



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we reach the second quarter of 2022, on behalf of my fellow Board members I am pleased to introduce the Vet Board's Strategic Plan and Regulatory Strategy for the next three years.

Our Strategic Plan describes how we will regulate for a safe, successful and sustainable veterinary sector and pursue our mission to protect the public and the health and welfare of animals in the 2022-2025 period. The Vet Board's priorities for the next three years are: responsive regulation, proactive prevention, services, building capabilities, organisational excellence and financial sustainability.

The risk-based Regulatory Strategy which accompanies the Strategic Plan explains how we will use the regulatory tools available to the Board to ensure a safe, successful and sustainable veterinary sector.

We will be focusing on key risks of harm to the public and animals as identified in the strategy. Our efforts over the next three years will be directed towards creating a prevention and protection culture, proactive regulation, focusing on deliberate non-compliance, enhancing our regulatory capabilities, and equipping and working with our partners. The strategy also describes the initiatives and outcomes that will support these aims.

See the next pages for more information about our priorities for 2022-2025 and links to the documents.

In this newsletter we also respond generally to several questions recently received from veterinary practitioners about prescribing and supplying veterinary medicines and using telemedicine to do so.

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President's message continued

On registration matters, we remind veterinary businesses of the importance of checking the registration status of all staff employed as veterinary practitioners. Veterinary businesses should also check that veterinary practitioners who have relocated from other States and Territories and whose principal place of residence is now in Victoria have registered with the Victorian Board.

Registration renewal will begin in mid-May 2022. We will provide veterinary practitioners registered in Victoria with information about next year's fees before that time. You can prepare for renewal by ensuring you have completed CPD requirements. If you are thinking about retiring or temporarily ceasing practice, an article in this newsletter explains how you can prepare to make those changes.

On animal welfare matters, Animal Welfare Victoria provides news of changes to domestic animal laws, starting on 1 October 2022, which will allow participating vets to reunite lost pets with their owners.

Veterinary practice in Victoria continues to be exceptionally busy, and we hope you find some time to relax and rest with friends and family during the upcoming Easter break.

Dr Fiona Hendrie

President

Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria

VET BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025

The Vet Board's Strategic Plan for the next three years describes how the Board will regulate for a safe, successful and sustainable veterinary sector and pursue its mission to protect the public and the health and welfare of animals. The Vet Board's six priorities for the 2022-2025 period are:

Responsive regulation

We will strengthen our capacity to take firm action when needed to keep the public and animals safe, and hold veterinary practitioners to account by embedding an improved risk-based approach to the investigation and enforcement of complaints.

Outcomes

- Implement a new Regulatory Strategy with enhanced prioritisation and risk assessment tools
- Review and revise our investigation and compliance policy suite
- Reduce the backlog of matters for investigation

Proactive prevention

We will focus on building awareness and providing increased support so that veterinary practitioners understand what they need to do to comply with their obligations and how they contribute to a safe and sustainable industry.

Outcomes

- The implementation of an annual awareness and support campaign
- Increased participation by veterinary practitioners, peak bodies and the community in preventing and managing risk within the sector
- Tertiary education and continuing education providers are supported to provide training tailored to current risks and issues

Our services

We will improve our registration and complaint systems and processes to provide modern, timely and reliable services to veterinary practitioners, the community and our sector partners.

Outcomes

- Enhanced online materials and systems for registered practitioners
- Increased transparency of compliance actions and their outcomes
- Consumers are well informed in veterinary care and understand the responsibilities of all participants

Building capabilities

Just as we expect practitioners to learn and develop, so too will we by enhancing our intelligence and data insight capabilities and broadening our stakeholder and engagement activities and communication.

Outcomes

- Increased communication of industry trends and insights leading to solutions and opportunity-focused discussions
- Regulatory initiatives and decisions are risk-based and intelligence-led
- Increased methods and channels for communication and engagement with the community, veterinary practitioners and partners

Organisational excellence

We commit to delivering on our priorities by fostering a high performance culture that values our people and invests in their learning and development.

Outcomes

- Staff safety, health and wellbeing focus
- Staff performance and development plans aligned with our Strategic and Regulatory Plans
- Service delivery that reflects community, stakeholder and government expectations and is based on the Victorian Public Sectors Values

Financial sustainability

With greater access to information and convenient technologies, our stakeholders expect us to be a best-practice regulator with modern systems, adaptable processes and real-time responses. We will develop a sustainable financial model that enables the Vet Board to be a modern and trusted regulator while supporting industry growth and sustainability.

