



Australian Capital Territory

# Veterinary Practice Amendment Act 2025

A2025-20

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Australian Capital Territory

# Veterinary Practice Amendment Act 2025

**A2025-20**

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An Act to amend the *Veterinary Practice Act 2018* and the *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2018*, and for other purposes

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The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts as follows:

## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Veterinary Practice Amendment Act 2025*.

### 2 Commencement

- (1) This Act (other than the provisions mentioned in subsection (2)) commences on the 14th day after its notification day.

*Note* The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on the notification day (see [Legislation Act](#), s 75 (1)).

- (2) The following provisions commence on 1 May 2026:
- sections 18 and 19
  - sections 21 and 22.

### 3 Legislation amended

This Act amends the [Veterinary Practice Act 2018](#) and the [Veterinary Practice Regulation 2018](#).

### 4 Legislation repealed

The [Veterinary Practice \(Professional Bodies\) Declaration 2018](#) (DI2018-298) is repealed.

## Part 2                      Veterinary Practice Act 2018

### **5                      Objects of Act Section 6 (e) and (f)**

*substitute*

- (e) consumers of veterinary services—
- (i) are well informed about the competencies required of veterinary practitioners; and
  - (ii) have confidence in accessing veterinary services from veterinary practitioners;
- (f) the protection of the health and welfare of people.

### **6                      Qualification for general or non-practising registration Section 28, note**

*omit*

### **7                      Removal of veterinary practitioner from register Section 32 (2) (c)**

*omit*

### **8                      Considerations before making occupational discipline orders—suspension or cancellation of registration Section 66 (2) (a)**

*after*

has contravened

*insert*

this Act or

**9 Interaction with commission**  
**Section 70 (4) (f)***omit*

report

*substitute*

complaint

**10 Board—functions**  
**Section 91 (1)***substitute*

- (1) The board has the following functions:
- (a) registering veterinary practitioners and veterinary premises;
  - (b) ensuring the professional development of veterinary practitioners, including by determining requirements for continuing professional development of veterinary practitioners;
  - (c) approving educational and training courses related to professional qualifications for veterinary practitioners;
  - (d) developing codes of professional conduct for veterinary practitioners;
  - (e) setting standards for premises;
  - (f) cooperating with other jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand to further a common and harmonious approach to the administration of legislation relating to veterinary practitioners;
  - (g) giving general advice to consumers of veterinary services in relation to the ethics and standards of professional competence generally expected of veterinary practitioners;
  - (h) giving advice to the Minister in relation to any other matter related to the administration of this Act;

- (i) liaising with, and if the board considers it appropriate, becoming a member of, professional organisations concerned with veterinary science;
- (j) investigating complaints against veterinary practitioners;
- (k) conducting, on the board's own initiative, investigations of veterinary practitioners;
- (l) giving information to the veterinary profession relating to continuing education issues, developments in the field of veterinary science and disciplinary matters;
- (m) taking disciplinary action against veterinary practitioners;
- (n) enforcing this Act, including taking proceedings for offences against this Act.

**11      Annual general meeting of veterinary profession  
Section 92 (2)**

*omit*

, other than a veterinary practitioner who has deemed registration under part 4 (Recognition of veterinary practitioners from other jurisdictions),

**12      Consultation about appointment to board  
New section 96 (4) and (5)**

*insert*

- (4) The Minister may declare an entity to be a professional body for subsection (2).
- (5) A declaration is a disallowable instrument.

**13      Declared professional bodies  
Section 143***omit***14      Regulation-making power  
Section 147 (1), note***omit***15      Section 147 (2)***omit***16      Section 147 (3)***after*

to protect

*insert*

animal welfare,

**17      Dictionary, definition of *declared professional body****omit*



## Part 3                      Veterinary Practice Regulation 2018

### 18            Part 3 heading

*substitute*

## Part 3                      Registration information and requirements

### 19            New section 8A

*in part 3, insert*

#### 8A            Required insurance—Act, s 147 (4) (c)

- (1) A registered veterinary practitioner, other than a non-practising veterinary practitioner, must hold a third-party indemnity insurance policy with cover that is suitable for all aspects of the practitioner's veterinary practice.
- (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply to a registered veterinary practitioner practising veterinary science in their capacity as a government employee.
- (3) In this section:

***government employee*** means an officer or employee of a State, the Territory or the Commonwealth.

*Note*        ***State*** includes the Northern Territory (see [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1).

**20      Notice of annual general meeting  
Section 10 (1)**

*omit*

, other than a veterinary practitioner who has deemed registration under the [Act](#), part 4 (Recognition of veterinary practitioners from other jurisdictions),

**21      Dictionary, note 3**

*insert*

- non-practising veterinary practitioner
- veterinary practice

**22      Dictionary, definitions of *corresponding law, letter of professional standing and relevant authority***

*omit*

part 3 (Registration information)

*substitute*

part 3 (Registration information and requirements)

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## Endnotes

**1 Presentation speech**

Presentation speech made in the Legislative Assembly on 18 March 2025.

**2 Notification**

Notified under the [Legislation Act](#) on 2 July 2025.

**3 Republications of amended laws**

For the latest republication of amended laws, see [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au).

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I certify that the above is a true copy of the Veterinary Practice Amendment Bill 2025, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 26 June 2025.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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