



VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS BOARD
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Veterinary facilities, equipment and assistance in the provision of veterinary services

A veterinary practitioner should satisfy themselves that appropriate approval or licensing requirements for a veterinary facility, including mobile veterinary facilities and equipment used in their provision of veterinary services, is current.

A veterinary practitioner providing emergency veterinary services in an adverse environment must take into account how their ability to control the facilities, equipment and assistance is impacted by the situation and make reasonable adjustments without compromising the standard of their provision of veterinary services.

From time to time individuals other than veterinary practitioners may be required to provide assistance in carrying out assessments or procedures. Before accepting such assistance, a veterinary practitioner should consider the individual's knowledge, skills and capacity to assist in the specific situation.

Where an individual other than a veterinary practitioner uses equipment to support their assistance, a veterinary practitioner must be satisfied that the person is familiar with and instructed in the use of the equipment (including required safety measures associated with its use).

A veterinary practitioner should adopt practices that mitigate cross contamination of veterinary facilities and non-veterinary facilities such as farms, stables and kennels/catteries/animal shelters through storage, handling, and cleaning and disinfecting equipment and facility work surfaces.

Procedures routinely performed in a veterinary clinic, hospital or consulting rooms may be exposed to additional risks when undertaken in a mobile clinic, off site or as part of a house call. A veterinary practitioner should consider how the additional risks may impact the provision of veterinary services and communicate the consequences of this impact to the owner and other relevant individuals before carrying out the procedure.

Professional conduct under this policy is demonstrated by the following:

- A veterinary practitioner ensures that the environment, equipment and assistance available are appropriate for the veterinary services that they deliver.
- A veterinary practitioner takes reasonable measures to ensure all persons assisting in the provision of veterinary services to an animal in their care have the knowledge, skills and capacity to enable them to perform the relevant activity.
- A veterinary practitioner must inform the animal's owner of the limitations and/or additional risks associated with the veterinary facility so their consent to treatment or procedures is fully informed.

- Where a procedure requires an animal to be under sedation or anaesthesia, a veterinary practitioner remains at the veterinary facility or location where the procedure was carried out and supervises the animal until it is able to stand and walk unaided (except where injury precludes ambulation).
- A veterinary practitioner must provide the owner with details of how to access veterinary assistance in the event of unanticipated problems or complications following procedures or treatment.