



# VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA 2021 e-BULLETIN #18

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### VSBSA e-Bulletin – Veterinary Surgeons

#### Key Points:

1. Ehrlichia canis has been detected in the APY lands in South Australia – nationally notifiable disease detection update
2. The Dog and Cat Management Board is hosting Dogs and Cats Online information sessions on 23 April 2021 and 29 April 2021 for veterinary practices
3. Reminder to veterinary surgeons – obligation to inform the VSBSA of any changes to your residential address, business address, email address or name
4. Reminder to veterinary services providers – obligation to provide information to the VSBSA
5. Continuing professional development (CPD) – new VSBSA CPD Guidelines commenced 1 January 2021 and apply to all registered veterinary surgeons (including those who are not practising)

### 1. Ehrlichia canis – Nationally notifiable disease detection update (April 2021)

*This item has been prepared by the Chief Veterinary Officer of South Australia, Biosecurity SA, Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA). If you have any questions or concerns about the item, please contact PIRSA directly.*

Further to PIRSA's update in February on Ehrlichia canis detections in ticks from dogs in northern South Australia, there has been a confirmed clinical case of ehrlichiosis in a dog that was living in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in the far north of the State.

More surveillance in tick samples has also confirmed that infected ticks are now present across the APY lands.

A PIRSA media release was issued on 16 April 2021 on this new information regarding the occurrence of E.canis.

Please note the following:



# VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- In areas where tick numbers are high, or E.canis cases are known to occur, please urge dog owners to ensure dogs are on an appropriate tick repellent program (repellent tick collars and spot-ons may be used in combination with tablets and chews), and inspect dogs regularly for ticks
- Movement of dogs from tick infested areas interstate and within South Australia should only occur if dogs are healthy, tick free and on a current tick control program (this includes rescue dogs)
- PIRSA is still offering testing of suspect cases at no charge, but must be contacted first (contact details below)
- E.canis is notifiable under the *Livestock Act 1997* and suspicion of the disease must be reported to the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**

Updated information for veterinary surgeons about Ehrlichia canis is now available: [PIRSA Nationally Notifiable Disease Detection Update \(April 2021\)](#)

If you require further information, please see PIRSA's updated [Ehrlichiosis disease in dogs](#) web page, contact the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888, or Dr Allison Crawley on 0459 888 133 or [allison.crawley@sa.gov.au](mailto:allison.crawley@sa.gov.au)

Please be alert for this disease in South Australia and assist PIRSA with its communication efforts to get this important information out to dog owners.

## 2. Dogs and Cats Online – Information sessions for veterinary practices: Friday 23 April 2021 and Thursday 29 April 2021

*This item has been prepared by the Dog and Cat Management Board. If you have any questions or concerns about the item, please contact the Dog and Cat Management Board directly.*

### Unleash the benefits of Dogs and Cats Online

The Dog and Cat Management Board is hosting four Dogs and Cats Online information sessions exclusively for the veterinary services industry.

The information sessions will help veterinary practice staff who record dog and cat microchip or desexing procedures and will benefit all practices, whether or not they currently use Dogs and Cats Online

If your practice isn't using Dogs and Cats Online, you'll learn how easy it is and the benefits it offers you and your clients.

If your practice is using Dogs and Cats Online, find out how to get the most from it to streamline your processes, save time and money.



# VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

These are live presentations so you'll have plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

Please pass this information onto your training and administration manager and encourage staff to book now.

## Bookings

To book your place, send an email to [mandy.barlow@sa.gov.au](mailto:mandy.barlow@sa.gov.au), stating your name and the session you'd like to attend. A link with instructions for joining your session will be sent to you within 24 hours.

- Friday 23 April, 10:00-11:30am
- Friday 23 April, 2:00-3:30pm
- Thursday 29 April, 2:30-4:00pm
- Thursday 29 April, 6:30-8:00pm

## About Dogs and Cats Online

All 68 local councils, the RSPCA SA, Animal Welfare League SA, assistance dog organisations, Greyhound Racing SA and the State's dog and cat breeders use Dogs and Cats Online.

