



Premises Accreditation Scheme



Standards and Guidelines 2022-2025

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Introduction

The Veterinary Council of Ireland's Premises Accreditation Scheme has been in place for 20 years. It initially commenced as a voluntary scheme in 2002 and progressed to a mandatory scheme in January 2007 as required by Part 9 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended.

A Certificate of Suitability ("a **COS**") is issued to each premises that has been inspected and deemed suitable by the Veterinary Council of Ireland ("**the Council**") in accordance with the Premises Accreditation Scheme ("**PAS**") Standards. A COS so issued is valid usually for a four-year period. The PAS has been reviewed and updated a number of times since its inception to reflect the developments that have occurred in veterinary practice and in veterinary premises and also to reflect Council's proposals for the future direction of the scheme. The new and updated scheme will commence on 1 January 2022 and will run for a cycle of four years, ending on 31 December 2025.

The Council will continue to revise the Premises Accreditation Scheme on an ongoing basis and for the duration the 2022-2025 PAS period, ensuring that it remains fit for purpose in the interest of maintaining proper standards as regards veterinary premises in the State, effective regulation, and the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of animals, the public, and registered persons engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing.

The Council believes that there is an important role for a Registered Veterinary Nurse at a Registered Veterinary Hospital. The Council is exploring the possibility that by 2024 it may be mandatory that a Registered Veterinary Nurse is employed to carry out veterinary nursing at all Registered Veterinary Hospitals, subject to consultation. The Council, in support of the safe delivery of anaesthetic services from a Registered Veterinary Clinic, will require that by January 2026 a gas anaesthetic machine at the premises will be a mandatory requirement.

Acknowledgement

The Council pays tribute to Registered Veterinary Practitioners and Registered Veterinary Nurses (“**Registrants**”) who have invested considerable time, money, and both personal and professional commitment to engage with and to uphold the integrity of the Premises Accreditation Scheme (“**the PAS**”) to date. Over the years the Council has seen considerable improvements in the national standard of veterinary premises, services, facilities, and equipment delivered by its Registrants to the Irish public.

The Council acknowledges the difficulties experienced by veterinary premises in recent years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented pressures this has put on the veterinary professions. It is to the credit of all registrants that the PAS Standards have been maintained and improved throughout such a difficult time period, and the Council commends those who demonstrated their unwavering commitment to best practice and to upholding standards of veterinary practice.

The Veterinary Council of Ireland

The Veterinary Council of Ireland (“**the Council**”) is the State’s veterinary regulatory body. The Council is an independent statutory body set up under the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended. For public accountability purposes, the Council operates under the aegis of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The principal function of the Council is to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in Ireland in the public interest, and in the interest of animal health and welfare, and public health.

The veterinary professions of Ireland care for animals and people. Through the regulation of veterinary practice, the Council enhances public health in Ireland. The functions of the Council include protection of the public through the supervision of veterinary education, the maintenance of the Register of Veterinary Practitioners and Nurses, the registration of veterinary premises, and through disciplinary action in cases of professional misconduct.

Premises Accreditation Scheme

The Council’s Premises Accreditation Scheme (“**the PAS**”) is a mandatory scheme introduced to regulate veterinary premises in the State in accordance with Part 9 of the Veterinary Practice Amendment Act 2005, as amended (“**the Act**”). Under the PAS, all veterinary premises in the State must be registered and certified by the Council.

Through the PAS, the Council regulates and maintains standards of veterinary premises in the State in the public interest by carrying out premises inspections and by requiring Registered Veterinary Practitioners and Registered Veterinary Nurses to comply with the requirements of the Scheme in their day-to-day practice.

Registered Veterinary Premises

Through the PAS, the Council maintains a register of veterinary premises that are certified for the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in the State. Registered veterinary premises certified by the Council have had an inspection of the premises carried out by the Council to verify that it meets all of the required PAS Standards. In order to legally carry out the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the State, **Registrants of the Council must associate themselves with a registered veterinary premises.**

Members of the public can satisfy themselves that a veterinary premises is registered with the Council by searching the Register of Veterinary Premises on the Council’s website.

Certificate of Suitability

When a veterinary premises has been registered by the Council, a Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) with a unique registration number for the premises is issued to the Registrant who made the application. The Registrant is the “COS Holder”.

The COS must be publicly displayed at the veterinary premises, to assure members of the public that the premises has been certified by the Council.

Premises Accreditation Scheme Standards

The Council’s PAS Standards set out the requirements to be met by veterinary premises in order to be eligible for registration and to receive a COS. The PAS Standards have been developed in accordance with the Act.

The PAS Standards set out the requirements in relation to the physical bricks and mortar of a premises, the information to be available and displayed at the premises, the facilities and equipment to be available, the services to be provided, and the various regulations to be adhered to.

