022-2025 are: responsive regulation, proactive prevention, services, building capabilities, organisational excellence and financial sustainability.

In the third quarter of 2022, we will be introducing the Board's Business Plan, Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy and Compliance and Enforcement Policy. These documents will complete the Board's strategic framework.

Key practical outcomes for veterinary practitioners will be kicked off by publication in the near future of Frequently Asked Questions to accompany guidelines 1 to 8 of the Board's Guidelines, and a factsheet covering the mutual obligations of animal owners and veterinary practitioners.

In this newsletter, because the Board often receives complaints about teeth extraction, we have published some guidance around managing clients' expectations in relation to dental procedures.

The newsletter also contains information about preparation being undertaken for veterinary emergencies, and items on new processes for reuniting lost pets with their owners and biosecurity-related changes to livestock legislation. Not least, I draw your attention to the article on page 7 reflecting on the importance of CPD for all vets with practising registration.

I am delighted to have joined the Board and look forward to working with Victorian veterinary practitioners and other Board stakeholders during this term.

Dr John Harte
President

PREPARATION FOR VETERINARY EMERGENCIES

Private veterinarians working in emergency animal disease responses

Animal diseases can threaten Victoria's livestock, dairy and food industries and the state's economy.

Private veterinarians have a very important role to play in emergency animal disease (EAD) responses in Australia. The risk of major, exotic diseases such as Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD) to Australia has now increased.

Agriculture Victoria, as part of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR), is involved in developing a process for recruiting private veterinarians/veterinary practices for assisting with EAD incursions. The provision of veterinary services by temporarily employed veterinarians may include field-based activities such as tracing, investigating suspect exotic disease, conducting field surveillance, collecting diagnostic samples and/or vaccination of livestock. Other services related to disease control activities within the emergency response structure may also be required. See Agriculture Victoria videos about responses to avian influenza in 2020 and bee quarantine initiatives at

www.facebook.com/agriculturevictoria/videos/240567080796150/

As part of the Vet Board's annual registration renewal process, many vets consented to being contacted by government agencies in Victoria. The process for recruiting available private practitioners to an EAD response is currently being established. Agriculture Victoria will be providing further updates to registered veterinarians including developing training elements and contractual arrangements. There are national guidelines in place for the engagement of private veterinarians in EAD responses and these are currently under review. The guidelines can be viewed at

www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/health/engagement-of-private-veterinarians

Watch out for further contact about this initiative and thank you for your interest.

Factsheet re flood-affected wildlife

The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) has published a factsheet on how floods impact wildlife, provision of food to wildlife and reporting of injured wildlife.

More information:

- [Wildlife impacted by floods](#)
- [Veterinary care for wildlife](#)

Latest issue of VetWatch newsletter

Issued by Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), VetWatch newsletter is specifically aimed at Victorian veterinarians and contains information about animal disease surveillance.

In the latest issue of VetWatch, CVO Dr Graeme Cooke reflects on the sequence of challenging emergency animal (and human) disease events he has seen since he took up his position,

'It seems that One Health has moved from a concept discussed in academia and the World Organisation for Animal Health (previously OIE) to a new way of working that recognises the need to protect both animals and humans from the impacts of disease. Early diagnosis remains the key to quickly managing a disease outbreak.'

The VetWatch September 2022 edition also covered:

- Victorian animal health surveillance and suspect emergency animal disease investigations for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
- Updates including clinical and diagnostic information on:
 - Japanese encephalitis
 - lumpy skin disease
 - foot-and-mouth disease
- A comprehensive introduction to the disease, "peste des petits ruminants" (PPR) caused by a morbillivirus whose natural hosts are sheep and goats. PPR has not been reported in Australia to date but has spread exponentially in recent years and is now present in over 70 countries throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East – having also reached Europe as recently as 2016.
- A call-out to private veterinarians to contribute samples from sheep as part of the anthrax immunochromatographic test (ICT) validation project which has been extended till 31 March 2023.

Read current issue of [VetWatch Newsletter](#)

Other AgVic EAD links:

- [Animal diseases](#)
- [Report an unusual or emergency disease](#)

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH
HOTLINE - 1800 675 888**

ALL VETS CAN NOW REUNITE LOST PETS WITH THEIR OWNERS

Changes to the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* are now in place allowing vets to reunite lost cats and dogs (pets) with their owners without the need for a council agreement.

