Veterinary Services Policy

Responsible Officer
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)

Approved by
Vice-Chancellor

Approved and commenced
September, 2015

Review by
September, 2018

Relevant Legislation, Ordinance, Rule and/or Governance Level Principle
Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987 (Tas)
Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2012 (Tas)
Animal Welfare Act 1993 (Tas)

Responsible Organisational Unit
Office of Research Services

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1 Objective

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- manage and promote the University of Tasmania’s compliance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987 (Tas) (the Act) and the Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2012 (Tas) (the Regulations) in so far as they relate to the conduct of research and teaching using animals, and

- ensure compliance with any Codes of Practice approved by the Minister pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act 1993 (Tas), as made available from time to time on the Office of Research Services’ website (Code of Practice).

2 Scope

2.1 Application of Policy

This Policy applies to all members of the University of Tasmania conducting research or teaching in the State of Tasmania on the University of Tasmania’s behalf, including staff, students and voluntary appointees (University Representatives).

This Policy does not apply to Veterinary Services carried out in other Australian States or Territories or other countries. Other legal and regulatory requirements in those Australian States or Territories or other countries are likely to apply.

2.2 Use of Veterinary Chemical Products not Covered by this Policy

The use (including administering, handling, making, storing, or dispensing) of veterinary chemical products regulated by the Poisons Act 1971 (Tas), Poisons Regulations 2008 (Tas), Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995 (Tas) and its associated Regulations, Orders or Codes (Veterinary Chemical Products) is not covered by this Policy.

Permits or approvals required in relation to the use of Veterinary Chemical Products must be sought separately, and addition to, any permissions or approvals required by this Policy in relation to the provision of Veterinary Services.

2.3 Inconsistency with the Act, Regulations and Code of Practice

The Act, Regulations and Code of Practice prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with this Policy.

3 Policy Provisions

3.1 Veterinary Services

A “Veterinary Service” means any service that forms part of the practice of veterinary surgery or medicine and includes but is not limited to:
• the examination of, or attendance on, any animal for the purposes of diagnosing the physiological or pathological condition of the animal, including testing or imaging for diagnostic purposes

• giving advice based on a diagnosis referred to in the above paragraph, including prescribing treatment, drugs, medications or medical appliances;

• performing medical or physical treatment of animals

• performing surgical procedures on animals

• administering an anaesthetic to any animal

• conducting pregnancy testing of any animal, or

• carrying out, by manual operation or use of instrumental appliances, any procedure on an animal for artificial breeding purposes.

This Policy does not include the services described as a “Non-Veterinary Service” in the Schedule to this Policy (Appendix i).

3.2 Registered Veterinary Surgeons

For the purpose of this Policy, a “Registered Veterinary Surgeon” is a person who is currently registered, either in the state of Tasmania or another Australian state, as a veterinary surgeon, and otherwise meets the requirements to practice as a registered veterinary surgeon as set out in the Act.

3.3 Conduct of Veterinary Services

A University Representative must not conduct a Veterinary Service in Tasmania unless they:

• have a current Competency Approval in relation to the provision of that service from a Registered Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the University of Tasmania, or

• do so under the direct supervision of a Registered Veterinary Surgeon nominated or approved by the University of Tasmania in accordance with this Policy, or

• are a Registered Veterinary Surgeon.

This will not apply where a University Representative provides a Veterinary Service in an emergency where a Registered Veterinary Surgeon is not available.

3.4 Competency Approval of University Representatives
3.4.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) will appoint a University Veterinarian responsible for assessing the competency of University Representatives in relation to Veterinary Services on behalf of the University of Tasmania, or approving another Registered Veterinary Surgeon to do so.

3.4.2 The University Veterinarian:

- must be a member of the Animal Ethics Committee
- must be a Registered Veterinary Surgeon, and
- may recommend procedures for assessing competency.

3.4.3 The Veterinary Surgeon nominated under 3.4.1 of this policy may give or not give Competency Approval based on their professional assessment of an applicant’s competency in performing a Veterinary Service.

3.4.4 The Competency Approval process will be coordinated by the University Veterinarian and may be sought by written application, in a form prescribed by the Office of Research Services, which subject to clause 3.5 of this Policy, includes at least:

- details of the relevant Veterinary Services
- relevant qualifications of the applicant, including any prior or related Competency Approvals
- information about the relevant prior experience
- any other information which the University Veterinarian requests and reasonably considers relevant to the assessment of the University Representative’s competency.

