



February 2019

## Welcome to Seton Butler



We are very pleased to announce that Seton Butler has been appointed as our new professional advisor. Seton has long experience in private practice including practice ownership and he continues to own a clinic in Wellington. He has worked with VCNZ for a number of years, serving on the Judicial Committee and, more recently as Chair of a Complaints Assessment Committee.

Seton was hired after a very competitive recruitment process and we are thankful to all of the veterinarians who applied for the position. This was a great opportunity to hear from some immensely talented and motivated people.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Wayne Ricketts this week. Wayne has had a huge impact at VCNZ over the last 2.5 years and has achieved many positive changes for VCNZ and the profession. We hope that he will continue to be involved with VCNZ in various other ways in the future.

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## Taking action against price fixing

The Commerce Commission is working to raise business awareness of how to avoid and how to spot anti-competitive behaviour. They are releasing a series

of five articles, which are also featured in NZVA's Vetscript. We strongly encourage all veterinarians to read the articles and to contact the Commerce Commission, or us, if you have any questions.

[Read the article here](#)



## Keeping equipment up to date

Last year we received a complaint about the quality of some radiographs taken of a dog's left hind and pelvis. The client felt that the radiographs were of "undiagnosable quality" due to substandard equipment (the xray machine). The Complaints Assessment Committee noted that the practice had recently been audited and the audit found that the xray machine was adequate. The CAC found that the radiographs in question were not of diagnostic quality but this was not due to the xray machine, which was capable of providing radiographs of reasonable quality. Rather the quality issues were due poor procedure and technique.

The CAC noted that the machine was film-based and a manual development tank was used for film processing. While more modern systems are available, the CAC considered that film-based radiography is still commonly used in New Zealand. There is no obligation on veterinary businesses to upgrade to digital

radiography but it is expected that whatever system is used should be capable of producing radiographs of sufficient quality for use in diagnosis and treatment.

The practice provided evidence that it had updated its policy to require referral if radiographs of sufficient quality cannot be obtained, which should prevent this issue coming up in the future. Based on this, the CAC decided that, while the radiographs in this case fell below the expected standard, no further action was required.

The CAC noted that, with new technologies increasingly becoming available, it is important that veterinarians review their equipment regularly. While, as in this case, it is not always necessary to have the most modern technology, it is important to ensure that the equipment allows veterinarians to keep up with current standards and that contingency plans are made where there is a risk of older equipment not being sufficient in some cases.

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## **Free exotic disease webinar – African Swine Fever**

Major outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) are currently occurring in domestic and wild pigs in Europe and Central Asia with severe animal health and economic consequences. Biosecurity New Zealand and New Zealand Pork are monitoring the international situation closely to protect New Zealand's pig herd from this disease. Border protection measures are in place.

This webinar (presented twice – see details below) is being offered to further support New Zealand's risk management for ASF. Veterinary epidemiologist and pig health specialist Dr Eric Neumann will outline the current overseas outbreaks, and how those in contact with pigs can recognise ASF and further minimise the risk of this disease infecting New Zealand. This webinar is sponsored by Biosecurity New Zealand and New Zealand Pork and is eligible for CPD points.

### **Dates, times and links:**

#### Webinar 1

Monday 4 February 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

#### Webinar 2

Tuesday 5 February 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/611217515>

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+6448318959,,611217515# New Zealand

Dial by your location

+64 9 801 1188 New Zealand

+64 4 831 8959 New Zealand

Meeting ID: 611 217 515

<https://zoom.us/j/589108251>

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Meeting ID: 589 108 251

## About the speaker



Dr Eric Neumann is the owner of Epi-Insight Limited, an epidemiology consulting business and is a technical adviser to NZPork. He is a specialist in the areas of biosecurity, animal health, livestock production, public policy aspects of animal disease management, and risk assessment related to trade in animals and animal products.

He has been involved in livestock production, aid and development projects, infectious disease management and research, controlled experimental trials, international project management and collaboration and government-sector biosecurity policy.

Dr Neumann is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Massey. He has an undergraduate degree, Masters, and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Illinois and completed a PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology at Massey University in New Zealand

**Biosecurity New Zealand**

Tiakitanga Pūtaiao Aotearoa

New Zealand  
**PORK**

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