



PREMISES ACCREDITATION SCHEME

Standards Document

Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (RMVU)

**ADOPTED BY
THE VETERINARY COUNCIL
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Veterinary Council of Ireland, 53 Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 NY29

☎ +353 (0)1 668 4402 📠 +353 (0)1 660 4373 ✉ pas@vci.ie 🌐 www.vci.ie

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1. BACKGROUND

In accordance with Part 9 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 as amended (the Act) every veterinary premises in the State must be registered. The Veterinary Council has developed a procedure for the registration and inspection of premises called the Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS). This booklet sets out the standards which apply to a Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (RMVU) classification and must be read in conjunction with the PAS Regulations Document.

2. INTERPRETATION

ADR	Adverse Drug Reactions.
ARR	Animal Remedies Regulations.
ALARA	As low as is reasonably achievable.
Authorised Officer	An officer appointed under section 124 of the Act.
CA	Companion animal.
CCS	Cold chemical sterilisation.
Certificate of Suitability (COS)	This is the official certificate which confirms that the premises is registered with the Veterinary Council in accordance with section 109 of the Act 2005, it identifies the classification of premises to which the Certificate applies and the name of the Certificate holder.
Client	The owner or authorised carer of the animal.
EQ	Equine animal.
FA	Farm animal.
MAR	Mandatory Additional Requirement – core additional requirements.
MMR	Mandatory Minimum Requirement - core requirements.
Patient	The animal.
Registered Person	A person registered under Part 4 or Part 8 of the Act.
RPII	Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland.

2. INTERPRETATION (Cont'd)

RMVU	A Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (RMVU) is a mobile unit appropriately equipped and registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at which one or more registered veterinary practitioners practice veterinary medicine.
RVC	A Registered Veterinary Clinic (RVC) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location, registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine. A RVC provides facilities for veterinary examination of animals and the carrying out of routine diagnostic, prophylactic and medical and surgery procedures. If animals are housed overnight appropriate arrangements shall be made for patient monitoring.
RVH	A Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location, registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine. A RVH provides facilities for the hospitalisation of animals with 24-hour care, provided by a registered person as necessary, and offers a range of surgical, medical and diagnostic techniques. The category of animals treated at the Hospital is indicated by the appropriate suffix (Companion Animals – CA, Equine – EQ or Food Animal – FA).
SOPO	Scope of practice options - additional options available to expand the range of veterinary services offered at the premises.
The Act	The Veterinary Practice Act 2005, including the Veterinary Practice Amendment Act 2012.
Veterinary Nursing Care	The care provided by a person registered under Part 8 of the Act and acting in compliance with the definition of veterinary nursing in Section 91 of the 2012 Act.
Veterinary Premises	"veterinary premises" includes any place where the practice of veterinary medicine by a registered person occurs, including an ambulance or other vehicle equipped to facilitate such practice.
VPA	Veterinary Product Authorisation.

3. INTRODUCTION

- A RVMU has 9 core Mandatory Minimum Requirements (MMR) and 4 Mandatory Additional Requirements (MAR);
- Certain services referred to as Scope of Practice Options (SOPO) may be offered at a RVMU. If they are offered, the relevant standard applies in its entirety.

Standard No	Standard	RMVU
1	Equipment & Services	✓ (MMR)
2	Records	✓ (MMR)
3	Health & Safety	✓ (MMR)
4	Pharmacy	✓ (MMR)
5	Biosecurity	✓ (MMR)
6	PME & Carcase Disposal	✓ (MMR)
7	Vehicle	✓ (MMR)
8	Library	✓ (MMR)
9	Office/Waiting Area	✓ (MMR)
10	Premises External	✓ (MAR)
11	Examination Room/Area	✓ (MAR)
12	Treatment Room/Area	✓ (MAR)
13	Laboratory	✓ (MAR)
14	Radiography & Diagnostic Imaging	SOPO
15	In-Patient Facilities	SOPO
16	Food Storage & Preparation	SOPO
17	Anaesthesia and Recovery	SOPO
18	Surgery	SOPO