Reuniting lost pets with their owners is voluntary, and vets who do not wish to participate can refer people to the local council, shelters or other participating vets.

If you do decide to reunite pets with their owners, you will need to keep records and report to council periodically. This will provide councils with relevant oversight of animal movements and public safety issues in the municipality. The reunification process, including record keeping and reporting options, is detailed in a guidance document.

Reporting options include using the Central Animal Records (CAR) stray recovery database to provide a convenient and real-time option. The online CAR system will remove the need to directly report to

council, as all records will be readily available to council upon submission. It will also facilitate the reporting of non-CAR microchipped pets.

Participating vets can request a nominal fee for pet reunification but cannot compel payment or make reunification contingent on payment. Victorian government education and communication materials encourage members of the public to consider paying a nominal reunification fee to support vets continuing to provide this valuable service.

Download implementation guidance on reuniting pets from Animal Welfare Victoria:

- [Guidance for vets: reuniting lost pets](#) (PDF)
- [Information for participating vets and animal shelters](#)
- [Background and FAQs](#)

BIOSECURITY-RELATED CHANGES TO LIVESTOCK LEGISLATION

New legislation has been introduced to improve the safety and wellbeing of Victorian primary producers and minimise business disruption and biosecurity risks to protect market access and trade.

The new laws relating to the *Livestock Management Act 2010* and Livestock Management Regulations 2021 **establish a voluntary framework for livestock producers to require visitors to follow prescribed biosecurity measures as a tool to reduce biosecurity risks arising from unlawful entry by trespassers.** This includes an offence and an infringement offence for persons that are non-compliant with prescribed biosecurity measures.

The offences will only be enforceable if:

- A Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP) containing mandatory content such as a description of the area where the BMP applies on the premises is in place, and
- a compliant biosecurity sign (containing the required information) has been erected.

These provisions protect against biosecurity risks caused by unlawful entry into agricultural premises and provide additional means of prosecuting trespassers. Authorised Officers and Victoria Police will be responsible for responding to non-compliance with prescribed biosecurity measures.

How will I know a producer has opted-in?

For these new laws to be enforceable, a livestock producer who voluntarily opts in must adopt a BMP

and erect compliant signage on their property. This biosecurity signage must be clearly visible at all main vehicular access points to the property at which the prescribed biosecurity measures apply (or at all pedestrian access points if this is not possible). The signage will also require visitors to contact a nominated person to discuss their obligations prior to entering the relevant property.

Do I need to seek consent as a veterinary or animal health professional?

No. Under the new laws, veterinary practitioners or other service providers (including but not limited to veterinary nurses, farriers, artificial insemination technicians and equine dental technicians) are considered 'permitted workers' by virtue that they are engaged to provide services.

Alternatively, you may also be invited on to a property without being considered a permitted worker. Either way, you are not required to follow the visitor consent procedures. Note that in the situation where a permitted worker is no longer recognised by the nominated person, or person in charge of livestock, as such, they may request that you seek consent to enter as a visitor.

More information and supporting materials including BMP and biosecurity sign templates are available on the Agriculture Victoria website at: agriculture.vic.gov.au/bmp

MANAGING CLIENT EXPECTATIONS AROUND DENTAL PROCEDURES

The Vet Board regularly receives complaints from animal owners claiming that they were not aware that any of their animal's teeth, or so many teeth, would be extracted during a dental procedure. In such cases owners often claim they only presented their animal for a scale and polish or to have one or two teeth removed. The Board has received complaints about as many as 20 to 30 teeth, or almost all an animal's teeth, being extracted during a single procedure without informed consent.

While veterinary practitioners know that extraction of diseased teeth is standard practice in veterinary dentistry, animal owners are not always aware of this and need to be clearly informed about possible actions **before** their animal undergoes a dental procedure.

Owner education crucial

Educating owners about the reasons for performing dental examinations under anaesthetic, what happens during a dental procedure, and dental disease in animals can help to reduce an animal owner's concerns about teeth extraction and reduce disputes and complaints to the Vet Board.

