# Logo, company name  Description automatically generatedWhat a Qualified Vet Nurse Can legally undertake in SA?

The following data is our interpretation of the state specific legislation. The responsibility of compliance in accordance with the legislation remains the registered practitioner and advise should be sought according directly with the State Based Vet Surgeons Board. All tasks performed are at the direction of the veterinarian.

***More information can be found at:***

https://vsb.sa.gov.au/

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| Task  | Yes | No |
| Administration S4  | ✔See Point 6 of VSB Act.Administering and dispensing only if vet has directed them to do so |  |
| Dispensing S4 | ✔See Point 6 of VSB Act.Administering and dispensing only if vet has directed them to do so |  |
| Administration S8  | ✔Administering and dispensing only if vet has directed them to do so and technically only if the VS has drawn up the medication and is in close proximity when administered.  |  |
| Perform Xray/Ultrasound  | In SA only the VS is able to “press the button” and as per other states needs a license to do so. | ✔ |
| Perform Dental Prophy  | ✔All tasks performed are at the direction of the veterinarian. |  |
| Perform Simple Extractions  |  | ✔ |
| Place Intravenous Catheter | ✔All tasks performed are at the direction of the veterinarian. |  |
| Perform a TPR  | ✔All tasks performed are at the direction of the veterinarian. |  |
| Perform Anaesthetic Induction  | Open to interpretation: Administering and dispensing only if vet has directed them to do so. Advise that should be in the building when/if administered to assume full responsibility as a VS. | ✔ |
| Monitor Anaesthesia  | ✔All tasks performed are at the direction of the veterinarian. |  |
| Perform Superficial Surgical Procedure (Skin Suture)  |  | ✔ |
| Consulting:Giving general health advice in relation to weight loss, nutrition, parasite control and similar matters  | All tasks performed are at the direction of the VS. Advise that once VS diagnoses clinical health condition such as obesity VN can offer continued advise in accordance with the VS instructions.  |  |

SAVSB has a new Draft Code of Conduct which was prepared by a working group of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia comprised of both consumers and providers of veterinary services.

As part of its evaluations, the working group reviewed the current South Australian Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons, comparable Codes of Conduct for the veterinary profession in other Australian and overseas jurisdictions, as well as Codes of Conduct prepared by the South Australian Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner (HCSCC) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

NOTE: It must be noted that the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA), AVA and Australian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) are currently discussing further clarification of lay persons and paraprofessionals tasks and duties in accordance with the SAVSB Act.

Current Act: *last updated 2005*

**7. Vicarious liability**

7.2 A veterinary surgeon responsible for the professional supervision of support staff must ensure that the staff carry out their duties effectively and in compliance with relevant legislation.

7.3 A veterinary surgeon must ensure that: (a) support staff treat as confidential, and refrain from divulging, any information relating to clients, or their animals acquired during the course of their employment; (b) where emergency treatment is administered by a lay person under the direct or indirect supervision of a veterinary surgeon, that veterinary surgeon must assume responsibility for the animal or hand over to another veterinary surgeon. (c) information relating to a client or a client’s animal obtained in the course of examining or treating the animal is not divulged, except when referring the animal to another veterinary surgeon for treatment or a second opinion or with the consent of the client.

**6. Drugs, antibiotics and other chemical or biological substances**

It is recommended that if a drug is supplied to the client for use when a veterinary surgeon is not present an ‘Acknowledgement of Risk & Responsibility’ form is signed by the client to bring to their attention the potential for adverse reaction