4. REGISTERED MOBILE VETERINARY UNIT (RMVU)

STANDARDS WITH GUIDELINES		
DEFINITION		
<p>A Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (RMVU) is a mobile unit appropriately equipped and registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at which one or more registered veterinary practitioners practice veterinary medicine.</p> <p>A RMVU must comply with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be associated with a Registered Veterinary Clinic (RVC) or Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH). 2. Have a separate Certificate of Suitability (COS) for each location where the service is being offered. 3. Submit a schedule of locations, consultation days and hours of attendance to the Council. 		
No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
1 - EQUIPMENT & SERVICES		MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
1.1	The equipment required for the procedures performed at or from the premises must be stored in a safe secure location, not accessible to the public. All equipment must be routinely serviced, as required by manufacturers, and records of such services maintained for inspection. (In particular, the following pieces of equipment must have up to date service records available: x-ray, autoclave, anaesthetic machines.)	<i>Veterinary practitioners require certain items of equipment to carry out their work. Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness. Veterinary equipment can also be hazardous if accessible to and/or used by untrained individuals.</i>
1.2	If radiography services are not provided at or from the facility, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>Radiography is an integral diagnostic modality in veterinary medicine and should be available to all patients even if not provided at the premises.</i>

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No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
1.4	<p>Signs must be kept in good repair. Consultation days and hours of attendance must be clearly visible, as well as telephone numbers to contact outside these hours. Telephone numbers for emergency cover must also be made available. Veterinary practitioners must provide a 24-hour service, for animals under their care. They must co-ordinate arrangements for the treatment of emergency cases, including all out of hours cases, so that clients can obtain help from a member of the profession with whom prior arrangements have been made and who is sufficiently close at hand to be able to provide services for that client.</p> <p>Submit a schedule of locations, consultation days and hours of attendance to the Council</p> <p>Documentary evidence of such arrangements should be on hand, and may be requested by and verified by an Authorised Officer.</p>	<p><i>The public can have access to veterinary care at all times.</i></p>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment service records 		

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2 - RECORDS		MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
2.1	An efficient system of recording, filing and retrieving patient records must be maintained for each animal, herd, flock or farm, appropriate to the facility, the equipment and the services provided, with due regard to confidentiality. Records should indicate the person responsible for carrying out the procedure or service. Records may be in written or electronic format and a satisfactory back-up system should be maintained. Records should be kept for at least 5 years. Authorised Officers may ask to inspect one or more animal/herd/farm records. Records should include dated examination findings, dated diagnostic test findings, all treatments, anaesthetics and surgeries, and all communications with clients.	<i>Properly maintained clinical records allow prompt and effective treatment of animals and allow continuity of care within and between practices.</i>
2.2	If the practice operates from more than one premises, the clinical records system must be accessible from each premises.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and appropriate veterinary care.</i>
3 - HEALTH & SAFETY		MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
3.1	A practice Safety Statement must be available.	This is a legal requirement under Health & Safety legislation.
3.2	A sufficient number of working smoke detectors and readily accessible, serviced fire extinguishers must be provided.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.3	An emergency first aid box and accident record book must be available and properly maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client safety.</i>
3.4	Pressurised gas cylinders, where present, must be securely stored.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.5	Non-clinical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.6	Clinical waste and anatomical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by a registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.7	Pharmaceutical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by a registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.8	X-ray processing fluids are hazardous waste and must be disposed of in accordance to legal requirements.	<i>Manual and automatic processing exposes staff to chemicals which may be hazardous and must be appropriately disposed of when they reach the end of their usefulness.</i>

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3.9	Sharps must be placed directly in an approved container and disposed of in an appropriate manner by a registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.10	A staff facility, with separate food preparation/dining area, must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client health and safety (and in compliance with Health & Safety Legislation).</i>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Safety Statement • Accident Record Book • Contract with Waste Disposal Provider 		

