

2025

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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(As presented)

(Minister for City and Government Services)

# Veterinary Practice Amendment Bill 2025

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(Minister for City and Government Services)

# Veterinary Practice Amendment Bill 2025

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## A Bill for

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:

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J2025-57

Authorised by the ACT Parliamentary Counsel—also accessible at [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)

1 **Part 1 Preliminary**

2 **1 Name of Act**

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

4 **2 Commencement**

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

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

9 (2) The following provisions commence on 1 May 2026:

- 10 • sections 18 and 19  
11 • sections 21 and 22.

12 **3 Legislation amended**

13 This Act amends the *Veterinary Practice Act 2018* and the *Veterinary  
14 Practice Regulation 2018*.

15 **4 Legislation repealed**

16 The *Veterinary Practice (Professional Bodies) Declaration 2018  
17 (DI2018-298)* is repealed.

1 **Part 2** **Veterinary Practice Act 2018**

2 **5** **Objects of Act**  
3 **Section 6 (e) and (f)**

4 *substitute*

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

11 **6** **Qualification for general or non-practising registration**  
12 **Section 28, note**

13 *omit*

14 **7** **Removal of veterinary practitioner from register**  
15 **Section 32 (2) (c)**

16 *omit*

17 **8** **Considerations before making occupational discipline**  
18 **orders—suspension or cancellation of registration**  
19 **Section 66 (2) (a)**

20 *after*

21 has contravened

22 *insert*

23 this Act or

1 **9 Interaction with commission**  
2 **Section 70 (4) (f)**

3 *omit*

4 report

5 *substitute*

6 complaint

7 **10 Board—functions**  
8 **Section 91 (1)**

9 *substitute*

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

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

13 **11 Annual general meeting of veterinary profession**  
14 **Section 92 (2)**

15 *omit*

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

19 **12 Consultation about appointment to board**  
20 **New section 96 (4) and (5)**

21 *insert*

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

Section 13

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- 1 **13 Declared professional bodies**
- 2 **Section 143**
- 3 *omit*
- 4 **14 Regulation-making power**
- 5 **Section 147 (1), note**
- 6 *omit*
- 7 **15 Section 147 (2)**
- 8 *omit*
- 9 **16 Section 147 (3)**
- 10 *after*
- 11 to protect
- 12 *insert*
- 13 animal welfare,
- 14 **17 Dictionary, definition of *declared professional body***
- 15 *omit*



1 **Part 3** **Veterinary Practice**  
2 **Regulation 2018**

3 **18 Part 3 heading**

4 *substitute*

5 **Part 3** **Registration information and**  
6 **requirements**

7 **19 New section 8A**

8 *in part 3, insert*

9 **8A Required insurance—Act, s 147 (4) (c)**

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

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

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

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

3 *omit*

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

7 **21 Dictionary, note 3**

8 *insert*

- 9 • non-practising veterinary practitioner  
10 • veterinary practice

11 **22 Dictionary, definitions of *corresponding law, letter of***  
12 ***professional standing and relevant authority***

13 *omit*

14 part 3 (Registration information)

15 *substitute*

16 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 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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