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### Don't forget to renew your Annual Practising Certificate (APC)

Online APC renewal is available now, until 31 March 2016.

You should have received an email last week with advice on how to use the online system. The email contains your registration number and online access code, which you will need to renew your APC online.

If you didn't get this email, please contact us at [vet@vetcouncil.org.nz](mailto:vet@vetcouncil.org.nz) or 04 473 9600.

Please make it a priority to apply for your APC before your current one expires on 31 March 2016. It's illegal to practise without a current APC. To ensure your new APC is issued on time, please apply by 25 March.

The early payment fee of \$507 applies to applications made up to 29 February. After that the fee is \$532.

Click here for more information about APCs <http://vetcouncil.org.nz/annualPracCert.php>



#### **New Council member – Jane Smith (layperson)**

We welcome Jane Smith to Council. Jane has recently been appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries to one of the two layperson positions on Council. Jane brings experience in rural servicing, farming, red meat, and strategic decision making.

Jane lives with her husband and three young children in North Otago, where they own and manage a sheep, beef and dairy operation. Jane and her husband Blair own Newhaven Perendales, a leading New Zealand Perendale Sheep Stud operation, which is involved in breeding and marketing elite meat and wool genetics in New Zealand and Australia.

Jane's career has included work in the fertiliser industry and rural banking. She is an independent director on the Red Meat Profit Partnership board, and is a member of the Institute of Directors New Zealand, Perendale Sheep Society of New Zealand, and North Otago Sustainable Land Management along with numerous community roles, including a Justice of the Peace.

We look forward to having Jane's experience at the Council table.

Jane replaces Barbara Benson. Barbara was a member of Council since 2007, completing three terms. She has made an enormous contribution. We thank her for all her work

## **Veterinary nursing support for afterhours emergencies**

Veterinarians in clinical practice must make a sufficiently resourced emergency service available at all times.

There have been two recent cases where veterinarians on after hours duty couldn't access the skilled support they needed to help with emergency surgery; in one case because this was not permitted by the employer. There were adverse animal welfare outcomes and in one case a formal complaint was lodged against the veterinarian.

When planning an emergency afterhours procedure Council expects veterinarians to consider:

- the number of trained support staff, including other veterinarians in the practice, that would normally be needed to assist; and
- whether they can be available in a sufficient timeframe.

If deciding to proceed without competent support, the person in charge of the animal needs to be advised of this as part of the informed consent process. Consideration should also be given to whether the animal's welfare warrants referral to another practice which is available and capable of providing the necessary resources.

Practices should consider in advance how these cases will be managed and have a policy in place detailing how appropriate afterhours support can be accessed.

We will be adding an explanatory note on this issue to section 7 of the Veterinary Services part of the Code.

## **Environment Protection Authority (EPA) revokes approvals for some veterinary medicines and insecticides**

EPA has announced its final decision following the reassessment of 19 substances containing carbaryl, chlorpyrifos and diazinon (when used as active ingredients in veterinary medicines or in insecticides used in and around buildings).

From 28 February 2016, these substances are no longer able to be imported or manufactured.

The EPA has put in place a three-year phase-out period (until 28 February 2019) for those products that are currently in New Zealand (such as sheep dip and cat and dog flea collars), to allow use of existing stocks.

You can read the full media release here <http://www.epa.govt.nz/news/epa-media-releases/Pages/EPA-revokes-approvals-for-some-veterinary-medicines-and-insecticides.aspx>

For details click here <http://www.epa.govt.nz/search-databases/Pages/applications-details.aspx?appID=APP202098> and select "Substances or organisms in the application" for a list of products.

### **EPA request for comments**

EPA are seeking comments to inform a potential reassessment of substances containing organophosphates and carbamates (OPCs) used in veterinary medicines or pesticides.

This relates to a set of substances for which grounds for reassessment have previously been established, but that were not included in the EPA's previous organophosphate and carbamate reassessments.

The focus of this potential reassessment is on the remaining approved substances containing bendiocarb, chlorpyrifos, chlorvenfiphos, coumaphos, fenitrothion, maldison, methomyl, pirimiphos methyl, propetamphos, propoxur, temephos or tetrachlorvinphos as the active ingredient.

More information and EPA's call for information document can be found on the EPA website <http://www.epa.govt.nz/news/news/Pages/EPA-calls-for-information-on-some-organophosphates.aspx>

The EPA are seeking feedback by Friday 11 March 2016. Please contact EPA directly with any queries or comments at [Reassessments@epa.govt.nz](mailto:Reassessments@epa.govt.nz)