



# NSW Veterinary Hospital Licence Guidelines Large 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 (see also 'Guidelines for Major Surgery to be undertaken').

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, but is not limited to, 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

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 a supply of potable water available at a pressure and in a quantity sufficient for the needs of the hospital, and
- (d) be supplied with electricity sufficient for the needs of the hospital, and
- (e) have facilities, equipment or arrangements 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, and
- (f) have equipment for the sterilisation of instruments and equipment, and
- (g) have instruments and equipment necessary to conduct clinical examinations and surgery, and
- (h) be equipped to perform intubation, provide gaseous anaesthesia and oxygen resuscitation and administer fluid supportive therapy, and
- (i) have an adequate supply of drugs and surgical supplies for the thorough veterinary treatment of large animals, and
- (j) have drug storage facilities that can be locked up to provide a standard of security for those drugs as required under the Poisons Act 1966, and
- (k) have the facility for personal pre surgical washing preparation, and
- (l) have equipment for the taking of radiograph films and processing and viewing of radiographs, and
- (m) have a sign displayed in the reception area informing the clients entering the premises of the types of major surgery which are authorised to be performed, and
- (n) dedicated surgery area