Outcomes

- An affordable, sustainable financial model is developed for the regulation of veterinary practitioners into the future, driven by better outcomes for people and animals and efficient, cost-effective processes

VET BOARD REGULATORY STRATEGY 2022-2025

The risk-based, outcome-focused Regulatory Strategy which accompanies the Vet Board's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 explains how the Board will use the regulatory tools available to it to ensure a safe, successful and sustainable veterinary sector.

The Vet Board will be focusing on key risks of harm to the public and animals identified as follows:

- professional standards risk - the risk to the health and safety of the public and to animal welfare that results from a breach of veterinary professional standards of care
- practitioner health risk - challenges of practice result in high rates of stress, mental health problems and suicide and suboptimal standards of professional practice
- ethical risk – risk that arises from conflict-of-interest situations
- practice management risk - the risk of unprofessional conduct occurring as a result of poor veterinary practice management
- inadequate and outdated legislation, regulations and guidelines impacting standards of professional competence
- overlap with other agencies' responsibilities, resulting in the risk of double-handling, contradictory actions, misunderstandings and unintended gaps in regulatory activity.

Our efforts over the next 3 years will be directed towards: creating a prevention and protection culture, proactive regulation, focusing on deliberate non-compliance, enhancing our regulatory capabilities and equipping and working with our partners.

The Regulatory Strategy details the initiatives and outcomes that will support these aims. As an example, our proactive and preventative regulation initiatives will include developing targeted education and guidance materials to better enable practitioners and the public to positively contribute to the sector. The outcomes of that initiative will include: in 2022, publishing FAQs to accompany the Guidelines; holding quarterly stakeholder roundtables to discuss trends, issues and opportunities; and developing content specifically for pet owners; and in 2023, an awareness and compliance support campaign.

More information on our strategic approach:

- [Vetboard Victoria Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#)
- [Vetboard Victoria Regulatory Strategy 2022-2025](#)

REGISTRATION OF VETS RELOCATING FROM OTHER STATES

Under section 4(1A) of the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997* veterinary practitioners must apply for registration in Victoria if they have relocated from another jurisdiction with the intention of staying in Victoria for the foreseeable future.

The key factor is whether Victoria is, or is going to be, a vet's principal place of residence. If so, the law requires them to register in Victoria before the expiry of their interstate registration; they must not renew their interstate registration if their principal place of residence is now in Victoria.

Veterinary practitioners and employers, please provide the following information to your colleagues/employees who have moved (or are intending to move) to Victoria to practise: (see next column)

- Vets relocating from South Australia and the ACT must apply for registration with the Victorian Board **as soon as they move to Victoria** to avoid being without registration.

- Vets relocating from the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Tasmania must apply for registration before **25 May 2022** so they are registered in Victoria by 1 July 2022.
- Vets relocating from Queensland or Western Australia must apply for registration before 30 November 2022 so they are registered in Victoria by 1 January 2023.

Registration application information and forms:

www.vetboard.vic.gov.au > [General registration](#)

Questions? communications@vetboard.vic.gov.au or call 9620 7444

Related article on the importance of regularly checking that all persons practising at a clinic are registered: [Vet registration check](#)

PRESCRIPTION AND SUPPLY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

The Board has received several questions from veterinary practitioners about prescribing veterinary medicines and filling scripts:

- Can a veterinary practitioner prescribe scripts for farmers requiring medicines in quantity for their herds?
- Can a vet prescribe medicines for animals treated by another practice or specialist, if a clinical record has been supplied by the referring vet?
- Can a vet prescribe medicines via a telemedicine appointment?
- Can a vet working at one clinic for a multi-practice clinic fill a repeat script for a medicine originally prescribed by another vet at another clinic?

Over the next weeks, the Board will review these and similar questions to ensure that there is sufficient guidance in the Board's Guidelines and FAQs on matters currently faced by veterinary practitioners and owners.

For the moment, rather than giving yes or no answers to these questions, this article presents information to help guide a veterinary practitioner's decision-making in any given set of circumstances.