Registrants who apply to the Council for a Certificate of Suitability in respect of a veterinary premises must ensure that the premises adheres to the minimum PAS Standards applicable. The Council, in carrying out the physical inspection of a veterinary premises, verifies its eligibility for registration by assessing its compliance with the PAS Standards.

Classification of Veterinary Practice Premises

To reflect the different types of veterinary services offered at registered veterinary premises in the State, the Council has established five different classifications of registered veterinary premises as follows:

- ▶ Registered Veterinary Office
- ▶ Registered Veterinary Clinic
- ▶ Registered Veterinary Hospital
- ▶ Registered Veterinary Facility
- ▶ Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit

Each classification of registered veterinary premises has a unique set of applicable PAS Standards and requirements. The classification of a registered veterinary premises is assigned on the following basis:

- ▶ The PAS Standards met by the premises
- ▶ The nature of the veterinary services being offered by the veterinary practice
- ▶ Whether or not animals are treated at the premises
- ▶ The location of the premises
- ▶ The facilities and equipment available at the premises
- ▶ The target clientele

Maintaining Standards of Veterinary Practice Premises

The Council carries out inspections of veterinary premises to ensure the maintenance of PAS Standards. The Council appoints independently contracted Authorised Officers to carry out premises inspections on its behalf. Authorised Officers are asked to declare any conflict of interest before an inspection is assigned. When a COS Holder or applicant is notified of the assigned Authorised Officer they are also asked to declare any conflicts of interest to the Council before the inspection is arranged. The Council may authorise the inspection of a veterinary premises for any of the following reasons:

A New Premises Application

On application to it in writing by a Registrant and on the submission of the required information and fees, the Council will authorise an inspection of a new veterinary premises to verify its compliance with the PAS Standards. An inspection report furnished to the Council by the appointed Authorised Officer following completion of the inspection will identify any non-conformances with the PAS Standards.

Routine Re-Visits to Registered Premises

The Council carries out routine re-visit inspections to approximately 25% of registered veterinary premises annually. This is to ensure that premises registered by the Council are maintaining the required PAS Standards. In general, the Council will carry out a routine re-visit inspection to every registered premises at least once every four years. An inspection report furnished by the appointed Authorised Officer following completion of the inspection will identify any non-conformances with the PAS Standards for consideration by the Council. Routine re-visit inspections, at the discretion of the Council, may be either announced or unannounced.

Non-Routine Re-Visits

In any case where the Council considers that it is appropriate, it may authorise a re-visit inspection to a veterinary premises at any time to ensure compliance with the PAS Standards. An inspection report furnished by the appointed Authorised Officer following completion of the inspection will identify any non-conformances with the PAS Standards for consideration by the Council. Non-routine re-visit inspections, at the discretion of the Council, may either be announced or unannounced.

Certificate of Suitability Renewal Process

The Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) in respect of any registered veterinary premises is issued by the Council for a defined validity period. This means that each COS issued in respect of a registered veterinary premises will have an expiration date, after which the premises is no longer registered, and a renewal application must be submitted in order for the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing at or from the premises to continue.

The Council's Premises Accreditation Scheme operates within a four-year cycle. In general, unless otherwise decided by the Council, a COS is issued for a four-year period. The previous PAS cycle, 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2021 has come to an end, and the new PAS cycle, 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2025 has now commenced.

All COS which expired on 31 December 2021 must be renewed in order for the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing at or from the premises to continue.

2022-2025 PAS Cycle

The Council will issue a renewed COS in respect of a registered veterinary premises to which a valid renewal application has been submitted.

The 2022-2025 PAS Cycle brings about the introduction of some important updates to the PAS for the attention of all Registrants as follows:

Clarification on Requirements for 24-Hour Care

The Council has updated the PAS Standard to clarify the requirements in respect of 24-hour care and monitoring of hospitalised patients.

- ▶ In relation to premises registered in the **Registered Veterinary Clinic (“RVC”)** classification, patient monitoring must be provided as necessary and on a 24-hour basis by a registered person and a written duty rota must be available.
- ▶ In relation to premises registered in the **Registered Veterinary Hospital (“RVH”)** classification, patient monitoring must be provided as necessary **at the premises** and on a 24-hour basis by a registered person and a written duty rota must be available.

Classification Name Change - Registered Veterinary Office (RVO)

The premises classification previously referred to as the “Registered Veterinary Practice” has been renamed and is now referred to as the “Registered Veterinary Office” (“RVO”). This change has now been reflected across all Council literature referring to the RVO classification.

New Premises Classification – Registered Veterinary Facility (RVF)

In the public interest and in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of animals, the new Registered Veterinary Facility (“RVF”) premises classification has been introduced to the PAS by the Council. The new RVF classification is introduced for the purpose of ensuring more robust and effective regulation of industry-based veterinary premises.

The Council considers that to enable effective regulation of all registered premises, it must ensure that the assigned premises classification, and therefore the applicable PAS Standards and requirements, are appropriate to the scope of veterinary practice and services being delivered by the practice. Due to the nature of the RVF classification, the applicable PAS Standards will vary from one RVF premises to another and will be determined in all cases by the Council.

