



2011

Practice Inspections by the Veterinary Board of Tasmania

Information for operators of veterinary practices

Under the Tasmanian *Veterinary Surgeons Act (1987)* and its regulations, there is legal authority for the Veterinary Board to inspect premises where veterinary activities occur. In the case of veterinary practices, there can be a reasonable expectation of clients of those practices that there is some regulation of the standards of practice which they receive.

Inspections primarily have an educational role for Tasmanian veterinary practitioners, however, action may be taken where breaches are noted.

Inspections are likely to take 60 – 90 minutes at most, and owners are usually notified well in advance of the inspection. It is helpful if owners or senior veterinary staff can be present for an inspection.

Inspectors are interested in all areas relating to the Standards of Veterinary Practice and includes –

- The cleanliness and presentation of premises and their suitability for the services offered.
- Correct storage and dispensing procedures for Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 drugs.
- Record keeping of the practice, including evidence of client communications regarding treatments and their likely cost.
- Compliance with radiology requirements. [Not currently incorporated into *Standards of Veterinary Practice*.]
- Availability of ongoing care for patients if required. e.g. patients recovering from surgery.
- Ongoing professional education for staff of the practice.

The Veterinary Board of Tasmania considers that periodic inspections of veterinary practices is a valuable tool in minimising complaints to the Board from clients of those practices, and also for veterinarians to successfully defend themselves if complaints occur.
