



# Guideline on minimum standards for house call practices

This guideline is the minimum standard expected from a registered veterinary practitioner exercising reasonable skill and care in the course of providing treatment to animals. This guideline should be read in conjunction with other relevant guidelines.

Registered veterinary practitioners should ensure that they are familiar with the contents of this Guideline. The Board determines 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.

## Definition

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.

This definition also includes house calls made by fixed veterinary premises.

## Standards

- (A) 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.
- (B) A House Call Practice shall have access to a fixed veterinary premise which complies with Guidelines on Minimum Standards for Veterinary Premises.
- (C) 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.
- (D) The vehicle used for house calls shall:
  - a) be clean and hygienic at all times;
    - have secure storage for carrying drugs as required by the *Medicines Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act* and Regulations and the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act* and Regulations (or any subsequent amendment to these regulations);
  - b) carry adequate measures to ensure that full and accurate contemporaneous medical records are able to be completed;
  - c) provide the necessary facilities for the safe transportation of patients when required;
  - d) carry sufficient instruments and equipment for a thorough clinical examination;
  - e) be capable of being locked and meet the requirements of all government regulations, including the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act* and Regulations, and local government regulations.
  - f) provide facilities that allow for the prevention of spread of infectious disease between patients and premises.

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