4 - PHARMACY		MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
4.1	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species treated at or from the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that an appropriate range of animal remedies is available.</i>
4.2	A range of animal remedies consistent with good standard of practice and range of procedures undertaken must be stored at the premises. Precisely what animal remedies should be available will depend on the scope of the practice.	<i>The practice of veterinary medicine usually involves the treatment of animals with animal remedies: it is in the interests of animal welfare that these products are available to the treating veterinary practitioner.</i>
4.3	The Certificate of Suitability (COS) holder must ensure the storage, safekeeping, dispensing, record-keeping and management of animal remedies at the premises in conformance with Veterinary Product Authorisation (VPA) and Animal Remedies Regulations (ARR).	<i>There are legal obligations on veterinary practitioners regarding the safe handling of animal remedies, outlined in the current Animal Remedies Regulations (ARR).</i>
4.4	If refrigeration of animal remedies is required it must be separate from that for food or pathological samples or carcasses. Specifically, such storage must be separate from any domestic storage.	<i>This is necessary to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
4.5	A system must be in place for the recording and reporting to the Irish Medicines Board of any suspected Adverse Drug Reactions (ARD).	<i>The reporting of adverse drug reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>

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4.6	Evidence must be provided that prescribing is in accordance with Council's Code of Professional Conduct, Ethical Veterinary Practice and good prescribing practices.	<i>This is in the interest of Animal Welfare, Environment, Public Health and to minimise antimicrobial resistance.</i>
Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caseload and range of species treated at or from the premises • ARR records • ADR reports (if applicable) 		

5 - BIOSECURITY		MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
5.1	All areas of veterinary premises, including all instruments, apparatus and apparel used in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine, must be maintained in a sanitary and orderly condition at all times.	<i>This is to present a professional image and minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.2	The entire facility should be clean, uncluttered and free of impediments and obstructions.	<i>This is to present a professional image and minimise the risk of injury to staff, clients or patients.</i>
5.3	Separate cleaning materials and equipment must be used in the operating area. These must not be used in other areas of the premises.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
5.4	Sanitising agents capable of killing viruses and bacteria must be used to disinfect the premises.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.5	The Certificate of Suitability (COS) holder must ensure that adequate measures are in place to prevent the spread of contagious disease in relation to the premises, staff, instruments, equipment and vehicles.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.6	NOT APPLICABLE	
5.7	Vehicles must be maintained in a clean manner in the interest of animal health.	<i>This is in the interest of hygiene and disease control.</i>
5.8	If the premises is on the same site on which animals are held (e.g. Farm, stud, kennels) adequate biosecurity measures must be in place to address the risk of the spread of disease. Documentary evidence clearly identifying perimeters of veterinary premises must be available for inspection.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning protocols and schedules 		

6 - POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION AND CARCASE DISPOSAL		
MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT		
6.1	Arrangements must be in place for the post-mortem examination of animals, where necessary, either at the premises, at another registered veterinary premises or at a veterinary pathology laboratory.	<i>Post-mortem examination provides useful information for the veterinary practitioner and the owner and aids in diagnosis and treatment of cohort animals.</i>
6.2	All animal tissues must be enclosed in appropriate containers and kept in an area away from the public before being promptly removed for disposal.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination and prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>
6.3	Dead animals, other than those covered by specific legislation, must be placed in a refrigerator or freezer designated for this purpose before being promptly removed for disposal.	<i>This is for reasons of public health and hygiene and is to prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>
6.4	Where post-mortem services are being provided, adequate facilities should be provided, separate from animal or public areas.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination and prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>

7 - VEHICLE		
MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT		
7.1	Each vehicle used by a veterinary practitioner in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine must have a current NCT certificate, if applicable, and be appropriately taxed and insured.	<i>As a professional, a veterinary practitioner is expected to conform with legal requirements.</i>
7.2	Each vehicle must be kept in a clean and tidy condition.	<i>A practice vehicle is an intrinsic part of a practitioner's professional image.</i>
7.3	Appropriate clean protective clothing and footwear must be carried in the vehicle. Soiled clothing must be separated and cleaned immediately after use or at the first available opportunity.	<i>This is to present a professional image and to minimise the risk of spread of disease between premises or between animals and people.</i>
7.4	Where the vehicle is used for the transport of animal remedies, there must be an appropriate stock level to support anticipated demand and avoid animal remedies going out of date. Where the vehicle carries animal remedies, provision must be made so that the manufacture's recommendations for their storage can be adhered to. This may include the provision of a cool box or refrigeration unit. Such storage should separate	<i>It is unsafe and illegal to use out-of-date animal remedies. Animal remedies have specific storage requirements which must be adhered to in order to maintain their safety and efficiency. Veterinary</i>

