

GUIDELINE 3

STANDARDS OF MOBILE VETERINARY CLINICS

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.

3.1 PREAMBLE

A "Mobile Veterinary Clinic" is a facility which provides that form of clinical veterinary practice which may be transported or moved from one location to another for delivery of a limited range of medical and/or surgical services in a trailer or vehicle. All veterinary practitioners should be vigilant with regard to biosecurity. Refer to Guideline 18.

3.2 STANDARDS

- (i) A Mobile Veterinary Clinic shall provide ready communication for the public with the mobile veterinarian(s), including arrangement for out-of-hours and/or emergency cases.
- (ii) All Mobile Veterinary Clinics shall:
 - (a) only carry out procedures not involving orthopaedic or thoracic surgery;
 - (b) only carry out abdominal surgery on animals small enough to allow the maintenance of strict sterility;
 - (c) have access to a fixed veterinary premises which complies with Guideline 1 for the further treatment or referral of all other cases;
 - (d) have a trained assistant present during sterile procedures for the purposes of anaesthetic monitoring and as an aid in maintaining sterility;
 - (e) where general anaesthetics are administered, provide facilities for resuscitation of patients;
 - (f) retain all animals that have been anaesthetised until they are ambulatory.
- (iii) A Mobile Veterinary Clinic shall be a vehicle or trailer specifically modified for the purpose, be maintained in a hygienic manner, and have the following:

- (a) hot and cold water;
 - (b) power source for diagnostic and treatment equipment;
 - (c) collection tank for disposal of wastes;
 - (d) adequate lighting, heating cooling and ventilation;
 - (e) impervious flooring capable of being cleansed and disinfected;
 - (f) surgical light and table of impervious material;
 - (g) appropriate instruments, sterilisation facility, and protective clothing;
 - (h) separate compartment of appropriate size for the safe transport or holding of animals;
 - (i) (deleted 01.07.09);
 - (j) secure storage for drugs as required by the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006 and any subsequent amendment to these regulations;
 - (k) provide facilities that allow for the prevention of spread of infectious diseases between premises and patients;
 - (l) provide facilities for correct collection and disposal of sharps
- (iv) The vehicle or trailer is to be capable of being locked and meet the requirements of all necessary government regulations.