

Dr Isaac Graham, Associate Veterinarian
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Question: Exhaustive list of the types of services lay people are performing which encroach on the veterinary industry?

Answer:

I will begin by providing a definition from the AVA website of an act of veterinary science. "An 'act of veterinary science' means services which form part of the practice of veterinary surgery and medicine, and includes:

- the diagnostic confirmation of, treatment of, and provision of management advice for infectious disease, physiological dysfunction, psychological dysfunction and injury in animals;
- performing invasive or surgical procedures on animals;
- administering anaesthetics to animals;
- the exercise of prescribing rights for veterinary chemicals, medicines or poisons which may be restricted by scheduling or registered label; and
- the provision of veterinary certificates."

My list includes:

- Equine lay tooth floaters
- Cattle reproductive technicians. Some of their work can include embryo transfer, artificial insemination, bull semen testing, pregnancy testing
- Dog and cat groomers offering anaesthetic free dental care
- Farriers administering sedatives
- Rural store providers diagnosing, health conditions in production animals.

Of these I have to mention that equine tooth floaters are my biggest concern. This profession are acting illegally in many instances with some using power tools to rasp teeth, some using sedation and some performing extractions. All which are already covered as an act of veterinary science. "For example, a veterinarian may directly supervise and provide sedation during a manual rasp and file of a horse's teeth by a Certificate IV level lay equine dental service provider. Veterinarians assisting, employing or supervising laypersons must be available to assess, correct and intervene as required, and remain ultimately responsible for the animal's health and welfare." This excerpt is taken also directly from the AVA website in regards to lay people performing equine dentary. I am personally aware of some lay people who video chat a 'vet' and this vet then allows them to use sedation and perform procedures etc. As stated here the vet must be able to assess and correct the work done. In this instance both parties are operating illegally.

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Question: Which of the 16 AVA recommendations do you either strongly support or disagree with?

Answer:

Recommendation 1: I strongly support the continued recognition and support of veterinarians at the forefront for EAD's.

2: I also support this recommendation, as government veterinarians are extremely important to both private practise veterinarians and the agricultural industry to prevent and maintain disease outbreaks.

3: I am unsure how beneficial this funding would be

4: I don't think this is the NSW government's place to be funding campaigns such as this. We are a private sector and should be through the AVA itself and their own funding.

5: This potentially could be beneficial.

6: Unsure

7: I don't believe this is the NSW government's job to be funding such activities. I don't believe a 'thinktank' would actually be beneficial due to the diverse nature of the industry.

8: Strongly agree.

9: Strongly agree

10: Very strongly agree

11: Unsure

12: Unsure

13: Unsure if this would be money well spent

14: I support the idea of safeguarding the role of a veterinarian. I do not support deregulation of any acts of veterinary medicine.

15: Strongly agree

16: Strongly agree