

GUIDELINE 2

STANDARDS OF HOUSE CALL PRACTICES AND ON-SITE SERVICES

Registered veterinary practitioners should ensure they are familiar with the contents of this Guideline. The Board considers this Guideline to be the minimum standard expected from a registered veterinary practitioner exercising reasonable skill and care in the course of providing treatment to animals.

Practitioners should read this Guideline in conjunction with the Definitions listed in the introductory pages.

2.1 PREAMBLE

A "House Call Practice" is a practice that primarily offers house call veterinary services not including visits for large animal consultations to farms, stables or other livestock premises. An "on-site service" is the provision of on-property veterinary services to large animals or other livestock. All veterinary practitioners should be vigilant with regard to biosecurity. Refer to Guideline 18.

2.2 STANDARDS

- (i) A House Call Practice shall provide ready communication for the public with the house call veterinarian(s), including arrangements for out-of-hours and/or emergency cases.
- (ii) A House Call Practice shall have access to a fixed veterinary premises which complies with Guideline 1 for the further treatment or referral of cases.
- (iii) When performing house calls, the veterinarian shall carry out only those procedures for which they have suitable facilities and equipment, and that do not require general anaesthetic. All other procedures are to be performed at the base clinic or other suitable veterinary premises.
- (iv) The vehicle used for house calls shall:
 - (a) be clean and hygienic at all times;
 - (b) have secure storage for carrying drugs as required by the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006, or any subsequent amendment to these regulations;
 - (c) carry adequate measures to ensure full and accurate contemporaneous medical records are able to be completed;
 - (d) provide the necessary facilities for the safe transportation of patients when required;
 - (e) carry sufficient instruments and equipment for a thorough clinical examination;
 - (f) be capable of being locked and meet the requirements of all government regulations
 - (g) provide facilities that allow for the prevention of spread of infectious disease between patients and premises.

- (v) and in the case of on-site services –
 - (a) protective clothing, footwear and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned between property visits;
 - (b) be aware of the correct protocol to use if exotic disease is suspected.