Approximately 80% of South Australia's veterinary practices are using the Dogs and Cats Online system to record and access desex and microchip data.

## About the Trainer

Monica Faulkner is a key member of the Dogs and Cats Online support team. Having been with the Dog and Cat Management Board since 2014, she's been closely involved with Dogs and Cats Online since 2017 before its launch in 2018.

Monica now offers advice and training to help owners, councils and industry users navigate the system which has become a valuable tool for state-wide dog and cat management. She has created video tutorials and training guides and is currently completing a certificate in training and assessment.

## 3. Reminder to Veterinary Surgeons – Inform the VSBSA of any changes to your contact details or name

Veterinary surgeons must inform the VSBSA in writing of any change to their personal (residential) address, business address or name within three months of the change (section 31 of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*).

If you need to notify the VSBSA of a change of personal (residential) address or business address, please email: [admin@vsbsa.org.au](mailto:admin@vsbsa.org.au)



# VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

If you need to notify the VSBSA of a change of name, please send a letter requesting that your name be changed on the register(s) and provide an original certified copy of the relevant certificate (e.g. marriage certificate or change of name certificate). The VSBSA's postal address is GPO Box 11020, Adelaide SA 5001.

To ensure you receive VSBSA e-Bulletins and other important correspondence, veterinary surgeons should inform the VSBSA of any changes to their email address.

If you need to notify the VSBSA of a change of email address, please email: [admin@vsbsa.org.au](mailto:admin@vsbsa.org.au)

## 4. Reminder to Veterinary Services Providers – Obligation to provide information to the VSBSA

A veterinary services provider (VSP) is "a person (not being a veterinary surgeon) who provides veterinary treatment through the instrumentality of a veterinary surgeon" (section 3(1) of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*).

A VSP may be a company, a trust, or a person who is not registered as a veterinary surgeon.

For example:

- if company owns a veterinary practice, the company is a VSP
- if the trustees of a trust own a veterinary practice, the trust (consisting of the trustees and the beneficiaries) is a VSP
- if a lay person (not being a veterinary surgeon) owns a veterinary practice either in their own right or in partnership with a veterinary surgeon or veterinary surgeons, the lay person is a VSP

A VSP has obligations to provide certain information to the VSBSA (section 50 of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*)

A VSP must, within 60 days of becoming a VSP, provide to the VSBSA in writing:

- the VSP's full name and business or (in the case of a company) registered address
- the address of the premises at which the VSP provides veterinary treatment
- the full names and business addresses of the veterinary surgeons through the instrumentality of whom the VSP is providing veterinary treatment
- if the VSP is a trust or company, the full names and addresses of all persons who occupy a position of authority in the trust or company

A VSP must, within 30 days of any change occurring in the above details, inform the VSBSA of the change in writing.



# VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The [VSBSA's website](#) includes information about VSPs and how they can provide information to the VSBSA.

## 5. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – VSBSA CPD Guidelines are applicable to all registered veterinary surgeons

The VSBSA's [Continuing Professional Development Guidelines](#) apply to all veterinary surgeons and veterinary specialists with primary registration in South Australia including:

- veterinary surgeons who are recent graduates
- veterinary surgeons and veterinary specialists who are undertaking postgraduate studies
- veterinary surgeons and veterinary specialists who are not providing veterinary treatment for fee or reward

CPD provides a foundation for compliance with the VSBSA's [Code of Professional Conduct](#), and to uphold the public's trust and confidence in the profession.

Veterinary surgeons must maintain CPD records which describe their CPD activity and how that activity has maintained and/or developed their knowledge or skills in professional practice. This involves recording the following information for each item of CPD activity:

- The learning outcome of the activity (a description of what was learnt)
- The impact of the activity (a description of how the activity benefited or will benefit an area(s) of professional practice)

The following material was recently added to the VSBSA's website to enhance understanding of the CPD record keeping requirements:

- [Reflecting on your Continuing Professional Development: Questions and Answers and Prompts for Reflection](#)
- [Maintaining Continuing Professional Development Records: CPD Planning, CPD Recording and Examples of CPD Records](#)

19 April 2021