



Guideline on Anaesthesia

With current technology and drugs, anaesthetic complications are rare and deaths even rarer. Diligent monitoring will avert most anaesthetic deaths.

The Board does not expect all veterinarians to have state of the art anaesthetic monitoring equipment, but does expect anaesthetics to be monitored.

The Board accepts that in some emergency situations this is not possible. However, for routine procedures within normal business hours, the Board would expect that a second person would be available to assist.

The Board does expect the drug, dosage, time and route of administration to be recorded in the clinical notes. (See Guidelines on Minimum Standards for Record Keeping.)

In addition, veterinarians are required under section 48 of the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act* to maintain a register recording details of the supply or administration of controlled drugs, including the reason for the supply or administration.

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