

**VETERINARY PRACTICE BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CODE OF PRACTICE NO.1 OF 2022**

1. Code

This Code of Practice No. 1 of 2022 (**Code**) is issued by the Veterinary Practice Board of Western Australia (**Board**) under section 198 of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2021* (**Act**) for the purpose of providing guidance about the practice of veterinary medicine by veterinarians.

2. Commencement

This Code comes into operation on the day on which it is published in the *Western Australian Government Gazette*.

3. Terms used

This Code adopts the terms defined and used in the Act and the *Veterinary Practice Regulations 2022*.

4. Use of this Code

4.1 Veterinarians have a professional responsibility to be familiar with this Code and to apply the guidance it contains.

4.2 This Code will be used by the Board in its role of protecting the public, by setting and maintaining the standards of the practice of veterinary medicine against which a veterinarian's professional conduct can be evaluated.

4.3 A breach of this Code does not of itself constitute unprofessional conduct or professional misconduct but in any proceedings under Part 7 of the Act such a breach may be asserted and taken into account.

5. Clinical record of supply or prescription of scheduled drug

5.1 A veterinarian who supplies or prescribes a scheduled drug must make a clinical record of the supply or prescription.

5.2 A clinical record required under clause 5.1 must include:

- (a) the name and address of the owner of the animal; and
- (b) sufficient details to identify the animal; and
- (c) the clinical history of the animal including the results of any examination of, or diagnostic tests carried out on, the animal; and
- (d) the name of the poison; and
- (e) the quantity of the poison supplied or prescribed.

5.3 The veterinarian must keep the clinical record for a period of 7 years.

6. Request by Board for clinical record

- 6.1 The Board may, in writing, request a veterinarian to give to the Board a copy of any clinical record kept under clause 5.1.
- 6.2 A veterinarian must comply with any written request from the Board as soon as practicable after such a request is made.

7. Prescribing scheduled drugs

- 7.1 A veterinarian must not prescribe a scheduled drug for an animal unless:
- (a) the veterinarian has examined the animal within the previous 7 days; or
 - (b) if the drug is prescribed for one or more animals that are part of a group of animals kept at the same premises, either:
 - (i) the veterinarian has inspected the premises and assessed the general health of the animals kept there; or
 - (ii) the veterinarian has:
 - A reasonable knowledge of the premises and the conditions under which the animals are kept; and
 - B reasonable grounds to believe that an examination of the animals is not necessary in order to establish that it is appropriate to prescribe the drug; and
 - C discussed the health of the animals with the owner within the previous 7 days; and
 - D reasonable grounds to believe that an examination of the animals is not practicable;
- or
- (c) the veterinarian has:
 - (i) previously prescribed the scheduled drug to the animal under paragraph (a) or (b), or another veterinarian working in the same veterinary practice business has done so; and
 - (ii) discussed the health of the animal with the owner within the previous 7 days; and
 - (iii) reasonable grounds to believe that an examination of the animal is not necessary in order to establish that it is appropriate to prescribe the drug.

- 7.2 A veterinarian must not prescribe a scheduled drug unless satisfied that the owner is competent, and has any equipment and facilities necessary, to safely and effectively handle, store, transport and administer the drug.
- 7.3 A veterinarian supplying or prescribing a scheduled drug must not supply or prescribe more of the poison than is reasonably required to treat the animal.
- 7.4 A veterinarian who supplies or prescribes a scheduled drug must comply with clauses 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 of this Code.

8. Advertising

- 8.1 A veterinarian must not publish, or cause or permit to be published, an advertisement in connection with a veterinary practice business that:
- (a) is false or misleading; or
 - (b) is vulgar or sensational; or
 - (c) is likely to adversely affect the reputation or standing of any veterinarian or the veterinary profession; or
 - (d) expressly or impliedly claims superiority for the veterinarian over any or all other veterinarians.