



VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS BOARD
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Working in area of competence and limitations policy

Veterinary practitioners must work within their areas of competence and be mindful of their limitations.

When needed veterinary practitioners should seek appropriate assistance from within the practice or by consulting or referring to other experienced veterinary practitioners.

Recently graduated veterinary practitioners, returning to clinical practice practitioners and those changing their area of practice must recognise their limitations and work within them.

Examples: A veterinary practitioner who has not worked or who has been working in a governmental role for the last 5 years may be looking to return to some clinical work on weekends. The veterinary practitioner has a professional duty to ensuring that there will be adequate and appropriate direct supervision from another experienced practitioner within the practice until their competency is at an appropriate standard to practice alone and that they undertake a CPD plan relevant to this clinical practice. If direct supervision cannot be provided by the practice they should not take this position. The practice likewise has an obligation to ensuring that adequate supervision can be provided for any practitioner returning to clinical practice.

This policy aligns with the ACT Veterinary Practitioners Code of Professional Conduct which states:

- A veterinary practitioner must utilise the skills of colleagues, by consultation or referral, where appropriate.
- Before undertaking practice in a particular area of veterinary science, a veterinary practitioner must ensure that he or she has the knowledge and competence necessary to practise in that area.

(Refer to the Recency of Practice Policy that covers this in more detail).