



# Guideline on Mobile Veterinary Clinics

## Definition

A “Mobile Veterinary Clinic” is a facility, which provides that form of clinical veterinary service for small animals of a fixed veterinary premise, which may be transported or moved from one location to another for delivery of a limited range of medical and/or minor surgical services in a trailer or vehicle through remote and/or indigenous communities.

It is expected that significant surgical and medical services be conducted at a fixed veterinary premise where this is available. Surgical services from a mobile facility is not appropriate in metropolitan areas except for contracted pro bono indigenous communities.

## Standards

- (A) A Mobile Veterinary Clinic shall provide ready communication for the public with the mobile veterinarian(s), including arrangements for out-of-hours and/or emergency cases.
- (B) All Mobile Veterinary Clinics shall:
- (a) not carry out procedures involving orthopaedic or thoracic surgery unless there are no other alternatives;
  - (b) only carry out abdominal surgery with the maintenance of strict sterility;
  - (c) should provide a follow up service for the further treatment to allow the patient’s recovery;
  - (c) have a trained assistant present during sterile procedures for the purposes of anaesthetic monitoring and to assist in maintaining sterility;
  - (d) where general anaesthetics are administered, provide facilities for resuscitation of patients;
  - (f) retain all animals that have been anaesthetised until they are able to walk;
- (C) 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) Power source for diagnostic and treatment equipment
  - (b) Collection facility for disposal of wastes
  - (c) Adequate lighting, cooling , heating and ventilation
  - (d) Impervious flooring and surfaces capable of being disinfected
  - (e) Appropriate instruments, protective clothing for procedures being undertaken
  - (f) Access to an instrument sterilisation facility
  - (g) Holding facilities for patients
  - (h) Lockable storage facilities for drugs which comply with the *Medicines Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act*
  - (i) Provide facilities for the disposal of sharps
  - (j) Provide facilities to prevent the spread of contagious diseases from premises to premises.
- (D) In addition to having lockable storage facilities, which must comply with the *Medicines Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act*, the vehicle used as Mobile Veterinary Clinic must be lockable and comply with government regulations.

- (E)** A Mobile Veterinary Practice must have access to a clinic base that can provide the following:
- (a) Storage of drugs as required by legislation
  - (b) Safe and adequate facilities and equipment for radiology, anaesthesia and major surgery.
  - (c) Room/s for the housing is of a size appropriate to the animal housed and with adequate cooling, heating and ventilation
  - (d) Complete medical and surgical records for all patients.
- (F) The vehicle used is to:**
- (a) Be clean and hygienic at all times
  - (b) Have secure storage for carrying drugs as required by legislation
  - (c) Carry sufficient stocks of veterinary stationery to enable medical and surgical records to be completed when house calls are made
  - (d) Meet the requirements of local government by-laws and Public Health/ Environmental Health legislation
  - (e) Carry sufficient instrumentation for a competent clinical examination and the performance of any minor surgical services offered.

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