



August 2017

We're moving!

We're moving to a new office on Brandon Street in central Wellington. The new office is slightly smaller, but in a building with a high earthquake rating (100% of the new building standard).

The office will be **closed on Friday 25 August** while we move to the new building. We hope to be up and running for business as usual on Monday 28 August – but please bear with us if there are any hiccups along the way.

Our contact details stay the same. You can contact us on 04 473 9600 or email vet@vetcouncil.org.nz.

If you need to contact us urgently on Friday 25th, you can call Sean on 029 931 2654.

We won't have access to our files during the move. We recommend you email us and we'll respond once we're up and running.



Update from the Chair

We've been putting a lot of work into our professional standards documents since my last update to you. When Council met in Wellington on 9 and 10 August, we talked about two key pieces of work: the ongoing review of the Code; and what the new proposed Animal Welfare Regulations will mean for veterinarians.

Code update

The Professional Standards Committee has now completed its review of the Veterinary Medicines section of the Code.

Changes include:

- a new section on antibiotics
- some changes and clarification on authorisation processes for production animal veterinarians
- recording and reconciliation of controlled drugs.

Some of the changes identify new or stricter requirements. These have been considered at length by the Professional Standards Committee and the Council, and are thought necessary to ensure better stewardship and in order to more appropriately manage risks associated with the use of these products.

The updated section is nearly ready for your feedback and we'll send it out for consultation within the next few weeks. The Code sets important minimum standards for all veterinarians, so we encourage you all to read the proposed revisions and send us your comments. Your feedback is important to us and will be taken into account before finalising the changes.

Disbudding and dehorning

The Council strongly supports mandatory use of local anaesthetic as a minimum requirement for disbudding calves and dehorning cattle.

I recently met with Minister Nathan Guy and representatives from MPI to discuss the provision of pain relief to non-veterinarians for disbudding and dehorning, as part of the proposed regulations for the Animal Welfare Act. We talked about the roles and responsibilities veterinarians will have around training farmers, and the supply and stewardship of the restricted veterinary medicines that will be needed for pain relief.

The Council be developing a statement of minimum professional standards around disbudding and dehorning. This will include principles from the Code, and will clarify for veterinarians what the minimum requirements are when they're approached by a farmer or technician wanting to disbud/dehorn their own animals.

The statement will be developed by the Professional Standards Committee, and will go out for consultation once it's drafted.

We're expecting the guidance to cover:

- what to do when someone requests local anaesthetic for disbudding/dehorning
- choosing between veterinary operating instructions and authorisation
- the risks associated with authorising local anaesthetic, and how to manage them
- when you can refuse to provide local anaesthetic

The office will keep you updated as work on these documents progresses.

New Therapeutic Products Bill

Sean McKinley and Wayne Ricketts have met with Ministry of Health officials to discuss how the new Therapeutic Products Bill might impact on veterinarians. The key change VCNZ is

pushing for is for vets to be able to purchase section 29 drugs legally again. MoH believe this is very likely to be addressed in the new Bill.

The Bill is likely to be discussed in Parliament at the end of this year or early 2018, with implementation likely to be at the end of next year.

The Ministry of Health is also looking to review the Misuse of Drugs Regulations next year, and Wayne and I attended a meeting with MoH to discuss areas of concern for VCNZ and veterinarians.

Other news from the August meeting

The Council's governance responsibilities mean time is spent at each meeting reviewing the annual plan, budgets, and policies. Work continues on creating a set of resources for newly registered veterinarians. Time is also spent discussing any veterinarians with registration, conduct, health, and competence concerns that need to be reviewed by Council.

I look forward to updating you all after our next meeting in November. If you're in Hamilton, don't forget that we're meeting with local vets on the evening of Wednesday 22 November. We hope to see you there.

CPD cycle

The CPD cycle finishes on 31 December 2017 - not 2018 as advised in NZVA VetLearn material.

Any points earned up until 31 December **cannot** be carried over into 2018. Points start again at zero from 1 January 2018

Veterinary bonding scheme



Are you a new graduate working in a rural area? You may be able to get funding through MPI's Voluntary Bonding Scheme, which aims to attract and retain graduate vets into rural practice.

Applications close at 3pm, Monday 28 August 2017. Visit the [MPI website](#) for more information and the application form.

More on privacy

In our [May update](#), we talked about releasing records under the Privacy Act. Under [Principle 11](#) of the Privacy Act, you can release a client's records without their permission if the request is from an organisation that's upholding the law.

If an Animal Welfare Inspector (SPCA or MPI), Dog Control Officer, or Police Officer asks you for

information about a client's animal, a good option is to request a **production order**. This is a formal request which details the information asked for, and compels you to provide it. This means you're covering your client confidentiality obligations.

We also recommend that you note discussions with the officer of the law on the client's file.

Contact the [Office of the Privacy Commissioner](#) if you need more advice.



Update from the SPCA

In May, we told you that we were meeting with the SPCA, following queries from vets about the SPCA's role and responsibilities. We said we'd report back after our June meeting. With the changes to the SPCA structure, we now won't have a further update for you until later in the year. We'll keep you posted!

Animal welfare regulations

New animal welfare regulations were signed off by Cabinet in July. The 46 regulations include stock transport, farm husbandry, companion and working animals, pigs, layer hens and the way animals are accounted for in research, testing and teaching. These follow the young calf regulations which were introduced last year. A full list of the new regulations can be found on the [MPI website](#).

Most of the new regulations are expected to come into effect in October 2018. There's a useful A3 sized poster that provides a quick overview of the new regulations which can also be found at the above website. We (and NZVA) will keep you posted with more information over the coming months.



Save the date

VCNZ is holding a Q and A session for local vets in Hamilton on 22 November. This is your opportunity to come along and talk to your Council. We'll send more details closer to the time.