



VETERINARY PRACTICE BOARD WESTERN AUSTRALIA



GUIDELINES FOR LARGE ANIMAL MOBILE VETERINARY PREMISES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PREAMBLE

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2021* (Act) specifies that a veterinary practice business is to be carried out at or from a registered veterinary premises. A veterinary practice business is a business that involves 'the practice of veterinary medicine by 1 or more veterinarians. The definition of a premises under the Act includes a vehicle.

These Guidelines describe the standard of practice expected by the Board of veterinarians operating large animal mobile veterinary facilities in Western Australia.

There are separate guidelines for veterinary house call services for small or companion animals and for small animal veterinary mobile surgical services.

APPLICATION OF THESE GUIDELINES

These Guidelines apply from and including 14 November 2023.

These Guidelines may be superseded by subsequent versions. To ascertain whether this version has been superseded, view the current version on the Board's website at www.vpbwa.org.au.

It is the responsibility of veterinarians who operate large animal mobile veterinary services, to be conversant with the current version of these Guidelines.

DEFINITIONS

The Board applies the following definitions:

large animal mobile veterinary premises is a vehicle for the delivery of diagnostic, medical and/or surgical services to large animals.

large animals include cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, alpacas and other camelids, emus, ostriches and large native animals.

A rural veterinarian who has a registered veterinary premises and provides a limited service to their clients by attending properties in their personal vehicle is not providing service through a large animal mobile veterinary premises.

INSURANCE

All veterinarians are responsible for their own insurance requirements and should seek professional advice on public liability insurance and professional indemnity insurance.

POISONS PERMIT AND RADIOLOGY LICENCE

All veterinarians must ensure that they hold the relevant permits and licences necessary for them to practise veterinary surgery, including but not limited to Poisons Permits under the Medicines and Poisons Act 2014 and Radiation Licences under the Radiation Safety Act 1975.

Drug Dispensing Labels

The Department of Health's requirements for drug dispensing labels can be found under Appendix L of the [Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons \(SUSMP\) \(external site\)](#).

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Under the SUSMP, drug dispensing labels must include the name, address and telephone number of the dispenser supplying the substance. Given that most veterinarians conduct a house call practice from their private residence, the use of a post office box on the label, rather than a physical address, is sufficient.

STANDARDS FOR LARGE ANIMAL MOBILE VETERINARY SERVICE

1. A large animal mobile veterinary facility must:
 - a) be clean and hygienic;
 - b) be secure at all times;
 - c) meet the requirements of local government by-laws, for example, the correct disposal of waste;
 - d) be fitted with a locked container attached to the body of the vehicle which is suitable for the transport of S4 and S8 drugs;
 - e) have facilities to store S4 and S8 drugs in compliance with manufacturers' recommendations, for example refrigeration; and
 - f) carry sufficient and appropriate instrumentation and equipment for the services to be performed.
2. The volume of S4 and S8 drugs held in a large animal mobile veterinary facility should be minimised as a matter of public safety, and wherever possible should be limited to the minimum required for the services to be performed.
3. Clinical records and the supply of scheduled drugs must comply with the Board's [Code of Practice](#) No.1 of 2022
4. Where practical, if an animal's condition cannot be managed appropriately at the premises or property where it is located, the animal should be transferred to a registered veterinary premises.
5. A veterinarian who performs a procedure on an animal which has been chemically restrained, for example with muscle relaxants, sedatives and/or anaesthetics, must
 - (i) if the animal is an equine, remain with the animal until it is able to stand and walk unaided;
 - (ii) if the animal is a bovine or other non-equine large animal, remain with the animal until it is in sternal recumbency.
6. Clients may only attend the veterinarian's residence to collect drugs that have been supplied to their animals.

DISCLAIMER

This document (printed, electronic or any other medium) cannot be regarded as legal advice.

Although all care has been taken in preparing these Guidelines they do not replace advice specific to the reader's circumstances. Where necessary, advice must be sought from competent legal practitioners. Neither the authors nor the Veterinary Practice Board of Western Australia accept or undertake any duty of care relating to any part of these Guidelines.