



Veterinary  
Practitioners  
Board

# Licensing of veterinary hospitals

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# Agenda



Legislation



Board  
composition



Board  
functions



Hospitals



Statistics

# Legislation

The object of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (NSW) is to regulate the provision of veterinary services for the following purposes:

1. To promote the welfare of animals
2. To ensure that consumers of veterinary services are well informed as to the competencies required of veterinary practitioners
3. To ensure that acceptable standards are required to be met by veterinary practitioners so as to meet the public interest and national and international trade requirements
4. To provide public health protection



# Board composition

The Board consists of 8 members appointed by the Governor and selected by the Minister:

1. One veterinarian representing specialist veterinarians
2. One veterinarian representing urban veterinarians
3. One veterinarian representing rural veterinarians
4. One veterinarian representing academics in the field of veterinary science
5. Two veterinary practitioners selected personally by the Minister
6. Two persons who are not veterinarians selected by the Minister to represent consumers of veterinary services



# Board functions

The Veterinary Practitioners Board (Board) has a number of functions including:

1. To register veterinary practitioners
2. To license veterinary hospitals
3. To investigate complaints against veterinary practitioners and take disciplinary action against veterinary practitioners



# Major surgery

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* defines major surgery as a restricted act of veterinary science that includes the carrying out of a procedure that:

1. According to current standards of veterinary practice should not be undertaken without the administration of an anaesthetic (other than a local anaesthetic) to an animal, or
2. Involves a spinal anaesthetic
3. Any act of veterinary science prescribed by the regulations to be major surgery



# Major surgery

It is an offence for a person to perform major surgery as defined by the Act on an animal except at premises that are the subject of a veterinary hospital licence that authorises the type of procedure to be carried out.

A number of defences exist:

1. The major surgery was performed in an emergency and there was no time to move the animal to a veterinary hospital
2. It was impractical to move the animal to a veterinary hospital because of the size of the animal or because of the type of animal
3. It was dangerous to the health of the animal to move it to a veterinary hospital



# Hospital licensing

All veterinary hospital licences are subject to the condition that the premises are assessed as being satisfactory by the Board.

The Board generally grants four types of licences:

1. Small animal practice hospital
2. Large animal practice hospital
3. Mixed animal practice hospital
4. Wildlife and zoo animal hospital

The Board may impose a condition on a hospital licence to restrict the types of surgery that are authorised.





# Hospital licensing

## Minimum requirements for veterinary hospitals

The Board has defined the minimum requirements for types of veterinary hospital licences in order to ensure the premises are able to provide acceptable levels of care for animals before, during and after major surgery.

The following guidelines are available to assist applicants and licence holders:

1. Minimum requirements for veterinary hospitals
2. Responsibilities of a veterinary hospital superintendent
3. Self-assessment checklist for veterinary hospital superintendents



# Hospital licensing

All licensed premises must:

1. Ensure the premises are managed by a superintendent who is a veterinary practitioner
2. Ensure a sign is displayed at the premises which specifies the type or types of major surgery that are authorised to be carried out on the premises



# Hospital licensing

## **Unlicensed premises must not be represented as a veterinary hospital**

Titles and descriptions which may be considered to represent a veterinary hospital include:

