



Requirements for Returning to Practice

Introduction

The object of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* is to protect animal health, safety and welfare and the public interest by providing for the registration of veterinary surgeons, to regulate the provision of veterinary treatment for the purposes of maintaining high standards of competence and conduct by veterinary surgeons: to recognise the registration of veterinary surgeons in certain jurisdictions; and for other purposes.

The Act also requires details of any continuing professional development undertaken by the veterinary surgeon to be reported in the Annual Return. The Board has determined that veterinary surgeons must attain 90 units of CPD activity over a period of 3 years, including a maximum of 15 Self-Directed units, a minimum of 30 Continuing Veterinary Education units and a minimum of 30 Collegial Learning units.

Purpose

The Board appreciates that veterinary surgeons may exit the profession for a variety of reasons. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the objectives of the Act and *Veterinary Practice Regulations 2017* (Regulations) are achieved and that there is a consistent and equitable approach to the management of veterinary practitioners who have exited the profession for more than 3 years and seek to return to practice.

This policy aligns to the section 43 of the Act where it states that:

“A veterinary surgeon who has not provided veterinary treatment (whether in or outside of the State) for a period of 3 years or more must not provide veterinary treatment for fee or reward without first obtaining the approval of the Board.”

Policy

The Board will consider applications for registration or for reinstatement to the Register from veterinarian surgeons who have been absent from the profession for more than 3 years based on their length of absence from practice, their level of experience prior to the absence from practice, any continuing professional development (CPD) attained during their absence, and their intended role and field of practice.

Procedure

When applying for registration or reinstatement, the Board will require the following to support your application:

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. An employer reference (if have been employed in the past 10 years)
3. Evidence of CPD activity that meets the [VSBSA Continuing Professional Development Guidelines](#)
4. Any evidence of completion of a Return-to-Work program (Assessed programs count towards CPD)

The Board may, before granting its approval

(a) require the applicant to obtain qualifications or experience specified by the Board and for that purpose may require the applicant to undertake a specified course of instruction or training in veterinary treatment; and

(b) may impose one or more of the following conditions on the applicant's registration under this Act:

(i) a condition restricting the places and times at which the applicant may provide veterinary treatment.

(ii) a condition limiting the kind of veterinary treatment that the applicant may provide.

(iii) a condition requiring that the applicant be supervised in the provision of veterinary treatment by a particular person or by a person of a particular class.

(iv) such other conditions as the Board thinks fit.

The Board retains the ultimate decision-making authority on application for all registrations or reinstatements to the general and/or specialist registers in South Australia, as outlined in the Act.

Monitoring

Applications for registration or reinstatement to the Register must be accompanied by a satisfactory Letter of Professional standing from a current jurisdiction or a written statement describing circumstances covering the period of absence from the profession.

Training and Communication

The Registrar is responsible for ensuring that all persons who are involved in planning in relation to returning to practice have access to this policy.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Board must comply with the Code of Conduct for Board Members in relation to decisions regarding returning to practice requirements.

Related Policies and Procedures

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the

1. Guidelines for the employment of new graduates or inexperienced registered veterinary surgeons
2. Code of Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons
3. Continuing Professional Development Guidelines

Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually or as required to ensure that it remains appropriate to the operations of the Board and compliant with relevant legislation.