



VCNZ e-Update – 25 September 2015

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1. Veterinarian struck off

Dr Djiang Yok Yap (DVM Utrecht 1977) was found guilty of professional misconduct at a judicial hearing in March 2015.

The charges related to the purchase and supply of restricted veterinary medicines containing anabolic steroids, and of two controlled drugs between April 2010 and December 2013 when Dr Yap was operating a limited veterinary practice.

This case did not come to VCNZ's attention via a complaint from a client. Rather it was a notification from the wholesaler in relation to a pattern of purchasing.

The Judicial Committee established that Dr Yap breached his obligations under several sections of the VCNZ Code of Professional Conduct (COPC); Veterinary Medicines, Professional Integrity, Veterinary Services and Legislative Requirements.

His registration as a veterinarian has been cancelled and his name removed from the register.

Click [here](#) for more information.

2. Safe anaesthesia of stags

Click [here](#) to read Dr Ian Scott's (Chairman of the National Velvetting Standards Body) article on pitfalls to be aware of with stag anaesthesia.



3. Export of dogs and cats

a. Changes to the Export Programme for dogs and cats to Australia

Changes to the export programme allowing approved veterinarians in approved veterinary practices to certify export of dogs and cats to Australia took effect from 1st July 2015. It is essential that those veterinarians undertaking this service are fully aware of, and compliant with these changes. The integrity of veterinary certification is critical to confidence in the veterinary profession.

The main changes are:

- i. The Owner Statutory Declaration (OSD) must now be signed by the owner within 90 days of the scheduled date of export. The animal must be microchipped prior to the document being signed.
- ii. Examination of the animal and parasite treatment can now be done within 5 days of the scheduled departure (previously 72 hours).
- iii. Pregnant animals must be less than 40 days through the pregnancy before export (previously 21 days).
- iv. There is now a minimum time of 21 days residency in New Zealand before dogs can be blood tested for Ehrlichia & Leishmania if required.

For more information click [here](#).

b. How is the Export Programme for dogs and cats to Australia monitored?

The MPI Export Programme for dogs and cats to Australia requires AsureQuality to monitor completed export certificates on a random monthly basis and advise both the certifying veterinarian/veterinary practice and MPI of any critical non-compliance. In addition, all approved veterinary practices are subject to desk-top audits of their Practice Manual, completed export certificates and associated records. This is done by AsureQuality as per the Export Programme's desk-top auditing frequency.

A critical non-compliance compromises the integrity of the programme and will, in some cases, result in the suspension of approval.



Following notification of a critical non-compliance, the practice will be required to provide documented evidence of corrective actions to close the non-compliance(s) to AsureQuality. The practice will also move to an annual audit frequency. Additionally the auditor may request export certificates signed by the practice with copies of full supporting documentation for auditing purposes and/or require the relevant certifying veterinarians to complete a supplementary assessment for certification.

Critical non-compliances notifiable to VCNZ

Since 2013, MPI has received two cases of critical non-compliances and notified these as formal complaints to VCNZ. In both cases, the corrective action was an educative approach. Critical non-compliances will continue to be notified to VCNZ.

The VCNZ Code of Professional Conduct (COPC) section on Professional Integrity provides information on requirements for export certification. This can be found on the VCNZ website

http://www.vetcouncil.org.nz/CPC/ProfIntegrity/CPC_ProfIntegrity.php

c. Export of cats and dogs to countries other than Australia

Any registered veterinarian in New Zealand (including the veterinarians approved for signing export certificates for cats and dogs to Australia) can undertake export preparations for cats and dogs to other countries. However, the export certificate can be signed only by Official MPI Veterinarians. While preparing the dog/cat for export, ensure that you record all details correctly (microchip number, vaccination, tests etc).

The microchip number must be scanned and recorded before any treatments or tests. Also it is important to do the tests and treatments as per the respective country's Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMAR's). If veterinarians vaccinate/treat outside the time frame mentioned in OMAR for the specific country, this can lead to delaying export and redoing the whole treatments. This is likely to be problematic for owners and can lead to complaints to MPI.