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	remedies appropriately and should be out of public view.	<i>equipment and many animal remedies can be dangerous if handled by lay-people and it is incumbent on practitioners to minimise the risk of break-ins to practice vehicles storing such equipment/remedies.</i>
7.5	Adequate restraint, diagnostic equipment and sampling material must be carried to allow the diagnosis and treatment of those conditions normally encountered. Dirty equipment must be separated and cleaned immediately after use or at the first available opportunity.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are facilitated by access to the correct equipment for restraint and diagnosis. Separation of dirty equipment avoids the spread of disease between animals.</i>
7.6	Suitable waste disposal containers must be provided for clinical, biological and sharps waste.	<i>This is a requirement under Health and Safety legislation.</i>
7.7	An efficient method of communication with clients/office must be available in each vehicle (e.g. radio-telephone, mobile phone (in conformity with road safety legislation)).	<i>This is to ensure that calls can be dealt with speedily and efficiently.</i>

8 – LIBRARY

MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

8.1	Access to appropriate professional material must be readily available for research and education via the internet and/or library.	<i>The internet provides timely access to the most up-to-date research and information. Continuing Veterinary Education is mandatory for all registered persons.</i>
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9 - OFFICE/WAITING AREA

MANDATORY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT

9.1	The Certificate of Suitability (COS) holder must display the extract from the Register of Certificates of Suitability in a prominent place at the veterinary premises to which it relates.	<i>This is a requirement under the Act. Authorised Officers are entitled to ask to see the COS.</i>
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9.2	Names and qualifications of registered veterinary practitioners and registered veterinary nurses practising veterinary medicine from the premises must be displayed. This must include the name of the certificate holder for the purposes of the Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS) Regulations.	<i>All registered persons must work at or from registered premises (unless the premises are exempt).</i>
9.3	The Certificate of Suitability (COS) holder must satisfy him/herself that the registered person/s are on the Veterinary Council's live register.	<i>It is a legal requirement that all veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses who provide veterinary services are registered with the Veterinary Council.</i>
9.4	There must be a defined client waiting area of adequate size and with sufficient space and seating for the workload at the premises. This client area must be separate from any examination area.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients and ensure that consultations can take place in private.</i>
9.5	The environment in the waiting area must be comfortable for patients, clients and staff with heating, cooling, and ventilation provided as necessary. It is important that noxious odours be eliminated as much as possible.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients.</i>
9.6	A clean toilet, including hand-washing facilities, must be available to clients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
9.7	Cleaning equipment and sanitary supplies must be stored safely away from the public.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients and staff.</i>
9.8	If commercial merchandise is displayed it must be of relevant goods and of an acceptable professional nature, associated with animal nutrition, management, welfare and care.	<i>This is to present a professional image.</i>
9.9	Retail product displays must not impede staff or client traffic flow in the reception area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients and staff.</i>
9.10	Deliveries and unloading of stock and supplies must not impede or obstruct doorways, hallways or the reception area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.11	Indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examination and surgical rooms must be adequate for the intended purpose.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.12	There must be adequate internal signage to indicate fire escapes, X-ray areas etc.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>

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9.13	(CA ONLY) Appropriate facilities must be available for the separation of predator/prey species.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.14	A sign indicating basic and out of hours consultation fees must be displayed.	<i>This is for client information.</i>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration Certificates of registered persons 		
10 – PREMISES - EXTERNAL MANDATORY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT		
10.1	A RMVU must be associated with a veterinary premises registered under the PAS in the RVC or RVH classification which must be a permanent structure.	<i>A permanent structure reassures clients that continuity of care will be available for their animals.</i>
10.2	The mobile unit shall meet any bye-laws and meet with any Environmental Legislation and Planning regulations.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
10.3	The grounds and exterior must show evidence of regular maintenance.	<i>To present a professional image to the public and eliminate hazards which might cause injury to staff, clients or patients.</i>
10.4	The veterinary premises must have a direct public entrance. Documentary evidence clearly identifying perimeters of veterinary premises must be available for inspection.	<i>Not shared with entrance to a private dwelling or via a retail outlet which is not part of the veterinary premises or any animal holding area which is not part of the veterinary premises. An entrance in a shopping centre or arcade is acceptable provided there is another direct external access.</i>
10.5	There must be adequate external lighting of the structure and environs.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients and staff.</i>
10.6	Doors and windows should be self-closing or otherwise secured.	<i>This is to prevent the escape or theft of animals and the theft of animal remedies.</i>
10.7	Loading and unloading facilities must be of appropriate design and construction and be in good repair.	<i>This is so that patients can be unloaded safely and efficiently.</i>

