



## GUIDELINES FOR LARGE ANIMAL MOBILE VETERINARY SERVICES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### PREAMBLE

The *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960* (Act) makes no reference to large animal mobile veterinary services. However professional standards must be applied in the delivery of large animal mobile veterinary services and the responsibility for setting those standards rests with the Veterinary Surgeons' Board (Board).

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

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

### APPLICATION OF THESE GUIDELINES

These Guidelines apply from and including 9 May 2017.

These Guidelines may be superseded by subsequent versions. To ascertain whether this version has been superseded, view the current version on the Board's website at [www.vsbwa.org.au](http://www.vsbwa.org.au).

It is the responsibility of veterinary surgeons 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 facility** 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.

The term 'mobile veterinary facility' does not infer the facility is registered as a veterinary clinic as defined by the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960*.

A rural veterinary surgeon who provides a limited service to their clients by attending properties in their personal vehicle is not providing service through a large animal mobile veterinary clinic.

### INSURANCE

All veterinary surgeons 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 veterinary surgeons must ensure that they hold the relevant permits and licences necessary for them to practise veterinary surgery.

### **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.
  - a) Clinical records and the supply of scheduled drugs must comply with regulations 29, 29A, 29B, 29C, 30, 30A and 31 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 1979* (Regulations).
  - b) The records should be made at the time a veterinary service is performed, or as soon as possible after a service is performed, by the veterinary surgeon.
  - c) 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 hospital or veterinary clinic.
  - d) A veterinary surgeon who performs a procedure on an animal which has been chemically restrained, for example with muscle relaxants, sedatives and/or anaesthetics, must remain with the animal until it is able to stand and walk unaided.