Appropriate prescription and administration of medicines play a crucial role in protecting the public and the health and welfare of animals. Veterinary practitioners are responsible for the use and outcomes of prescriptions, and the Board expects practitioners to ensure that any planned use of medications is appropriate.

When deciding whether to prescribe, supply or administer a veterinary medicine, a veterinary practitioner should exercise their professional judgement – having regard to relevant legislation, the Board's Guidelines and the circumstances of an animal owner's request.

It is accepted that there is not necessarily one right choice in every set of circumstances and that the Board's Guidelines cannot define how every situation must be managed. The Guidelines assist a veterinary practitioner to evaluate situations (whether in relation to a clinical matter or not) and make competent and reasonable decisions about the most appropriate course of action [Background and Purpose of Guidelines].

Having said this, legislation about vets prescribing, selling and supplying scheduled medicines in Victoria is in Sections 19 & 38 of the [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017](#):

Under section 19 of the DPCS Regulations, 'A veterinary practitioner must not issue a prescription for a Schedule 4 poison, Schedule 8 poison or Schedule 9 poison unless—

- that prescription is for the treatment of an animal—
 - under the veterinary practitioner's care; and
 - described in the prescription; and
- the veterinary practitioner has taken all reasonable steps to ensure a therapeutic need exists for that poison; and
- if the poison is a drug of dependence, a Schedule 8 poison or a Schedule 9 poison, the veterinary practitioner has taken all reasonable steps to ascertain the identity of the person who owns or has custody or care of the animal for whose treatment the prescription is issued; and
- in the case of a Schedule 9 poison, the veterinary practitioner holds a general Schedule 9 permit that authorises the issuing of the prescription.'

Penalty: 100 penalty units

Similar rules about the sale or supply of Schedule 4, 8 or 9 poisons are in Section 38 of the DPCS Regulations.

Board Guidelines that are most relevant include:

- [Guideline 1: The veterinary practitioner-animal-owner relationship](#)
- [Guideline 14: Supply and use of veterinary medications](#)
- [Guideline 13: Telemedicine in the provision of veterinary services](#)

Important general requirements in Guidelines

- A veterinary practitioner should have established and be maintaining a veterinary practitioner-owner-animal relationship in relation to the animal/s, and the animal/s should be under their care [G14.1]

- The veterinary practitioner should understand the therapeutic need for the medication [G14.1]
- The quantity of veterinary medication supplied should be appropriate for its purpose [G14.1].
- The veterinary practitioner should understand the capabilities of the owner [G14.1 - 9-12].
- The veterinary practitioner should ensure compliance with all legal requirements for prescription, administration, storage, and handling of veterinary medications – [G14.1].
- All communication and action, including via telemedicine, should be recorded in medical records, with prescription-related records kept for 7 years [G4, G13.9, G14.2 & G14.6].

Particularly relevant to recent questions are the Board's guidelines on who maintains the veterinary practitioner-owner-animal (VOA) relationship and the supplementary role of telemedicine in that relationship.

VOA relationship

While it is noted that animal owners and/or vets may view a VOA relationship in terms of a collective of individuals, such as a group of practitioners employed within a clinic setting [or within a multi-practice setting], the Board views the responsibilities associated with a VOA relationship as vested in an individual veterinary practitioner [Context section of Guideline 1].

Minimum yearly observation and telemedicine

In the context section of Guideline 1, the Board states that the main responsibilities of the veterinary practitioner in the VOA relationship include to 'directly observe and examine the animal and/or ... production system and facilities when requested to do so by the owner or when necessary'. To maintain a VOA relationship, it is expected that there be direct observation of an animal or production system at least once per year.

Telemedicine may play a role in the VOA relationship.

Currently, while COVID-19 continues to impact the availability of veterinary practitioners, the guidance issued by the Board in 2020 still applies:

[Telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Generally, the Board's view on telemedicine is that it is undertaken only when there is a pre-existing VOA relationship (except in emergencies). The Board acknowledges that veterinary advice given without a physical examination of an animal and/or without pre-existing knowledge of the animal's circumstances and environment may increase the risk of errors in clinical judgement and may not be in the best interest of the animal' [Context, G13].