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10.8	<p>Signs must be kept in good repair. Consultation days and hours of attendance must be clearly visible, as well as telephone numbers to make contact outside these hours. Telephone numbers for emergency cover must also be made available. Veterinary practitioners must provide a 24-hour service, for animals under their care. They must co-ordinate arrangements for the treatment of emergency cases, including all out of hours cases, so that clients can obtain help from a member of the profession with whom prior arrangements have been made and who is sufficiently close at hand to be able to provide services for that client.</p> <p>Documentary evidence of such arrangements should be on hand, and may be requested by and verified by an Authorised Officer.</p>	<p><i>To present a professional image and so that information needed by the public is easily read. The public must have access to veterinary care at all times.</i></p>
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11 - EXAMINATION ROOM/AREA		MANDATORY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT
11.1	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species examined at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that appropriate equipment and facilities are provided for the examination of animals.</i>
11.2	An examination room or area, adequately lit, and generally free of extraneous noise and activity, must be available for the complete physical examination of patients by a veterinary practitioner in private.	<i>This is to ensure animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care and client confidentiality.</i>
11.3	The examination room/area must be of sufficient size to accommodate the veterinary practitioner, assistant, patient and client comfortably.	<i>This is to ensure animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care and the safety of staff and clients.</i>
11.4	Hand washing facilities with hot and cold water must be available, preferably in each examination room/area. It is acceptable, though less desirable, that they are in close proximity to the examination area.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.5	Each examination room/area must contain at least 2 covered/enclosed waste receptacles, one of which should be for clinical waste only. Bins should preferably be operated by foot plate.	<i>Open waste bins are aesthetically unacceptable, unhygienic and may be a source of noxious odours.</i>
11.6	The floor and examination table surface (where present) must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.7	Diagnostic equipment needed for the routine physical examination of the patient must be readily available.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are enhanced by access to appropriate diagnostic</i>

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		<i>equipment. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.8	Restraint devices must be present and must be of adequate design, clean and in good working order.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.9	Equipment for the accurate weighing of patients must be available.	<i>This is to ensure appropriate dosage of veterinary medicinal products.</i>
11.10	(EQ ONLY) There must be a soundly constructed stocks located in, or immediately adjacent to, the examination area. (FA ONLY) There must be a soundly constructed race and crush located in, or immediately adjacent to, the examination area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients.</i>
11.11	(EQ ONLY) A dedicated trot-up area (level, firm and a minimum of 25m long) must be available.	<i>This is to enhance the diagnosis of muscular-skeletal abnormalities.</i>
11.12	NOT APPLICABLE	
Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual caseload and range of species examined at the premises. 		

12 - TREATMENT ROOM/AREA		MANDATORY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT
12.1	A treatment room or designated treatment area, with all the necessary equipment and medicines relevant to the type of services being provided, must be available. The examination room/area can also serve as a treatment room/area. This room should be equipped in such a way that basic examinations, emergency interventions and general surgical preparations can be carried out. Precisely what equipment and medicines should be available will depend on the scope of the practice.	<i>Veterinary treatment can be carried out more efficiently and effectively in a designated room or area.</i>
12.2	This room/area must be of adequate size for the procedures being performed.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care and the safety of</i>

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		<i>staff and clients.</i>
12.3	Surfaces and equipment must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