3.4.5 Competency Approval:

- may only be sought by individuals (not groups)
- is personal to the University Representative granted the Competency Approval and may not be further delegated (e.g. a supervisor may not delegate to a student)
- is specific to the Veterinary Service to which the application relates, and each service must be specified in an application for Competency Approval
- is for a maximum term of 12 months only (after which the University Representative may re-apply for Competency Approval if still required), and
- may be revoked by a Registered Veterinary Surgeon at any time by notice to the University Representative where the Registered Veterinary Surgeon reasonably considers that the University Representative:
  - is no longer competent in performing the Veterinary Service
  - has acted contrary to this Policy, or
  - is performing Veterinary Services other than in accordance with, or outside the scope of, the Competency Approval.
3.5 Annual Assessment on the Basis of Prior Competency Approval

Without limiting clause 3.4 of this Policy, the University Veterinarian or Registered Veterinary Surgeon may, as a pre-requisite to his or her initial assessment or renewal of annual assessment of Competency Approval require that the applicant:

- undertake theoretical or practical training which is approved by, or supervised by, the University Veterinarian or another Registered Veterinary Surgeon
- following animal ethics approval from the Animal Ethics Committee, undertake a practical demonstration of the Veterinary Service in the presence of the University Veterinarian, or
- where the applicant is seeking to renew an expired Competency Approval, produce suitable video or photographic evidence of their continued competency in the Veterinary Service or and/or provide a history of the Veterinary Services performed in the previous twelve months.

3.6 Commencement and Effect of Existing Competency Approvals

This Policy will commence on the date of its approval, and Competency Approvals existing at the date this Policy commences will continue in force and effect, however are deemed to expire 12 months from the date any such approval was granted.

4 Responsibilities

- University Representatives are responsible for complying with this Policy, including by ensuring that they have all required approval or supervision.
- The University Veterinarian, or other appointed Registered Veterinary Surgeon as described in clause 3.4, is responsible for assessing the competency of University Representatives in conducting Veterinary Services for research or teaching purposes.
- The Animal Ethics Committee is responsible for assessing whether an activity that is the subject of an Animal Ethics Application is ethical, which (without limiting the foregoing) may include consideration of whether each individual involved in that activity is supervised or has approval in accordance with this Policy.
- Records and information that support this Policy will be created, managed and disposed of in accordance with the University Records Management Policy, and Guidelines.

5 Supporting Documentation

- Records Management Policy
- Records Management Guidelines
- Research Ethics Policy
6 Versioning

| Current Version | Version 1 - *Veterinary Services Policy*; approved 23 September 2015 |
Appendix i

Schedule- Non-Veterinary Services

For the purposes of this Policy, the following are not Veterinary Services:

(a) tail docking of lambs that are 6 months old or less;
(b) mulesing of lambs that are 6 months old or less;
(c) deworming that does not involve oesophageal intubation (stomach tube);
(d) castration of oxen, sheep or goats that are 6 months old or less;
(e) castration of pigs that are 2 months old or less;
(f) sexing chickens;
(g) debeaking chickens;
(h) removal of horn, horn core and associated skin in goats, or oxen or sheep, that are 6 months old or less;
(i) removal of horn or antler buds from any species before the formation of horn or pedicels (antler bases);
(j) removal or partial removal of antlers or horns from any species, provided that no vascular or other living tissue is removed with the antler or horn;
(k) filing or rasping of horse teeth without the use of power tools;
(l) shoeing of horses;
(m) non-invasive massage;
(n) collection of faecal samples;
(o) collection of milk samples;
(p) collection of blood samples at the direction of a registered veterinary surgeon;
(q) administration of veterinary medicines, in accordance with the label approved under the Agvet Code of Tasmania in relation to that medicine, by subcutaneous or intramuscular injection, oral administration (except oesophageal intubation) or application to any external body surface;
(r) anaesthetising and sedating of –
   (i) fish of the class Osteichthyes; or
   (ii) sharks, rays, lampreys or other cartilaginous fish of the classes Chondrichthyes and Agnatha;
(s) giving of advice on the nutrition and management of animals;
(t) foot trimming;
(u) ear tagging, ear marking or ear tattooing of any species;
(v) branding of any species;
(w) examination for pregnancy by the external application of ultrasound scanning in any species;
(x) artificial insemination, provided that the semen is introduced via the vagina and cervical canal.