It should be clearly communicated to an animal's owner that the existence and extent of dental disease cannot be fully identified until an animal's teeth are cleaned and examined under general anaesthesia. Diagnostic x-rays are often required.

Many owners do not understand the importance of dental extraction to relieve pain and prevent serious complications for their pet. They can become very worried when multiple teeth are extracted, believing that their animal will no longer be able to eat properly. Animal owners should be educated that tooth extraction is a common and necessary procedure to prevent ongoing pain and discomfort, local oral disease or serious systemic disease which can be life threatening in their pet.

Informed consent before procedure

Consent forms can be used to obtain consent from an animal's owner, in advance, for an animal's teeth to be extracted during the dental procedure if this is found to be necessary. An estimate of the range of possible costs for teeth extraction should be provided to the animal's owner before they provide such consent.

The Board suggests that consent forms may also contain an option for an animal's owner to be contacted during a procedure if additional treatment is identified as necessary at the time.

It should be noted in relation to obtaining consent that adequate informed consent requires the owner

or their representative to understand what they are consenting to.

INFORMED CONSENT: Consent is an owner's agreement for a veterinary practitioner to provide veterinary services, including any tests, medicines, treatments or procedures. Consent is informed consent if the owner has received clear and sufficient information about their choices in relation to their animal's health and treatment before they give their consent to treatment or a service. Informed consent is successful when the owner indicates they understand the information they have been given and confirm this verbally or in writing.

INFORMED FINANCIAL CONSENT: Financial consent is an owner's agreement to the cost of veterinary services to be provided by a veterinary practitioner/practice. Financial consent is informed financial consent if the owner has received clear and sufficient information about the cost of a veterinary service, preferably in writing, before the service is provided. Informed financial consent is successful when the owner indicates they understand the information they have been given and confirm this verbally or in writing.

Consent should be recorded in veterinary medical records.

Seeking consent during a procedure

If additional treatment is identified as necessary during a procedure but the animal's owner may not have expected that treatment, the Board strongly recommends that the veterinary practitioner makes reasonable attempts to contact the owner to obtain their consent to that treatment and records this in patient records.

Communication gaps can occur when one veterinary practitioner recommends a dental procedure but a different veterinary practitioner performs the procedure. Where there is any doubt about what has been communicated to the animal owner previously, the Board encourages the veterinary practitioner who is performing the dental procedure to actively communicate with the owner should any teeth need to be removed (either before or during the procedure as appropriate).

Clinics may want to consider producing a client handout about what to expect when an animal is booked in for a dental procedure, explaining why teeth extraction is sometimes required in animals, that it is very common for extractions to be found to be required when an animal is under anaesthesia, and that this is often in the best interests of the animal's wellbeing.

More information: [Guidelines for dental treatment in dogs and cats](#), Australian Veterinary Association

PLAN FOR VICTORIA'S NEW ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION LAWS

Thank you to veterinary practitioners who responded to the Victorian Government's call for feedback on the 'Plan for Victoria's new animal care and protection laws' in October 2022.

There will be other opportunities to provide feedback as work on the new laws continues.

The new laws would recognise animal sentience and set minimum care requirements for animals in Victorian law for the first time. The compliance and enforcement toolkit would be expanded, and a new offence introduced for the most serious types of cruelty. There would also be vet-only procedures that must be done by a vet unless regulations allow them to be undertaken by a non-vet.

More information: [Reforming Victoria's animal care and protection laws](#)

BE ON ALERT FOR TICK AND SNAKE BITE SYMPTOMS IN ANIMALS

This is a reminder of the possible challenges presented by seasonal snake and tick populations to animals and their owners out and about in the spring warmth.

Ticks are being reported in significant numbers along the east coast of Australia due to ongoing wet weather. Animal owners should be encouraged to keep up with preventative treatments for ticks.

The Vet Board encourages veterinary practitioners to refresh their knowledge of the symptoms of tick paralysis and snake bite, and consider preparing or refreshing clinical and client information in case animal owners present animals with relevant symptoms at this time of year.

ORDER ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIBING RESOURCES



Vet Board [Guideline 15 – Responsible supply and use of antibiotics](#), requires, 'A veterinary practitioner has developed and/or has available, and complies with, a written protocol describing prudent and responsible use of antibiotics which directs their supply and use of antibiotics.'

