



VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS BOARD
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Continuing care after-hours

Veterinary practitioners must, when accepting an animal for diagnosis or treatment: (a) ensure that they are available for the ongoing care of the animal or (b), if they will not be so available, make arrangements for another veterinary practitioner within reasonable proximity to take over the care of the animal.

A veterinary practitioner must ensure that their patients can access continuing care after-hours in the case of an emergency.

It is expected that all veterinary businesses that provide a clinical service to the public should make suitable provision for after-hours service, whether that be by making a veterinary practitioner available to provide direct after-hours service or facilitating appropriate redirection arrangements with an alternative, agreeable veterinary practitioner who is located within reasonable proximity.

Alternate veterinary services may be provided by redirection to another veterinary practitioner or emergency centre, located within reasonable proximity, by means of suitable telephone message and signage on the veterinary premises.

There should be a telephone redirection made and a mutual agreement with another practice.