



NSW Veterinary Hospital Licence Guidelines

Background

The intent of the Act is to have a licence fit for the purpose specified. Hence an Equine Hospital which carries out major surgery will be expected to satisfy the cleanliness, design to prevent escape, appropriate anaesthetic and radiographic equipment etc...that is appropriate for a horse facility. An Eye Hospital may not necessarily have radiographic equipment however a hospital carrying out major surgery on cats and dogs would be expected to cover all the areas mentioned below including radiographic equipment. Exemption from this requirement would be very rare. A "desexing clinic", which clearly doesn't handle any medical and surgical conditions other than desexing, would be capable of an exemption. Availability of gaseous anaesthesia is a requirement of all hospitals carrying out "major surgery".

In the past "After Hours Responsibility" was part of the Regulations for the old Class A Hospitals but under the new Code of Conduct all veterinarians have a responsibility to ensure ongoing care. So veterinarians who travel through a district and castrate horses and then leave, are expected to ensure the availability of ongoing care or make arrangements with another veterinary practitioner in case the veterinary care is required. Likewise, veterinarians who carry out an ovariohysterectomy on a dog or cat are expected to have in place after hours care should it be required.

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

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 Act 1966 .

3 Operating facilities

(1) The hospital must have a separate sterile 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) is equipped to perform intubation and gaseous anaesthesia.
- (c) all surgical instruments used at the hospital to be properly sterilised, and
- (d) all usual veterinary surgical procedures (including gaseous anaesthesia, oxygen resuscitation and administration of fluid supportive therapy to animals) to be carried out in the room, and
- (e) 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.