

Introduction

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (Act) (s 9(2)) provides that unregistered persons may perform restricted acts of veterinary science under the following circumstances:

- (a) The person is the owner of the animal
- (b) The person is an employee of the owner of the animal and the act is done incidentally to the primary duties of that employment
- (c) The person is a student enrolled in a course of study referred to in the Act (s 21(1)(a)) and is doing the act as part of the requirements of that course under the direct supervision of a veterinarian
- (d) The doing of the act is necessary because the animal is in urgent need and a veterinarian is not available
- (e) The person belongs to a class of persons, or is doing the act in the circumstances prescribed by the Regulation

The *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2013* (Regulation) (cl 4(1)(c)) also provides that the restricted act of administration of an anaesthetic agent (other than a topical anaesthetic) may be performed by an unregistered person under the immediate and direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Purpose

The Act (s 35(f)) defines failure to provide adequate supervision as unsatisfactory professional conduct. The purpose of this policy is to clearly define various levels of supervision and supervision requirements to assist veterinarians in providing adequate supervision for persons under the Act (s 9(2)(c) and (e)).

Policy

1. Veterinarians providing supervision as required by the Act (s 9(2)(c)) and the Regulation (cl 4(1)(c)) are not required to submit a formal Supervising Veterinarian Declaration but are required to ensure they are aware of relevant legislation and this policy.
2. The Board accredits a number of classes of persons in accordance with the Act (s 9(2)(e)) and Regulation (cl 5) to perform one or more restricted acts of veterinary science under the supervision of a veterinarian and these veterinarians must submit a formal Supervising Veterinarian Declaration.
3. The Board will consider applications for 2. above from supervising veterinarians who either hold specialist or full (general) registration.

Procedure

1. Where the Board determines that a person must only perform a restricted act under the *immediate supervision* of a veterinarian, the supervising veterinarian must be immediately available to provide support or assistance and persons subject to this condition must only perform the approved restricted act or acts of veterinary science in the presence of the supervising veterinarian.
2. Where the Board determines that a person must only perform a restricted act under the *direct supervision* of a veterinarian, the supervising veterinarian must be readily available to provide support or assistance and persons subject to this condition must only perform the approved restricted act or acts of veterinary science when the supervising veterinarian is located at the same premises or location.
3. Where the Board determines that a person must work under the *indirect supervision* of a veterinarian, the supervising veterinarian must be available to provide timely support or assistance when required and the person subject to this condition must only perform the approved restricted act or acts of veterinary science when the supervising veterinarian is available for consultation either in person or remotely.
4. The nature of supervision may include: observation of practice; regular structured meetings; case reviews; records reviews; reports to the Board as specified in conditions; compliance reports; and other activities as requested by the Board.
5. Persons accredited under the Regulation (cl 5) are accredited for a specific period of time determined by the Board and must reapply to be accredited for any further periods.

Monitoring

1. The Board may request a list of all registrants approved as supervisors and a list of all accredited persons and or classes of accredited persons for review.
2. The Board will review conditions imposed on accredited persons at least annually.
3. The Board will review classes of persons accredited as required to ensure this accreditation status is meeting its objectives with respect to promoting animal welfare.
4. The Board may request confirmation of, or evidence in support of, compliance with conditions related to supervision from supervising veterinarians and persons performing restricted acts under supervision.

Training and Communication

The Registrar is responsible for ensuring that all persons who are involved in making a decision in relation to the accreditation of persons in accordance with the Regulation (cl 5) and supervision of non-veterinarians receive training in the implementation of this policy and relevant legislation.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Board must comply with the Code of Conduct for Board Members in relation to decisions regarding the accreditation and supervision of non-veterinarians.

Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually or as required to ensure that it remains appropriate to the operations of the Board and compliant with the relevant legislation.