ORDER RESOURCES to help develop protocols on responsible antibiotic use from the **National Centre for Antibiotic Stewardship (NCAS)**:

- [complete an online order form](#) to get HARD COPY versions of antimicrobial prescribing guidelines and other resources such as pocketbooks, charts and posters
- [access digital versions](#) of guidebooks, posters, traffic light cards and more vet antibiotic resources
- [access digital versions of Australian veterinary prescribing guidelines and antimicrobial stewardship guidelines](#).

Useful antimicrobial links and CPD:

Prescribing guidelines:

- [University of Melbourne/NCAS](#)
- [AVA and other organisations](#)

[National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

[Agriculture Victoria AMR resources for veterinarians and veterinary staff](#)

[Become an antibiotic guardian](#)

[Veterinary antimicrobial stewardship online course](#) - CPD points and a certificate for every completed module

[AVA Guidelines for veterinary personal biosecurity and PPE](#) – infection control guidelines

[AVA antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\) podcasts](#)

[AMR vet collective](#)

[Report a chemical use issue](#) to Agriculture Victoria or other agencies

ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Department of Education and Training's Victorian Schools Animal Ethics Committee (VSAEC) oversees the care and use of animals as part of school teaching activities. The Committee reviews and approves applications for 'teaching with animals' projects from Victorian schools. VSAEC is recruiting vets with relevant experience to fill vacant volunteer membership positions. **More info:** [Teaching with animals](#) (scroll to VSEAC Governance)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Victoria's pandemic declaration ended on 12 October 2022.

Victorians no longer have to isolate after testing positive to COVID-19, although isolation for positive cases is still strongly recommended.

Every Victorian business or organisation with on-site operations is still expected to keep a COVIDSafe Plan at their workplace and workplaces should regularly review and update their COVIDSafe Plan.

Vaccinations are not mandatory but are recommended. Booster doses are recommended for all individuals aged 16 years and over from 3 months after the last primary dose to maintain [an "up-to-date" status](#). Powers will exist under OH&S laws and Departmental Secretary Directions to require vaccinations for people in workplaces, including in the public service – allowing employers to decide which measures are most appropriate to keep their workplaces protected against COVID-19.

Staying up to date with information



Call the Victorian Government **CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE** 1800 675 398 if you have any questions about COVID-19 that are not answered by the information in the pages linked below:

Workplaces

- [Business and work](#) - Victorian Government links to public health guidance and recommendations
- [COVIDSafe Plan](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) - WorkSafe guidance for employers and their staff

Individuals

- [Protect yourself and others](#) - what you can do to stop the spread and reduce the risk of COVID-19
- [Symptom checker & Testing](#)
- [I'm a COVID case or COVID contact](#) - Victorians are not required to isolate after testing positive for COVID-19 but are strongly recommended to do so
- [Mental health support](#)

SURVEY ON PERCEPTIONS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Researchers at the University of Sydney are conducting a project to gain a current industry perspective of what is important when describing veterinary professional conduct. The survey asks veterinarians to rate the level of importance of 15 statements relating to veterinary professional conduct.

The results of this survey of Australian veterinarians' perceptions will guide educators in curriculum developments that reflect current industry standards in an Australian context.

The ethical aspects of the study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney (Approval No. 2022/492).

If you are interested, please read the participant information sheet and proceed to the survey [via this University of Sydney link](#).



The survey will close at the end of November 2022.

OBSERVATIONS ON CPD ARISING FROM REGISTRATION RENEWAL

Veterinary practitioners who renewed their registration for the 2022-23 registration period completed a new-format compliance declaration requiring each item in the declaration to be acknowledged individually. The declaration also provided the opportunity for veterinary practitioners to provide additional information where they were not able to select "True" in answer to an item.

All registered vets who hold general or specific registration must undertake CPD

A considerable number of veterinary practitioners declared that they had not been able to meet all Continuing Professional Development requirements.

Practitioners provided various reasons for this.