13 - LABORATORY		SCOPE OF PRACTICE OPTION
13.1	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Clinical pathology sampling can be a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
13.2	Where samples are submitted to an outside laboratory they must be collected, stored, packaged and dispatched in a manner that ensures the safety of personnel in contact with sample material and minimises sample deterioration to ensure optimum test results.	<i>Accuracy and reliability of test results depends on appropriate sample collection, storage and dispatch.</i>
13.3	If in-house laboratory diagnostic services are provided, the laboratory area/bench must be clearly defined and used only for laboratory purposes.	<i>This is necessary to prevent cross-contamination or deterioration of samples, and to ensure timely processing.</i>
13.4	There must be adequate facilities for the storage of specimens and reagents, including refrigeration if required, and disposal of waste materials.	<i>This is to ensure the accuracy and reliability of test results.</i>
13.5	Reference range values must be available for all laboratory tests performed by external laboratories.	<i>This ensures accurate identification of abnormal values.</i>
13.6	In-house laboratory facilities must be available to provide clinical pathology investigations for emergency cases.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal patient care.</i>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of laboratory tests undertaken • Reference range value 		

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13 - LABORATORY		<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
13.1	A basic range of in-house laboratory diagnostic services must be provided. (At a minimum, equipment should include: binocular microscope with mechanical stage, electric light source and oil-immersion facility, centrifuge, refractometer, biochemistry, electrolyte and haematology analyser). Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Clinical pathology sampling can be a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
13.2	Where samples are submitted to an outside laboratory they must be collected, stored, packaged and dispatched in a manner that ensures the safety of personnel in contact with sample material and minimises sample deterioration to ensure optimum test results.	<i>Accuracy and reliability of test results depends on appropriate sample collection, storage and dispatch.</i>
13.3	The laboratory area/bench must be clearly defined and used only for laboratory purposes.	<i>This is necessary to prevent cross-contamination or deterioration of samples, and to ensure timely processing.</i>
13.4	There must be adequate facilities for the storage of specimens and reagents, including refrigeration if required, and disposal of waste materials.	<i>This is to ensure the accuracy and reliability of test results.</i>
13.5	Reference range values must be available for all laboratory tests performed by external laboratories.	<i>This ensures accurate identification of abnormal values.</i>
13.6	In-house laboratory facilities must be available to provide clinical pathology investigations for emergency cases.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal patient care.</i>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of laboratory tests undertaken • Reference range value 		

14 - RADIOGRAPHY AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING		<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
14.1	Where an X-ray source is used, the source and its use must be licensed by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII). This licence should be available for inspection.	<i>This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000</i>
14.2	Permanent identification of the radiograph must occur at the time of exposure or just prior to development.	<i>This is to prevent confusion between patients and to ensure appropriate care.</i>
14.3	Restraining devices, including sedation and anaesthesia, and plate holders, must be used as appropriate to reduce the potential exposure of staff to radiation. Manual restraint is not permitted for companion animal (CA) radiography and only permitted for other species of animals in extreme emergencies. Fingers must never be within the primary beam.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle).</i>

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14.4	A log of exposures and number of views taken must be kept and available for inspection.	<i>ALARA principle.</i>
14.5	Protective lead aprons must be available with a lead equivalent of at least .25mmPbEq.	<i>ALARA principle.</i>
14.6	Protective lead gloves must be used with a minimum PbEq of 0.5mm.	<i>ALARA principle.</i>
14.7	Adequate dosimeters must be in place. Records must be kept for a minimum of 2 years.	<i>ALARA principle.</i>
14.8	Radiographs should be processed either digitally or by an automatic processor.	<i>Manual and automatic processing exposes staff to chemicals which may be hazardous and must be appropriately disposed of when they reach the end of their usefulness.</i>
14.9	X-ray processing fluids are hazardous waste and must be disposed of in accordance with legal requirements.	<i>Manual and automatic processing exposes staff to chemicals which may be hazardous and must be appropriately disposed of when they reach the end of their usefulness.</i>
14.10	A separate, adequately ventilated, darkroom must be available for processing of radiographs, unless digital radiology is being used.	<i>This is because chemical fumes are potentially hazardous.</i>
14.11	A properly formulated technique chart must be available and exposure should be based on body part/thickness with a measuring calliper also available.	<i>ALARA principle: a chart helps reduce repeat radiographs.</i>
14.12	Suitable arrangement for the efficient filing, storage, and retrieval of radiographs must be in place.	<i>Ready access to radiographs ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
14.13	A viewing box with adequate viewing facilities must be available, unless digital radiology is being used.	<i>This is essential for the proper interpretation of radiographs: it is not necessary where digital radiography is used.</i>
14.14	Radiography services must be provided on site.	<i>Radiography is an integral diagnostic modality in veterinary medicine and should be available to all patients.</i>
14.15	A Registered Veterinary Hospital must provide an appropriate range of diagnostic modalities such as radiography, ultrasound, ECG and endoscopy, including appropriate means of recording/storage of images and/or results of examinations.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal veterinary care.</i>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPII licence • Exposure log • Dosimeter records • Technique chart 		