1. Veterinary or animal hospital
2. Veterinary practice
3. Veterinary clinic
4. Veterinary surgery



# Hospital licensing

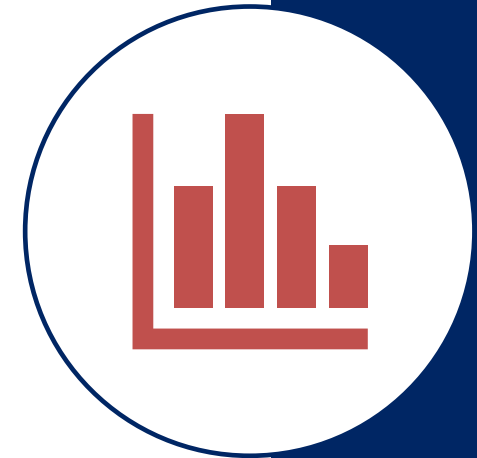
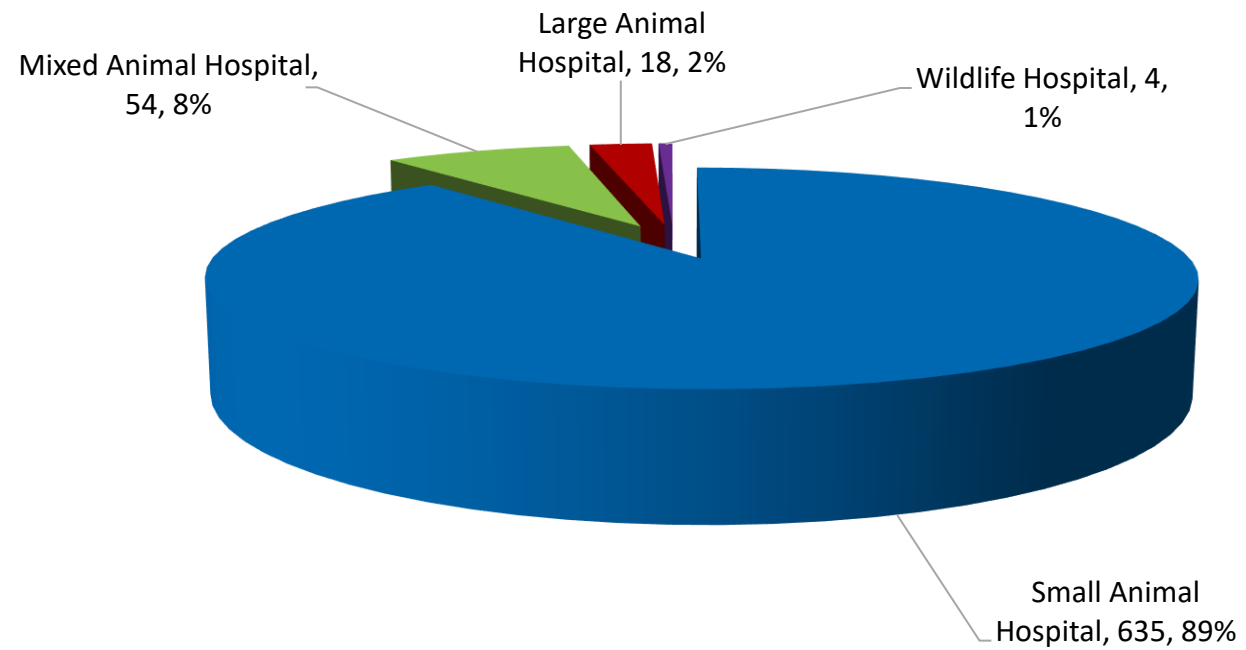
## Cancellation of a veterinary hospital licence

The reasons the Board may cancel a hospital licence include:

