



## Veterinary Council e-Update –June 2015

### 1. Your chance to have a say on proposed changes to the Professional Relationships section of the Code of Professional Conduct and explanatory notes. [Consultation document on proposed changes to the Professional Relationships section of the Code of Professional Conduct and explanatory notes](#)

The Code gives guidance on how your conduct will be judged if you are called into question. You need to be aware of the requirements. We encourage you to review the proposed changes and send in any comments by Friday 14 August to [helen.shanks@vetcouncil.org.nz](mailto:helen.shanks@vetcouncil.org.nz)

Main points:

- The term supersession has been removed. The draft focuses on client transfer as the activity common to a referral, second opinions and clients moving to another practice.
- There is now a new Code statement that says: *Veterinarians must ensure that colleagues are appropriately supported, particularly in the case of newly registered and/or inexperienced veterinarians.*

### 2. Changes to the VCNZ Statement on the Induction of Calving in Cattle [VCNZ Statement on the Induction of Calving in Cattle](#)

The statement has been updated to reflect the move to zero routine inductions and extended to include all cattle. An appendix setting out the circumstances for dispensation and a template for a BVD management plan have been added. These documents have been provided by NZVA, DCANZ, Federated Farmers and Dairy NZ. VCNZ thanks those who responded to our request for comments on the extension to include all cattle.

### 3. Advisory for veterinarians from MPI Biosecurity – Brown dog tick detected on a Wellington dog – Please keep an eye out for ticks

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) advises that it has positively identified brown dog tick on a Wellington dog. This new detection follows the discovery earlier in the year of brown dog ticks on two Canterbury dogs.



Brown dog ticks (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) are an unwanted organism in New Zealand and MPI is working to ascertain if any wider population is present, and if so, to eradicate it.

In the Canterbury situation, the dogs and the house concerned were treated and MPI thoroughly checked the property and a local veterinary clinic and a grooming facility the dogs had visited. No further ticks were found at any location. MPI undertook a range of tracing and surveillance activities, including checking all dogs that had visited the vet and groomer concerned. No further ticks were found.

Now a single dog in Wellington has been found infested with a small number of brown dog ticks. The dog has been treated for ticks and plans are in place to treat the dog's house and a business premises it visits. In addition MPI has checked and treated a second dog that occasionally visits the same business premises. No signs of ticks have been found on the second dog or at either property.

MPI believes this is an isolated situation and there is a very low risk of any spread of the tick to other dogs in the Wellington community. This is because the dog has not previously socialised with other dogs, is now contained to the house and also because the cold winter weather would not be conducive to tick survival.

This new detection in Wellington appears to be unrelated to the earlier Canterbury find, and no signs of a wider population of this tick has been found.

MPI would like your help in detecting any further brown dog ticks that may be out there. Please check dogs visiting your practice for signs of ticks. If you find a tick that may not be the common cattle tick, please contact MPI on 0800 80 99 66.

Full information, including photos of the brown dog tick and a fact sheet, is at:  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/brown-dog-tick>