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15 - IN-PATIENT FACILITIES		<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
15.1	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species housed/hospitalised at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that appropriate equipment and facilities are provided for in-patient care.</i>
15.2	Continuous patient monitoring must be provided as necessary on a 24-hour basis by a registered person. A written duty rota must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
15.3	A veterinary practitioner must be available on call, with a written duty rota available.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
15.4	All hospitalised animals must be checked as necessary over a 24-hour period. Records indicating times of observation, examination, treatment, feeding, and general care must be kept and available for inspection. The records must be annotated by the person carrying out the observation of procedures.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
15.5	Appropriate information must be given to owners regarding the level of care that will be given to patients (e.g. continuous monitoring, regular inspection, as appropriate).	<i>This is so that owners can give informed consent to the overnight housing of their animals.</i>
15.6	Holding facilities must be of adequate size and design.	<i>This is to ensure each animal's safety, security and well-being.</i>
15.7	The area must contain provisions of food and water when necessary.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
15.8	Each compartment must permit easy observation of, and access to, the animal.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
15.9	A separate compartment must be available for each animal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
15.10	Sufficient space must be provided to assure freedom of movement and normal postural adjustments with convenient access to food and water.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
15.11	(EQ ONLY) At least one box must be large enough to house a mare and foal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
15.12	Animal compartments must be cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
15.13	Appropriate facilities must be available for urination and defecation and, where appropriate to the species and individual animal, outdoor exercise at sufficient intervals.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
15.14	The temperature must be maintained in a range that is comfortable and safe for all patients.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>

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15.15	There must be adequate air circulation in each confinement area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
15.16	(CA ONLY) Appropriate bedding must be provided and must be laundered and/or sanitised between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
	(EQ & FA ONLY) Where bedding is provided adequate precaution must be taken to prevent the spread of disease.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
15.17	(ALL) Bedding must be disposed of in accordance with waste management legislation.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
15.18	All surfaces must be non-toxic impervious, non-slip and easily cleaned. All cages, runs, stalls, pens and other animal compartments must be kept in good repair and be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is to prevent injury to the animal, to promote physical comfort and is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
15.19	An animal identification system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
15.20	Isolation facilities must be available with limited access, separate air space, hand-washing facilities and separate drains.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
15.21	An area suitable for neonatal care must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
15.22	Intensive care facilities for critically ill patients must be available, and monitored at regular intervals by a registered person.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caseload and range of species housed/hospitalised at the premises • Written duty rota for 24-hour monitoring and care by a registered person • Written duty rota for registered veterinary practitioners on-call • Animal identification systems 		

16 - FOOD STORAGE AND PREPARATION

Scope of Practice Option

16.1	There must be a defined area for animal food storage and preparation and a range of diets must be available. This area must be separate from any staff food storage/preparation area and hot and cold running water must be available within the area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
16.2	Bulk food must be stored in a vermin-proof container.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
16.3	Opened canned food must be refrigerated until used.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
16.4	Water and feed bowls must be cleaned and disinfected as required.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

