



NSW Veterinary Hospital Licence Guidelines Small Animals

Background

A veterinary practitioner must only perform major surgery (surgery that requires a general or spinal anaesthetic), in premises that are licensed as a veterinary hospital and that licence authorises major surgery of the type concerned to be carried out at those premises.

It is the intent of the act to have a licence fit for the purpose specified.

Premises will have either a **large** animal hospital licence OR **small** animal hospital licence OR a **mixed** animal hospital licence. The requirements for these types of licences are listed below.

Exemptions from some of the requirements for certain specialty hospitals (eg a veterinary eye hospital) will be considered by the Board.

The Board may impose conditions on a licence limiting the types of major surgery that can be performed. A sign specifying the types or types of surgery that are authorised must be visibly displayed in the hospital.

A hospital must provide acceptable care for animals before, during and after major surgery. In the past, "after hours responsibility" was part of the requirements for the old Class A hospital licence but under the Veterinary Practice Act Regulations 'Code of Professional Conduct', all veterinary practitioners have a responsibility to ensure they are available for the ongoing care of animals that they have treated, or make arrangements for another veterinary practitioner to take over the care of the animal. For example, a practitioner who carries out an ovariohysterectomy on a dog or cat is required to have in place after hours care should it be required.

A licence is not required if a practice is not performing major surgery.

For the purposes of this guideline;
"Small animal" means to include dogs, cats, aviary birds, aquarium fish, ferrets, rabbits, mice, rats, snakes, lizards and most Australian wildlife,
"Large animal" means to include equidae, pigs, ruminants, deer, camelids and their young.

A Hospital Licensed to carry out Major Surgery

1 Essential Requirements

[1] must:

- (a) be located at premises that are in good condition with the immediate surrounding areas and the interior of the premises maintained in a clean, orderly and sanitary condition, and
- (b) be designed and constructed so as to prevent the escape of an animal brought into the premises and to ensure the effective confinement of that animal at all times, and
- (c) have internal walls and floors that can be easily cleaned and disinfected, and
- (d) have adequate ventilation and be free from offensive odours, and
- (e) have a supply of potable water available at a pressure and in a quantity sufficient for the needs of the hospital, and
- (f) be supplied with electricity sufficient for the needs of the hospital, and
- (g) have lighting in all rooms that is adequate for the purposes for which the room is to be used, and
- (h) have facilities and equipment for adequately heating and cooling the interior of the hospital if required, and
- (i) have facilities and equipment for the hygienic disposal of soiled dressings, animal tissue, animal bedding, animal excreta, dead animals and any other contaminated or unwholesome matter arising from the operation of the hospital, except in so far as other arrangements have been made for the matter to be removed from the hospital in a hygienic manner, and
- (j) have a reception area of a size and design, and with a seating capacity appropriate for the size of hospital.

2 Examination Facilities

- (1) Each hospital licensed to carry out major surgery must have a separate room for carrying out examinations of animals.
- (2) The examination room:
 - (a) must be equipped with:
 - (i) an examination table that is capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected, and
 - (ii) a suitable hand wash basin supplied with hot and cold water, and
 - (iii) instruments and equipment necessary to conduct thorough clinical examinations of animals, and
 - (b) must be equipped with, or have readily available from elsewhere on the premises:
 - (i) facilities and equipment for the sterilisation of those instruments and equipment, and
 - (ii) a supply of drugs adequate for thorough veterinary treatment of animals, and
 - (iii) drug storage facilities that can be locked up and provide a standard of security for those drugs as required by or under the Poisons & Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 .

3 Operating facilities

- (1) The hospital must have a separate surgical room that is equipped with appliances for carrying out surgical procedures to an acceptable outcome with regard to current standards and:
 - (a) is not a general thoroughfare.
 - (b) be equipped to perform intubation, provide and monitor gaseous anaesthesia and oxygen and administer fluid supportive therapy, and
 - (c) all surgical instruments used at the hospital to be properly sterilised, and
 - (d) the ability for personal pre surgical preparation by veterinary practitioners must be provided at the premises.

4 Laboratory facilities

A hospital must have adequate facilities and equipment to enable routine diagnostic testing to be carried out.

5 Radiographic equipment

A veterinary hospital must have facilities and equipment for:

- (a) the taking of radiograph films, and
- (b) the processing and viewing of radiographs,

That are suitable and adequate for the needs of the hospital as specified by the licence, unless the Board otherwise approves.

6 Animal accommodation facilities

A veterinary hospital must have:

- (a) facilities (including accommodation areas) adequate for the number and nature of the animals to be accommodated at the hospital, and
- (b) accommodation areas that are constructed with walls and floors of non-permeable materials and have cages which can be easily cleaned and disinfected, and
- (c) facilities and equipment for the storage and preparation of food for consumption by animals, being facilities and equipment that:
 - (i) are separated from other areas of the hospital, and
 - (ii) are free from vermin, and
 - (iii) can be easily cleaned and disinfected, and
- (d) facilities for isolating animals that are suffering from suspected infectious diseases separate to all other areas of the hospital so as to prevent the spread of the disease to those other areas, and
- (e) facilities and equipment for adequately heating and cooling the interior of animal accommodation areas.

7 Signage

A licensed veterinary hospital must have a sign displayed in the reception area informing clients entering the practice of the types of major surgery which are authorised to be performed.