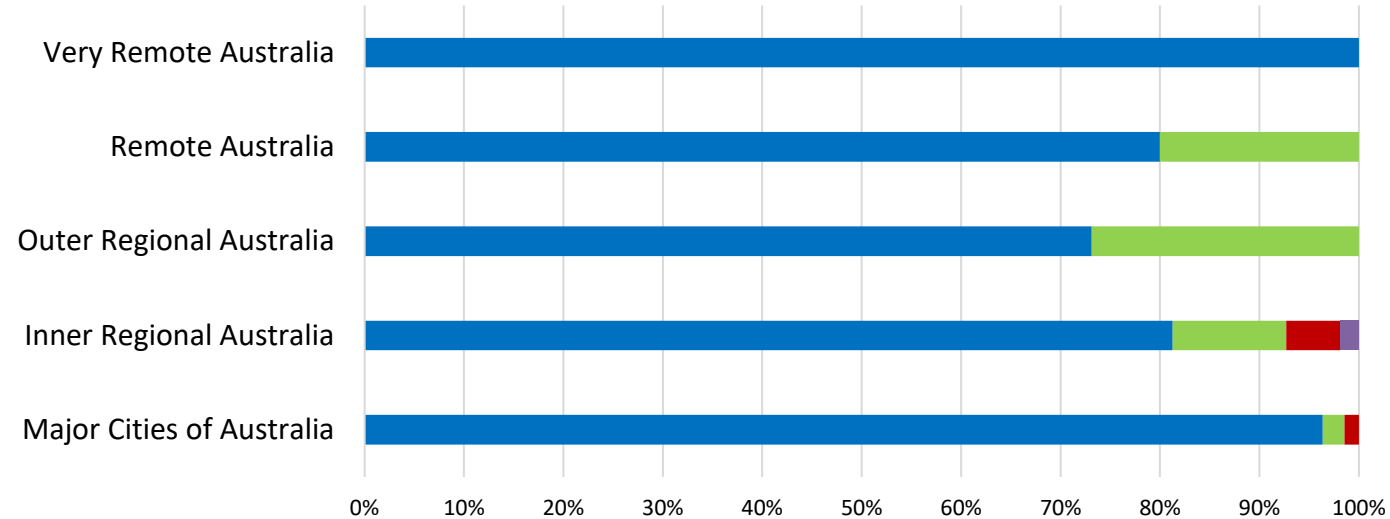
1. Failure to pay the approved hospital licence fee
2. The holder of the licence is convicted of an offence under the Act or Regulation
3. Any condition on the licence is breached
4. One or more veterinary practitioners does not have a controlling interest in the corporation or firm that holds the licence (some exceptions)