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16.5	Adequate daily feedings, with wholesome, nutritious, palatable food, must be provided except where medically contraindicated.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
16.6	Adequate fresh water must be provided daily for all patients, except where medically contraindicated.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
17 - ANAESTHESIA AND RECOVERY		<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
17.1	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing anaesthesia at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for anaesthesia and recovery are appropriate.</i>
17.2	The necessary equipment / animal remedies relevant to the procedure(s) being performed must be available and be properly maintained.	<i>This is to ensure that anaesthesia can be induced efficiently and effectively.</i>
17.3	Equipment for the administration of oxygen and the safe maintenance of anaesthesia using breathing systems should be present depending on the species being routinely treated and the range of procedures routinely performed.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
17.4	A range of endotracheal tubes of appropriate sizes must be available. These should be checked for leaks before each use and washed and disinfected after each use.	<i>This is to ensure access to a patent airway in the interests of patient safety.</i>
17.5	The Certificate of Suitability (COS) holder must ensure that all anaesthetic equipment is serviced by competent personnel according to the manufacturer's recommendations (which should be available). Records must be maintained of such inspections and servicing. In particular seals should be checked and vaporisers calibrated annually.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and patient safety.</i>
17.6	There must be adequate primary and back-up supplies of oxygen.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
17.7	An anaesthetic gas scavenging system must be provided, where gaseous anaesthetic is being used.	<i>This is in the interests of staff safety.</i>
17.8	Appropriate equipment for the monitoring of anaesthesia must be available and its use indicated by the maintenance of a written anaesthetic log. Anaesthesia must be monitored by a registered veterinary practitioner who may be assisted by a registered veterinary nurse and the log should be available for inspection. (Such equipment may include, but is not limited to, a pulse oximeter, a capnograph, a means of direct or indirect arterial blood pressure measurement).	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
17.9	Adequate equipment and facilities for resuscitation must be available. A recovery area adjacent to the main surgery area must be provided to allow constant monitoring: this area should be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • padded/protected as appropriate; • readily accessible to emergency equipment; • readily sterilised. 	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>

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17.10	A signed anaesthetic consent form must be obtained except in emergency situations. This may be combined with the surgical consent form (see 18.12 below). These should be available for inspection.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended anaesthesia and the potential risks involved.</i>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caseload and range of species undergoing anaesthesia at the premises • Manufacturers' recommendations for servicing of anaesthetic machines • Anaesthetic machine inspections and servicing • Anaesthesia log • Anaesthetic consent form 		
18 – SURGERY		<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
18.1	A dedicated operating area should be available for the conduct of aseptic surgery– it should not double up as a consulting room. (CA & EQ)	<i>This is to ensure that emergency surgery can be performed when required.</i>
18.2	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing surgery at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for surgery and recovery are appropriate.</i>
18.3	The operating area must only contain equipment for use in surgical procedures and radiographic equipment. (CA & EQ)	<i>This is to ensure that surgery can be performed more efficiently and effectively.</i>
18.4	Facilities for viewing radiographs should be available. This should be within, or immediately adjacent to, the operating area. (CA & EQ)	<i>This is to ensure that surgery can be performed more efficiently and effectively.</i>
18.5	An area separate from the aseptic area must be available for induction and pre-operative preparation of patients.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
18.6	Scrub area must be separate from the aseptic area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
18.7	There must be an adjustable height operating table (CA) and light with sufficient power to illuminate the surgical field. (CA, EQ & FA)	<i>This is for the comfort and safety of staff and to allow easy access to the operating site.</i>
18.8	Instruments to be used in surgery must be sterilised either by gas or heat sterilisation.	<i>These are the most effective means of sterilisation.</i>
18.9	Cold chemical sterilisation (CCS) may be acceptable under field conditions and in emergency situations.	<i>CCS is an inferior method of sterilisation.</i>
18.10	Packs of sterilised surgical instruments and drapes must be labelled with the date of sterilisation and contain an indicator of adequate sterilisation.	<i>This is to ensure that only adequately sterilised instruments and drapes are used.</i>
18.11	Caps, masks and sterile gowns, drapes, towels, and gloves must be available.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for cross contamination.</i>

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18.12	Except in emergency situations, a signed surgical consent form must be obtained. This may be combined with the anaesthetic consent form (see 17.10 above).	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended surgical procedure and the potential risks involved.</i>
18.13	Surgery logs must be maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of clinical care.</i>
18.14	The operating area should be a closed room with no through traffic and must be adequately screened from public view.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area and to prevent inadvertently causing distress to a client or other visitor.</i>
18.15	A clock with a second hand must be clearly visible from within the operating area.	<i>This is to ensure that surgery and anaesthesia can be monitored effectively.</i>
18.16	Appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn in the operating area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
18.17	An emergency power source must be available.	<i>This is to allow surgery to be completed in the event of a power cut or electricity failure.</i>
<p>Records which may be requested by Authorised Officers under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgery consent forms • Surgery logs • Anaesthetic consent forms. 		

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