



# Veterinary Practice Board of Western Australia



## ADVANCED VETERINARY NURSE REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

Advanced Veterinary Nurse recognition acknowledges that modern veterinary practice requires veterinary nurses and technologists to possess and utilise higher level degrees of knowledge, skill development, and competence.

This category has a clear application pathway and formally acknowledges veterinary nurses and technologists who have demonstrated a higher level of knowledge and skills determined by their level of education and practical experience. It sets a standardised benchmark when performing acts of veterinary medicine, with specific supervision requirements, maintaining the standards of patient care and safety within the profession.

The Advanced Veterinary Nurse - Restricted category of recognition was introduced as an interim measure to recognise experienced veterinary nurses actively working in practice who have gained advanced knowledge and skills through informal education and experience but do not hold formal higher-level qualifications at this time. Under the conditions applied in this category of recognition, this allows them the opportunity to practice acts of veterinary medicine ([Veterinary Practice Regulations 2022](#) - Schedule 4) at the advanced level while encouraging further educational opportunities in the future which would then enable them to apply for recognition as an Advanced Veterinary Nurse.

Application forms for all categories can be found [here](#).

### Advanced Veterinary Nurse

To qualify for this a general veterinary nurse must:

- Possess a qualification at Diploma or Bachelor level that is approved by the Board – see [Appendix A](#) (this is not an exhaustive list).
- Provide a declaration from a supervising veterinarian stating that they have the competency and skills to perform or be trained in the advanced veterinary nurse acts of veterinary medicine.

### Advanced Veterinary Nurse – Student

Students currently enrolled in a higher level qualification that will qualify them for full AVN recognition on graduation ([Appendix A](#)) may apply for AVN-S recognition which will allow them to perform all of the acts of veterinary medicine that an AVN can perform under the personal supervision of a veterinarian.

To qualify for this a general veterinary nurse must:

- Provide proof that they are enrolled in a qualification that is approved by the Board for full recognition as an advanced veterinary nurse– see [Appendix A](#).
- Provide a declaration from a supervising veterinarian stating that they have the competency and skills to perform or be trained in the advanced veterinary nurse acts of veterinary medicine.

There is no cost associated with this application however this type of registration is only valid while you are enrolled in the approved course you list in your application. Upon completion of the course, to continue to practise as an Advanced Veterinary Nurse you must apply for full recognition as an Advanced Veterinary Nurse as well as hold registration as a general veterinary nurse.

Approved applicants will not be permitted to use the term “Advanced Veterinary Nurse” or any other grammatical form or abbreviation.

**Postal Address:** Po Box 1721 Melville South WA 6156

**Office:** Suite 1, First Floor, Melville Professional Centre, 275 Marmion Street, Melville WA 6156

**Telephone:** (08) 9317 2353 **Email:** [admin@vpbwa.org.au](mailto:admin@vpbwa.org.au) **Website:** [www.vpbwa.org.au](http://www.vpbwa.org.au)

## **Advanced Veterinary Nurse – Restricted**

To qualify for this a general veterinary nurse must

- Possess a qualification Certificate IV in veterinary nursing or [recognised equivalent](#);
- Have been registered as a general veterinary nurse and worked in veterinary clinical practice for at least five years.
- Provide a declaration from the **veterinary supervisor of the clinic** stating that they have the competency and skills to perform or be trained in initially up to three of the advanced veterinary nurse acts of veterinary medicine that only AVNs may perform. The initial total of three includes any changes to performing acts of veterinary medicine at the AVN supervision level.
- The veterinary supervisor **MUST** provide justification as to why it is necessary for the applicant to perform the specified AVN acts of veterinary medicine or be permitted to perform the acts of veterinary medicine at the level of supervision of an AVN at their practice.

Approval will only be given to perform the AVN acts of veterinary medicine at the supervising veterinarian's practice however once approved, ANY veterinarian at the practice may supervise the Advanced Veterinary Nurse - Restricted

Approved applicants will not be permitted to use the term "Advanced Veterinary Nurse" or any other grammatical form or abbreviation.

Once they are trained and have demonstrated competency in the initial procedures for they may apply for further procedures.

## **FAQ's**

### **Once approved do I have to renew my registration as an AVN or AVN-R?**

Your registration as an AVN continues as long as you are registered as a general veterinary nurse.

Your registration as an AVN-R continues as long as you are registered as a general veterinary nurse and the details of your veterinary supervisor and practice remain the same.

### **I don't work with the veterinary supervisor of my clinic, can another veterinarian sign off for me?**

The Board has determined that the Veterinary Supervisor of the premises must be the individual who signs the declaration as they are responsible for the overall veterinary management of the premises and have oversight of all veterinary staff.

