



VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS BOARD  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## Practising in accordance with statutory obligations

A veterinary practitioner should be familiar with and maintain their knowledge of all laws, regulations, guidelines, codes and standards that affect their practice of veterinary science. The scope of relevant laws, codes, guidelines and standards is broad and administered by a range of authorities within the three levels of government.

The [Veterinary Practice Act 2018](#) empowers the Board to register veterinary practitioners, to investigate the professional conduct of registered veterinary practitioners and to issue guidelines on appropriate standards of veterinary practice and veterinary facilities.

There are a number of laws and regulations that impact the delivery of veterinary services including:

1. the supply, dispensing and storage of poisons, medications and therapeutic substances
2. control of the use, keeping and disposal of radioactive substances and ionising radioactive apparatus for therapeutic and diagnostic purposes
3. animal welfare
4. occupational health and safety
5. biosecurity, and
6. environmental protection, including waste disposal.

Additional standards and guidelines relevant to veterinary practice include:

1. [Animal Welfare Act 1992](#)
2. ACT codes of practice for animal welfare
3. Australian animal welfare standards and guidelines
4. ACT local Rules of racing.

The above lists are not exhaustive but serve to demonstrate the diversity of statutory instruments that regulate and impact the practice of veterinary science and the delivery of veterinary services. Laws and regulations relating to areas outside veterinary practice include obligations requiring veterinary practitioners and their employers to operate businesses to a standard expected by the public and relevant authorities.

Professional conduct under this policy is demonstrated by the following:

- A veterinary practitioner is familiar with and practises in accordance with legislation, codes and standards relevant to their practice of veterinary science and delivery of veterinary services.
- A veterinary practitioner ensures that they hold current relevant permits and licences necessary for them to deliver veterinary services.

- A veterinary practitioner practises in a manner that adheres to the statutory obligations imposed on them by the *Veterinary Practice Act 2018*, the [Veterinary Practice Regulation 2018 \(Regulation\)](#), and [Veterinary Practitioners Code of Professional Conduct \(Code of Conduct\)](#).
- A veterinary practitioner practises in a manner so they do not commit offences described in the *Veterinary Practice Act 2018*.