Telemedicine Guidelines 13.1 to 13.4 and 13.8 to 13.10 specifically revolve around the importance of having and being able to demonstrate a VOA relationship. For example, Guideline 13.3 states, 'A veterinary practitioner provides telemedicine services to remotely located owners only where it can be demonstrated that an animal is under the practitioner's care, and the practitioner has access to and is familiar with the veterinary medical record of the animal.' An exception would be an emergency triage situation [G13.1, G13.6].

The information provided above should guide veterinary practitioners to make appropriate decisions based on the circumstances of any given situation.

Recent questions from animal owners on fees for additional consultations and issuing scripts

The Board has also received questions from animal owners about whether they must bring their animal in for a consultation every time they need a script filled and whether a vet can charge a "script fee" to issue a prescription for a medicine which the owner intends to buy elsewhere, e.g., a pharmacy.

On whether a consultation is required, while there is no expectation that a veterinary practitioner must see an animal more than once a year to maintain a VOA relationship, a vet may decide they need to see an animal before they prescribe or supply repeat medicines. Examples would be if an animal is in the acute phase of an illness, if diagnostic testing is needed to check response to treatment, or if there has been some change since the animal was last seen, e.g., weight gain. Veterinary practitioners have the skills and knowledge to decide when it is appropriate to examine an animal before prescribing or supplying veterinary medicines, and they are expected to be able to justify their decision-making to the Board.

On service charges, veterinary practices, like other businesses, can set prices for the services they deliver as they see fit, with some rare exceptions (see [Pricing](#) – Consumer Affairs Victoria and [Setting Prices](#) – the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission).

While the Board does not investigate complaints about the level of fees and charges set by veterinary practitioners, it should be noted that services covered by script and additional consultation fees include:

- reviewing an animal's condition; the suitability of medication for the animal; possible alternative treatments that may now be an option and/or interactions between multiple medications
- discussing: the issues associated with medication, disease, prognosis, options and possible side effects
- writing a legal document and taking on liability for issuing prescription medicine.

Note that the Board *can* receive and investigate complaints about a veterinary practitioner not obtaining informed financial consent from an animal owner before delivering a service or about overservicing. See [Board Guideline 4 – Communication between veterinary practitioner and owner or professional peers](#).

VET REGISTRATION CHECK

The Board encourages all veterinary businesses to check that all veterinary practitioners in their employment are registered with the Board. You should also check that anyone you are advertising as a specialist is endorsed as a specialist by the Board. If the Board has endorsed them as a specialist, the electronic register will say 'Specialist' and include a vet's specialty (e.g., 'Small Animal Medicine').

Practices must establish a vet's registration status via Board **electronic registers**, not via a paper or PDF document.

We recommend you check now, then again in mid-August after the Victorian Board's 2022-2023 renewal period has ended (and every year after that).

The easiest way to check if a person is registered in Victoria is to enter their family name or registration number into our **Search for a Vet** page linked in the next column.

If their name does not appear, they may not be registered in Victoria. If they say they are registered in another Australian State or Territory, all other Boards keep similar electronic registers (**listed next column**)

Australian Veterinary Board Registers:

- Victoria – [Search for a vet](#)
- ACT – [Register of veterinary practitioners](#)
- Northern Territory – [Veterinary register](#)
- New South Wales – [Find a vet](#)
- Queensland – [Find a vet](#)
- South Australia – [Search for a registered veterinary surgeon](#)
- Tasmania – [Veterinary Register](#)

Veterinarians registered in New Zealand, Canada, the UK, the US or any other country must hold active registration in an Australian State or Territory before they can practise in Victoria.

If you cannot find someone on a Register but they say they are registered, contact the relevant Board.

If you find that any person you have employed as a veterinary practitioner is not registered in Victoria, they must stop working as a veterinary practitioner until the Board grants them registration. Please refer them to registration application information on the Vetboard Victoria website > [Registration](#).

Related obligations: [relocating from another State](#)

It is an offence in the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997* to make claims as to registration:

57 Claims by persons as to registration

(1) A person who is not a registered veterinary practitioner must not—

- (a) take or use the title of registered veterinary practitioner or any other title calculated to induce a belief that the person is registered under this Act; or
- (b) claim to be registered under this Act or hold himself or herself out as being registered
- (c) under this Act; or
- (d) claim to be qualified to practise as a veterinary practitioner; or
- (e) carry out any act that is required to be carried out by a registered veterinary practitioner by or under an Act.

Penalty: 100 penalty units.