Many graduates declared that they had not undertaken CPD having only just graduated. Graduates are expected to undertake CPD in their first year of registration and cannot count their undergraduate studies towards their CPD. However, the Board understands that over the 3-year CPD cycle there may be one or 2 years where more CPD is undertaken and another where less is undertaken; and it is possible that graduates may not undertake

Observations on CPD continued...

as many CPD activities in their first year of registration as in the next years.

Some practitioners indicated that they were not undertaking CPD because they had retired, were working in a non-veterinary field or in a very narrowly defined area of veterinary practice, were just volunteering and/or were only treating their own animals.

Regardless of your circumstances, if you hold general registration, you have the privilege of being able to treat animals including prescribing and supplying scheduled veterinary medicines. Undertaking continuing professional development activities assists you to maintain the competencies required to deliver veterinary services at the standard required to protect the public and the health and safety of animals (including your own animals).

Some mid-career veterinary practitioners indicated that they were at the peak of their professional careers and under too much pressure to undertake CPD – especially during COVID.

It is the Board's view that taking time out to learn is crucial for vets at all stages of their career. Not only is it important to keep up with developments in veterinary medicine and surgery but CPD in the areas of leadership, team building and practice management can bring great benefits both to an individual veterinary practitioner and a practice.

The range of CPD available to you is not limited to technical-veterinary activities. You are encouraged to undertake CPD activities focused on developing "soft skills" such as inter-cultural communication and other aspects of personal development.

Much more CPD is available online now than ever before, both nationally and internationally. You can undertake online CPD delivered by accredited US (RACE-approved) and UK providers if the activity has general application to Australian veterinary practice.

All CPD must be recorded and evidence of CPD activities retained. For more information, including a CPD activity and points table, see the Vet Board's web page: [Continuing Professional Development for veterinary practitioners in Victoria](#)

WELCOMING ALL GRADUATE VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS

The Vet Board welcomes all new graduates who have begun practising as veterinarians in Victoria. You are joining a vibrant, varied profession and we wish you the very best in your career.

The guidance in Vet Board [Guideline 9 - Practising within areas of technical competence](#) is particularly relevant to you as you begin your working life. We encourage you to seek the support you need from your colleagues and employers.

The Board also extends its appreciation to all the experienced veterinary practitioners who mentor and supervise graduate veterinary practitioners. Your support is invaluable to your new colleagues.

LEGAL OBLIGATION TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

All veterinary practitioners registered in Victoria must ensure their residential and practice addresses are up to date on their account record. Any change of address must be updated within 28 days. The *Veterinary Practice Act 1997* states:

19 Requirement to notify the Board of change of address

A registered veterinary practitioner granted registration under this Part must notify the Board of any change of any address of the veterinary practitioner which appears on the register within 28 days after that change.
Penalty: 10 penalty units.

Please also make sure your personal email address and mobile number are also up to date. We will use these details to contact you when your registration is due to be renewed.

To update your addresses, sign into My Account at www.vetboard.vic.gov.au/myaccount

VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS REMOVED FROM VICTORIAN REGISTER

The names of the following veterinary practitioners were removed from the Register of Veterinary Practitioners after renewal closed on 31 July 2022. While we are not informed of this in all instances, the Board understands that many of these practitioners have either moved to other jurisdictions, taken a temporary break from practice or retired.

