



1 May 2017

New Registrar Iain McLachan

With the departure of our former CE/Registrar, Janet Eden, earlier this year, Council felt it was an opportune time to separate and clearly define the Chief Executive and Registrar functions.

As part of this process we welcomed Sean McKinley as Chief Executive in February. Sean was tasked with reviewing the roles and responsibilities of all staff in the office. One of the outcomes of this review has been the appointment of Iain McLachlan as our new Registrar.

Iain started at VCNZ late last year as Deputy Registrar (Legal) and has been Acting Registrar since Janet's departure. We're delighted that he's now taken on the role of Registrar.



Recent surveys

Recently we asked you to participate in two surveys: one on controlled drug use, and one on the advertising of antibiotics. Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond.

Controlled drug survey

We had over 350 responses to the controlled drug survey. Your responses give us an idea of what is happening in clinics, and what the profession knows about the current guidelines.

The results of the survey will help the Professional Standards Committee review our guidance on controlled drugs to make sure it's helpful and relevant. We'll keep you updated as that work progresses.

The survey results will be on our website soon - check the news page for updates.

Antibiotics survey

Nearly 500 of you responded to the antibiotics survey. Thank you all for this great result.

The results were clear. Of those who responded:

- 94% did not support advertising antibiotics to the end user
- 92% didn't think advertising to end users should continue
- 91% felt that advertising to vets was appropriate
- 15% felt advertising to vets by way of gifts, promotions etc was appropriate
- 2% felt promotion to farmers as prizes or draws was appropriate.



Section 29 medicines

There's now an updated list of [section 29 medicines](#) on our website. Section 29 medicines are non-consented human medicines that vets may wish to use. The updated list now includes options for section 29 medicines that vets can prescribe instead.

[April Vetscript](#)

In the April issue of Vetscript, Wayne Ricketts reflects on the provision of after hours services.



Learnings for the profession

Recent complaints have highlighted:

- the importance of [effective communication and mutual respect](#) in the vet/client relationship
- [client information must be kept private](#), unless the client gives consent to share that information, or if [Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act](#) applies.
- [CAC16-02](#) and [CAC16-03](#) illustrated the difficulty of dealing with distressed clients who are unwilling to accept a diagnosis. In this case, although the vets tried to explain clearly, the client didn't fully understand the seriousness of the situation, the implications of the diagnosis, or the reasons for the recommended treatment. A written summary may have been helpful, so the client could reconsider the information later (when she may have been calmer) and could seek help to understand if necessary. Giving information in writing may be particularly helpful if there is a language barrier, as there was in this case.

Euthanasia guidelines

We recently dealt with an enquiry about the euthanasia of a pukeko, which highlighted that the profession may not be aware of the guidelines around the euthanasia of birds. For welfare reasons, birds should be anaesthetised before euthanasia. The way the vet euthanased the bird wasn't best practice, but the Notification Review Group considered it was likely common practice among New Zealand vets.

The [Animal Welfare](#) section of the Code deals with euthanasia. *'Veterinarians are expected to exercise sound professional judgment and use their knowledge of clinically acceptable and science-based techniques in selecting an appropriate euthanasia technique taking into account the above factors. The [AMVA guidelines](#) provide useful advice on euthanasia.'*

The Notification Review Group recommended that all vets familiarise themselves with the guidelines, and make sure that the animal welfare requirements around euthanasia are being met.