(4) A person must not—

- (a) take or use the title of registered veterinary specialist or any other title calculated to induce a belief that the person is registered under this Act with an endorsement that the person is a veterinary specialist; or
- (b) claim to be registered under this Act with an endorsement that the person is a veterinary specialist or hold himself or herself out as being registered under this Act with an endorsement that the person is a veterinary specialist; or
- (c) claim to be qualified to practise as a veterinary specialist—

unless the person is a registered veterinary practitioner whose registration is endorsed that the person is a veterinary specialist.

Penalty: 60 penalty units.

CHANGES IN REUNITING PETS FROM 1 OCTOBER 2022

From Animal Welfare Victoria, Victorian Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions

The *Domestic Animals Amendment (Reuniting Pets and Other Matters) Act 2022* (RP Act) was approved on 1 March 2022.



The RP Act introduces changes to the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DA Act) that deliver the Victorian Government's election commitment to allow *participating veterinary practitioners* and registered animal shelters to directly reunite lost pets with their owners.

Under the amended DA Act, **from 1 October 2022** shelters and participating vets will be able to reunite lost pets with their owners without the need for a section 84Y agreement with their local council. Vets and shelters with existing council 84Y agreements will not be impacted by the reforms and will continue to operate under the terms and conditions of their existing 84Y agreements.

The scheme will be voluntary for vets.

Participating vets and shelters will be required to report key reunification data to their local council. This is to ensure that local councils maintain appropriate and necessary oversight over dog and cat movements within their municipality. Regulations are being developed to support the prescribed reporting requirements, following consultation with vets and local councils. After amendments to the Domestic Animals Regulations 2015 are finalised, Animal Welfare Victoria will distribute guidance materials for vets and other stakeholders to support a smooth implementation process.

The RP Act will come into effect by 1 October 2022. The Act also makes additional legislative amendments to improve administration of certain DA Act components, including the Commercial Dog Breeder scheme and Authorised Officer inspection powers.

More information:

- [Reuniting lost pets legislation](#) – Animal Welfare Victoria.

SURVEY ON VETERINARY BURNOUT

Small animal vets working in either general practice or emergency centres in metropolitan areas of Australia are invited to participate in a 10-minute anonymous mental health survey on burnout being conducted by a research group from the University of Sydney.

The researchers are keen to find out

1. the prevalence of burnout among Australian general practice and emergency veterinarians
2. what workplace factors or practices contribute the most to burnout.

The researchers hope the survey results will contribute to the solution of building a sustainable profession by promoting tangible, evidence-based workplace changes.

Survey link (after completing reCAPTCHA you will be directed to a landing page introducing the survey): [Study of burnout and risk factors in Australian Emergency and general practice veterinarians](#)

University of Sydney Human Ethics Committee approval: 2022/014.

CURRENT BIOSECURITY INFORMATION

From Agriculture Victoria

- [Japanese encephalitis hub](#)
- [Current biosecurity alerts](#) on Japanese encephalitis and anthrax
- [Biosecurity advisories](#) on Hendra virus, canine monocytic ehrlichiosis, African swine fever and anthrax

NEW SPECIALISTS IN VICTORIA

Congratulations to the four veterinary practitioners the Board recently endorsed as specialists:

- **Dr Kathy Luk** – endorsed as a specialist in Veterinary Anatomical Pathology on 20 January 2022
- **Dr Nicole Trigg** – endorsed as a specialist in Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care on 20 January 2022
- **Dr Jiaying Ng** – endorsed as a specialist in Small Animal Surgery on 9 February 2022
- **Dr Elise Russell** – endorsed as a specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology on 9 February 2022

PREPARING FOR REGISTRATION RENEWAL 2022-2023

Veterinary practitioners who hold active general registration in Victoria will be able to renew their registration from mid-May 2022.

Before renewal starts, the Board will disseminate information about next year's fees.

You will be notified that renewal is open by email and SMS and will then be able to renew online.

After renewal starts, you will have until 30 June 2022 to renew your registration without incurring late charges. Late fees accrue on charges not paid by 30 June.

The last day for renewal will be 31 July 2022.

After 1 August 2022, the names of veterinary practitioners who have not renewed their registration will be removed from the Register of Veterinary Practitioners.