Dr Robin Achari, V9150	Dr Brian Hur, V6305	Dr William Moses, V9888
Dr Jemima Amery-Gale, V8177	Dr John Hurley, V3189	Dr Hester Naude, V9991
Dr Keith Anderson, V9417	Dr Yenny Indrawirawan, V4629	Dr Johan Naude, V9993
Dr Meghan Armstrong, V9797	Dr Jerin Joy, V10031	Dr Hallie Perkins, V10041
Dr Shane Ashworth, V2353	Dr Kylie-Ann Kelers, V3938	Dr Rosan Peters-Sengers-Baas, V10041
Dr Elke Beynon, V9858	Dr Anne Kicinski, V9394	Dr Lachlan Pollock, V9350
Dr Elizabeth Burger, V8246	Dr Dawn Kingsbury, V9130	Dr Freya Rees-Jones, V9617
Dr Jason Chu, V9669	Dr Genevive Kroussaniotakis, V9305	Dr Nicholas Roe, V3540
Dr Peter Connell, V1300	Dr Lauren Lacorcica, V3810	Dr Zheng Siow, V9819
Dr Helen Crabb, V5110	Dr John Larsen, V1497	Dr Kate Tasker, V9308
Dr Zoe Cutcher, V4700	Dr Peter Laverty, V2060	Dr Amita Temurnikar, V10064
Dr Colin Dick, V3661	Dr Sarah Leber, V8706	Dr Andrew Thay, V8228
Dr Amy Dixon, V9953	Dr Wing Leung, V5339	Dr Nadia Timol, V8338
Dr Marie Donnelly, V9512	Dr Alex Lindeman, V5773	Dr Peter Tiong, V6105
Dr Megan Duffy, V2792	Dr Ashleigh Long, V8280	Dr Simone Tolson, V8889
Dr Marcus Evans, V8641	Dr David Mahoney, V9970	Dr Lan Tran, V6033
Dr Piotr Fabijanski, V2592	Dr Jason Makar, V9333	Dr Charity Van Acker, V6067
Dr Stephanie Fitzgerald, V9954	Dr Stephen Manning, V1880	Dr Esther van Herwaarden, V9248
Dr Arielle Ginsburg, V9884	Dr Roisín Mc Nicholas, V9997	Dr Nandi van Wyk, V9520
Dr Ashleigh Halligan, V10004	Dr Nicole McIntosh, V9829	Dr Ming-En Wong, V9239
Dr Michael Hamblin, V1241	Dr Elana McKeon, V5829	Dr Kelly Yeo, V5577
Dr Elise Harding, V5957	Dr Kate Mitchell, V8670	
Dr Lauren Harries-Adorna, V8081	Dr Nicole Mock, V2659	

HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSURE

Vetboard Victoria extends best wishes for the 2022-23 holiday season to all Victorian veterinarians. The Board's office will close at midday on Friday, 23 December 2022 and reopen at 9AM on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SUPPORT RESOURCES AND GENERAL INFORMATION
FOR VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS**

SUPPORT AND INFORMATION FOR VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS

VETBOARD VICTORIA RESOURCES

- [Download proof of registration or update your contact details via My Account](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Complaints](#)
- [Guidelines for appropriate standards of veterinary practice and veterinary facilities](#)
- [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 Branch, Victorian Department of Health**
 - [Medicines and Poisons Regulation](#)
 - [Legislative requirements for vets](#)
 - [Factsheet – Key requirements for vets](#)
 - Email dpcs@health.vic.gov.au
- **Prescribing guidelines and resources:**
 - [Various prescribing guidelines including dogs and cats, pigs, poultry](#) - AVA
 - [Off-label drugs, compounded medicines and antibiotics](#) - AVA
 - [Veterinary prescribing guidelines for companion animals, equines and bovines](#) the University of Melbourne
- **Microchipping:** [authorised implanter course for veterinarians](#) - Victorian Division AVA
- **Radiation Safety Unit, Vic Health :**
 - [individual use licences](#)
 - [management licences](#)
 - 1300 767 469

COVID-19 INFORMATION

[Coronavirus Vic Gov hotline](#) – 1800 675 389

Workplaces – Vic Gov

- [Business and work](#)
- [COVIDSafe Plan](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) - WorkSafe

General COVID-19 information – Vic Gov

- [Protect yourself and others](#)
- [Symptom checker & Testing](#)
- [I'm a COVID case or COVID contact](#)
- [Mental health support](#)

SUPPORT FOR VETS

Australian Veterinary Association:

- 1300 687 327 [telephone counselling service](#) both for AVA members and the vet professionals who work for them
- [THRIVE veterinary wellness portal](#)

Lifeline 13 1114 and [Get help](#)

Beyond Blue: 1800 512 348 and [COVID-normal resources](#)

SANE 1800 187 263 and [SANE services](#)

1800RESPECT 1800 737 732 and [website](#)

Head to Health [Australian Gov resources](#)

Mental health support [Victorian Gov resources](#)

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA INFORMATION

Emergency Disease Hotline

Call 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.

General contacts

- Customer service line 136 186
- Email biosecurity queries or feedback to animal.biosecurity@ecodev.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](#)
- [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](#)

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.