



19 July 2017

Theft of cyanide pellets

MPI has been notified of a theft of Feratox pellets containing encapsulated cyanide from a premises in Raetihi on Monday 17 July 2017.

MPI has asked us to advise veterinarians in the wider area, in case they get any poisoning cases and to ensure they have adequate antidote on hand should it be needed.

While there is nothing currently linking the theft to intended harm it's best to be prepared.

Any instances of suspected poisoning should be reported to local police.

Tetracycline

A [media article](#) on 13 July 2017 reported a second detection of tetracycline in New Zealand butter.

MPI has indicated that this finding refers specifically to tetracycline and not to other antibiotics of the same family such as oxytetracycline or chlortetracycline.

There are no tetracycline-based products registered for veterinary use in New Zealand. Tetracycline is not manufactured in New Zealand and cannot be imported as a personal or unaccompanied consignment.

If you're asked for comment on the current detections in dairy products, the information above provides the facts related to the current situation.

Tail docking of dogs banned

Minister Nathan Guy announced today that non-therapeutic tail docking of dogs will be banned from 1 October 2018.

This brings New Zealand in line with about 30 countries or territories including Australia (since 2004), the UK, parts of Canada and most of Europe where the routine docking of dogs' tails for non-therapeutic reasons is banned or restricted.

Veterinarians will still be able to dock a dog's tail for therapeutic reasons.

This aligns with the Code of Professional Conduct, which says that '*the amputation of all or part of a dog's tail without having a justifiable medical reason or because the dog is a particular breed, type or conformation is unacceptable*'.

More information on the animal welfare regulations released today can be found on the [MPI website](#).



Advertising your services

We get a surprising number of vets raising concerns about a neighbouring clinic's advertising.

[The Code](#) is clear about comparative advertising.

When promoting services and products:

- *Veterinarians must act fairly representing their capability and competence accurately;*
- *Veterinarians must not exaggerate any claim or comparison of the service or product over another or overstate their skills and knowledge by using misleading descriptors.*

Any claims in your advertising must be able to be substantiated. You can't say you're the best at something, or have the best facilities, unless you can substantiate that claim or the claim is an obvious hyperbole. The [Commerce Commission](#) has more advice on this.

If you make a claim that you can't or don't substantiate, it could be a breach of the Code and advertising standards.