Veterinary practitioners who fail to renew before 31 July 2022 but still wish to be registered in Victoria will be required to submit a re-registration application.

Completing and recording CPD

When you apply to renew your registration, you will be required to complete a compliance declaration about your suitability to practise as a veterinary practitioner.

One of the statements in the compliance declaration is, *'I have participated in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs sufficient to demonstrate maintenance of competency in my chosen field of work, and I have retained documented evidence of all completed CPD for the required period. See requirements in [Board Guideline 10](#)'.*

For information about your CPD requirements and a sample record form, see [Continuing professional development for veterinary practitioners in Victoria](#)

What to do if you have changed your name

If you have changed your legal name since you last renewed your registration, and you wish to practise under your legal name, please complete and return our [Change of Name form](#) with a certified copy of proof of change of name documentation.

What to do if you are retiring from practice

If you are retiring from practice, you may wish to take up non-practising registration. Veterinary practitioners with non-practising registration pay a reduced fee. Your name would remain on the Register of Veterinary Practitioners and you would continue to receive communications from the Board.

It is important to note that veterinary practitioners with non-practising registration may not:

- carry out veterinary procedures, including treatment of their own animals, in Victoria
- provide veterinary services in Victoria
- purchase, possess or supply scheduled drugs under the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances legislation in Victoria, and
- exercise authority requiring registration as a veterinary practitioner in Victoria.

More information: [Apply for non-practising registration](#)

What to do if you have temporarily stopped practising in Victoria

You have several options if you have temporarily stopped practising in Victoria, e.g., if you are on parental leave, are working in a different profession, or have moved overseas for a short period.

You can do one of the following:

- renew your general registration, which would mean you can step back into practising at any time to take locum shifts, etc. This also means you can continue treating your own animals.
- let your registration lapse then re-register a month or so before you return to practising in Victoria. Fees to re-register include an application fee as well as registration fees.
More information: [Re-registration](#)
- apply to change to non-practising registration, which would mean your name would remain on the Register of Veterinary Practitioners and you would continue to receive communications from Vetboard Victoria. As with Option 2, you would need to re-register a month or so before you return to practising in Victoria. Fees to re-register include an application fee as well as registration fees.

More information: [Apply for non-practising registration](#) and [Re-registration](#)

SUPPORT AND INFORMATION FOR VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS

VETBOARD VICTORIA RESOURCES

- [Download proof of registration or update your contact details via My Account](#)
- COVID-19 FAQs & COVID-19 & telemedicine
- [Registration](#)
- [Complaints](#)
- [Guidelines for appropriate standards of veterinary practice and veterinary facilities](#)
- [Veterinary Practice Act 1997](#)
- [Other laws relating to veterinary practice](#) including the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*
- [About the Board](#) and [Board members](#)
- [Annual reports](#)

PERSONAL SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

If you or someone you know needs assistance or support, the links below may be helpful to you.

Physical health:

- [Symptoms and risks](#) - Victorian Government
- [Symptom checker](#) or call the coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 - Australian Government

General support:

- Australian Veterinary Association [VetHealth](#) and [telephone counselling service](#) 1300 687 327 both for AVA members & the vet professionals who work for them
- [Head to Health](#) - Australian Government
- [Mental Health Resources – coronavirus](#) - Victorian Government
- Lifeline Australia [Mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus outbreak](#) 131 114
- Beyond Blue [Coronavirus mental wellbeing support service](#) 1300 224 636
- [Sane Australia](#) 1800 187 263

Workplace support:

- [AVA COVID-19 resources for your workplace](#)
- [COVIDSafe Plan](#) – Victorian Government
- [Pandemic order register](#) – includes Workplace Order
- Business Victoria: call 13 22 15 or view [COVID-19 business information](#)
- Fair Work Ombudsman: [Coronavirus and Australian workplace laws](#)

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.

Talk to 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](#)
- [Vetsource](#) and [VetWatch newsletter](#) information for vets about animal diseases
- [Antibiotic resistant infections & information for vets and staff](#)
- [Animal Welfare Victoria](#)
- [Livestock and animals](#)
- [Pet care](#)

MEDICINES, MICROCHIPPING, RADIATION

- [Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch](#) office, Victorian Department of Health and [legislative requirements for vets](#)
- **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:** [individual use licence](#) and [management licences](#) to use radiation sources Vic Health.

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.