



VCNZ e-Update – 5 November 2015

In this issue:

1. Export programme for Dogs and Cats to Australia
2. Our people: Despina Arathimos
3. Retired Veterinarians Gathering 1–2 December
4. Results of VCNZ Performance Survey 2015

1. Export programme for Dogs and Cats to Australia

MPI and VCNZ wish to apologise for the article which appeared in the last issue of “VCNZ e Update” dated 25 September 2015.

In particular with reference to the section entitled Critical Non-compliances, which unfortunately gave the impression that all critical non-compliances were notifiable to VCNZ.

We regret that this wording caused alarm amongst some vets and unease about continued participation in the programme. This was not the intention.

Critical non-compliances are continually monitored by AsureQuality and MPI and are not routinely reported to VCNZ.

At a recent meeting with VCNZ, NZVA and AsureQuality representatives, MPI confirmed that the only critical non-compliances it will consider referring to VCNZ will be those which appear to have breached the Code of Professional Conduct (e.g. fraudulent certification); and that such referrals will only be made after extensive investigations have been carried out by MPI and AsureQuality. Errors like typos, incomplete documentation, etc. will not be notified to VCNZ. All present at the meeting agreed that collaborative discussion and feedback is key to ensuring improved certification.

It was also agreed that a full review of the programme involving all parties would be beneficial to streamline the current system, review the guidelines and ensure that outcomes are improved. This will take place later next year.

If you have any concerns or questions at all regarding the dogs and cats to Australia program, please contact the animal exports team directly by email: animalexports@mpi.govt.nz or telephone 04 8940100

MPI thanks vets for their continued participation in the scheme and values their contribution in this outsourced programme.



2. Our people: Despina Arathimos, Deputy Registrar (Operations), BA (Social Policy and Education) Victoria 2005

Despina joined the VCNZ team as Deputy Registrar (Operations) in late 2012. She has a regulatory background and extensive experience in the human health occupational sector prior to coming to VCNZ.

Despina is involved in the following areas of the VCNZ's work:

- Registration
- Recertification to practise (through the annual practising certificate renewal process)
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Recency of Practice
- Case management of health or performance impaired veterinarians

She is a point of contact for vets applying for or inquiring about registration and recertification. Participation in VCNZ's continuing professional development (CPD) framework is a requirement for recertification, and Despina provides vets with support and information about the framework and how to meet its requirements.

Vets returning to practice after an extended break or switching to a new field, need to meet VCNZ's recency of practice requirements. These are in place to support vets returning to, or taking up new areas of, practice – not to prevent them from doing so. Despina works with vets who are planning to resume practice or have a change of direction, to ensure they are supported and have good upskilling plans in place. She also liaises with vets and their overseeing colleagues in cases where practice is subject to oversight and reporting requirements.

VCNZ's assessment and monitoring processes are rehabilitative and are designed to separate health and competence issues from those of conduct and discipline. Despina is often involved when health or competence issues come to VCNZ's attention, and undertakes case management of health or performance impaired veterinarians. She is sensitive and compassionate in dealing with people under stress and embodies Council's rehabilitative and confidential approach in these areas.



3. Retired Veterinarians Gathering 1–2 December

The annual gathering of the Retired Veterinarians Branch of the New Zealand Veterinary Association will be held in the Wairarapa on 1–2 December 2015.

The main object of the gathering is collegiality. So all retired or near retired veterinarians, their spouse, partners and friends are invited. A programme is being developed to facilitate this and will include:

- a visit to a modern veterinary practice
- a visit to Pukaha Mt Bruce Wildlife Sanctuary
- a vineyard visit
- an afternoon where some more formal papers could be presented and the AGM held.

Further details of the programme and registration details are available from the executive of the branch, Bob Gumbrell (jobo@gumbrell.net) or Allen Petrey (allen.petrey@xtra.co.nz) or the NZVA office.

4. Veterinary Council of New Zealand Performance Survey 2015

We thank all those who responded to our 2015 Performance Survey. Click [here](#) to see the summarised analysis and read the feedback we received.

This, along with presentations from the organisations and individuals we work most with, was considered by VCNZ at a strategic session in September. We have taken the feedback on board which you'll see when our finalised strategic plan for 2016 – 2020 is available in early 2016.