The Board acknowledges that a Veterinary Supervisor may not work directly with the veterinary nurse applying for AVN-R recognition. However, the Veterinary Supervisor should ensure that appropriate protocols for training and competency are in place. If the veterinarian who directly supervises the veterinary nurse (e.g., a Head of Department) confirms that the veterinary nurse possesses the necessary skills and competency to perform acts of veterinary medicine, that is sufficient evidence for the Veterinary Supervisor to make the required declaration.

### **Can I apply for more than 3 of the acts of veterinary medicine that an AVN can perform?**

Initially you may only apply for up to 3 acts of veterinary medicine that an AVN can perform. You may apply for more 3 months after your initial approval by providing proof that you are competent in the acts that you have been approved for. The proof can be provided in the form of a log signed by a supervising veterinarian recording that you have performed the previously approved acts at least 20 times to the required standard.

## ADVANCED VETERINARY NURSE – ACTS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

**Table 1** sets out the acts of veterinary medicine that veterinary nurses may currently perform under personal supervision. Advanced veterinary nurses may perform these acts under a lower level of supervision.

**Table 2** sets out acts of veterinary medicine that only advanced veterinary nurses may perform.

**TABLE 1**

Item	Act	Required supervision of general veterinary nurse	Required supervision of advanced veterinary nurse
4.	Administering a general anaesthetic to an animal other than in accordance with item 3.	personal supervision	direct supervision
5.	Monitoring and maintaining general anaesthesia in an animal.	personal supervision	direct supervision
17.	External coaptation of an animal's limb.	personal supervision	direct supervision
18.	Inserting or removing any of the following in an animal — (a) an endoscope; (b) a nasal tube; (c) a nasogastric tube; (d) an oesophageal tube; (e) an orogastric tube.	personal supervision	direct supervision
19.	Inserting an endotracheal tube in an animal.	personal supervision	direct supervision

**TABLE 2**

Item	Act of veterinary medicine	Required supervision
2.	Administering pentobarbitone intravenously to animals that are not wildlife for the purpose of euthanasia.	direct supervision
8.	Administering a nerve block.	direct supervision
9.	Administering a local anaesthetic to an animal other than as specified in items 7 and 8.	personal supervision
14.	Collecting urine from an animal using ultrasound guided cystocentesis.	direct supervision
15.	Performing peripheral incisional dermal biopsy of an animal.	personal supervision
20.	Inserting an intra-arterial or intravenous catheter in an animal using the cut-down method.	direct supervision
21.	Inserting an intraosseous catheter in an animal.	direct supervision

22.	Inserting a urinary catheter in an animal that does not have a urethral obstruction.	direct supervision
23.	Inserting a feeding tube in an animal using surgical means.	personal supervision
24.	Performing peritoneal lavage on an animal using an indwelling drain placed by a veterinarian.	direct supervision
25.	Castrating a cat.	direct supervision

## DEFINITIONS

**Veterinary Supervisor** – in respect of veterinary premises, means a veterinarian who is approved as the supervising veterinarian of a veterinary premises and is responsible for the overall veterinary management of the premises.

**Advanced Veterinary Nurse (AVN)** – a general veterinary nurse who has qualifications, competency and skills that the Board considers sufficient for them to be recognised as an advanced veterinary nurse.

**Advanced Veterinary Nurse Restricted (AVN-R)** – a general veterinary nurse who has competency and skills that the Board considers sufficient for them to perform or be trained in initially up to three of the advanced veterinary nurse acts of veterinary medicine that only AVNs may perform. The initial total of three includes any changes to performing acts of veterinary medicine at the AVN supervision level.

Supervision type	What is required
<b>General</b>	<p>The veterinarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• instructs the supervised person before the act is carried out</li> <li>• directs the supervised person to carry out the act</li> <li>• is present in the State [of WA] and available to be consulted during the act</li> <li>• provides any further instruction or guidance required</li> </ul> <p>Supervised person carries out the act in accordance with veterinarian's instructions and guidance</p>
<b>Direct</b>	<p>The veterinarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• instructs the supervised person before the act is carried out</li> <li>• directs the supervised person to carry out the act</li> <li>• remains on the premises while the act is carried out</li> <li>• provides appropriate oversight and evaluation of the act</li> <li>• provides further instruction, guidance, or assistance if required</li> </ul> <p>Supervised person carries out the act in accordance with veterinarian's instructions and guidance</p>
<b>Personal</b>	<p>The veterinarian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• instructs the supervised person before the act is carried out</li> <li>• directs the supervised person to carry out the act</li> <li>• is present [with the person] while the act is being carried out</li> <li>• oversees and evaluates the carrying out of the act</li> <li>• provides further instruction</li> </ul> <p>Supervised person carries out the act in accordance with veterinarian's instructions and guidance</p>