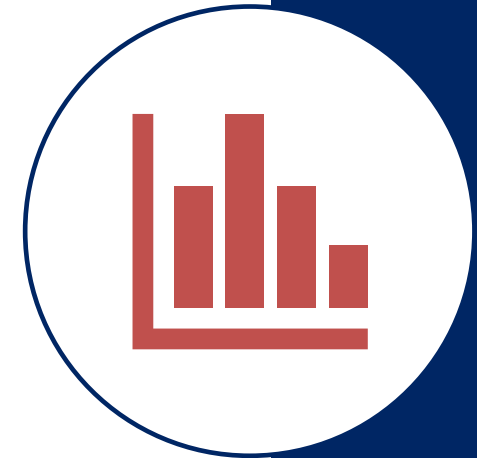
# Hospitals by type 2021



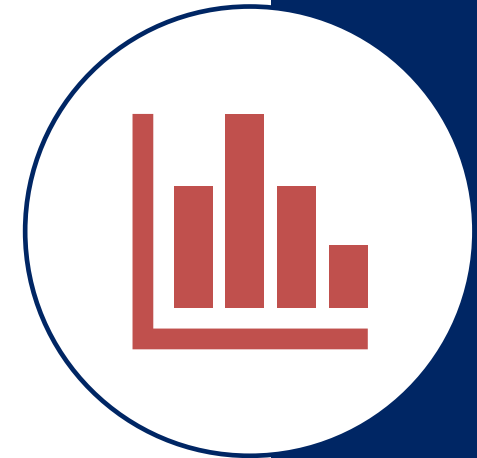
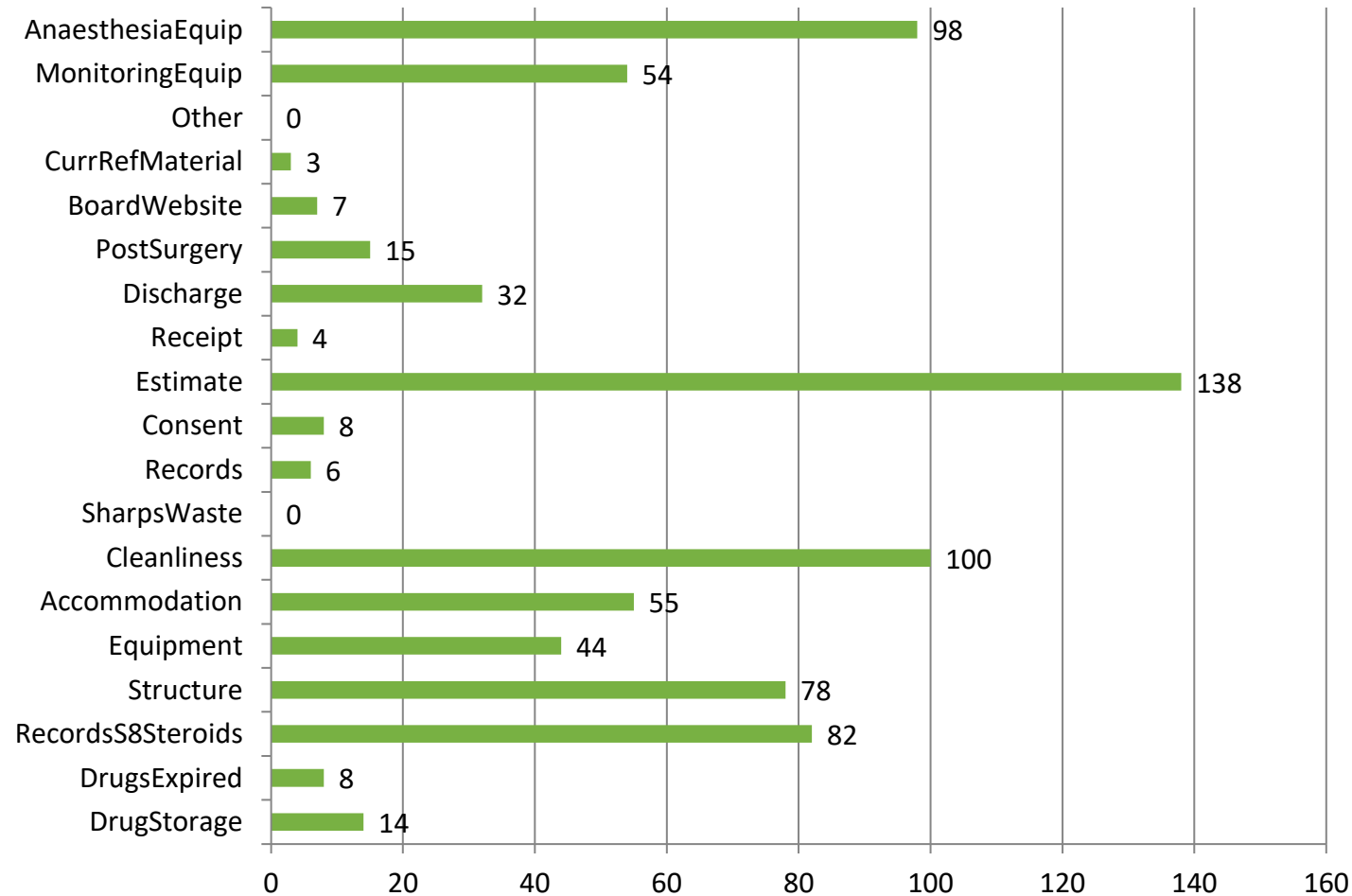
# Hospitals by type and location 2021



	Major Cities of Australia	Inner Regional Australia	Outer Regional Australia	Remote Australia	Very Remote Australia
■ Small Animal Hospital	400	178	49	4	1
■ Mixed Animal Hospital	9	25	18	1	
■ Large Animal Hospital	6	12			
■ Wildlife Hospital		4			



# Hospital inspections summary of issues 2012-2013



# Questions