A Registered Veterinary Facility (“RVF”) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland, at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine, but not to or for the general public. It is a premises which, in the opinion of the Veterinary Council, having considered the type and scope of practice to be carried out at or from the premises, is more properly classed as a RVF, in circumstances where many of the requirements for other classes of veterinary premises would not be relevant. Examples of circumstances where RVF may be the appropriate class of premises include (but are not limited to):

- a) where an advisory service is provided which does not involve prescribing medication;
- b) practising to or for an industry-based client.

New Room Requirements – Registered Veterinary Clinic (RVC)

From 1 January 2022, all premises in the Registered Veterinary Clinic (“RVC”) classification must comply with the new room/area requirements. These requirements are introduced in the public interest in line with the ongoing progression and developments in clinical practice, health and safety and biosecurity requirements, and in the interest of continued improvements in clinical outcomes.

The Council considers that the minimum rooms/areas required will further ensure that premises in the RVC classification can safely and effectively deliver the various facets of veterinary care expected of them to the highest possible standard.

For RVCs **in the treatment of companion animals at the premises**, the new room requirements are as follows:

1. *Office/Reception/Waiting Room;*
2. *Examination Room;*
3. *Treatment/Procedure Room;*
4. *Inpatient Room;*
5. *a Public Toilet.*

For RVCs **in the treatment of 100 % equine and/or farm animals at the premises**, the new room/area requirements are as follows:

1. *Office/Reception/Waiting Room;*
2. *Examination/Treatment/Procedure Area;*
3. *Inpatient Area;*
4. *a Public Toilet.*

APPENDIX 1. PAS Definitions

Certificate of Suitability (COS)	A Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) is the official certificate which confirms that the premises is registered with the Veterinary Council under its mandatory Premises Accreditation Scheme (“PAS”) in accordance with section 109 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended. The COS identifies the classification of premises to which the Certificate applies, period of its validity and the name of the Certificate Holder. The COS Holder is the registered person (a person registered under Part 4 or Part 8 of the Act), to whom the COS is granted. The COS Holder is the Council’s point of contact in respect of the PAS.
Client	The owner or authorised carer of the animal.
COS Holder	The Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) Holder is the registered person to whom the COS is granted by the Council. The COS Holder is the Council’s point of contact in relation to the practice premises and in respect of the PAS. The COS Holder is responsible for ensuring that the practice premises is compliant with the PAS Regulations and PAS Standards in the registered practice premises classification. If more than one COS is held by a COS Holder, they must have direct knowledge and influence over the clinical services being offered at each registered veterinary premises. The COS Holder must ensure that only Registrants with the Council are practising veterinary medicine/veterinary nursing at and/or from the premises and that it is carried out in compliance with the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended. The COS Holder is a person who holds a suitable/significant position of authority within the veterinary practice, which empowers them to discharge all COS Holder responsibilities.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency.
EQ	Equine animal.
FA	Food animal.
Patient	The animal.
Reasonable Distance	The acceptable distance in the context of a registered veterinary premises out of hours services arrangement with another registered veterinary premises, which should reasonably equate to the client’s normal journey times during the day to their usual registered veterinary premises.
Registered Person/ Registrant	A person registered under Part 4 or Part 8 of the Veterinary Practice Amendment Act 2005, as amended.
Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit	<p>A Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (“RMVU”) is a mobile unit, usually associated with a registered charity, appropriately equipped and registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at which one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine. In addition, a RMVU must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be associated with a Registered Veterinary Clinic (“RVC”) or a Registered Veterinary Hospital (“RVH”). 2. Have a separate Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) for each location where the service is being offered. Each location chosen must in particular be suitable for public access, health and safety and biosecurity. 3. Submit a schedule of locations, consultation days and hours of attendance to the Council.

<p>Registered Veterinary Clinic</p>	<p>A Registered Veterinary Clinic (“RVC”) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location, registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine. A RVC provides facilities for veterinary examination of animals and the carrying out of routine diagnostic, prophylactic and medical and surgical procedures. If animals are housed overnight appropriate arrangements shall be made for patient monitoring. At least one Registered Veterinary Nurse should be employed as part of the veterinary team at the RVC.</p> <p>Room requirements for RVCs in the treatment of companion animals at the premises are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Office/Reception/Waiting Room;</i> 2. <i>Examination Room;</i> 3. <i>Treatment/Procedure Room;</i> 4. <i>Inpatient Room;</i> 5. <i>a Public Toilet.</i> <p>Room/area requirements for RVCs in the treatment of equine and/or farm animals at the premises are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Office/Reception/Waiting Room;</i> 2. <i>Examination/Treatment/Procedure Area;</i> 3. <i>Inpatient Area;</i> 4. <i>a Public Toilet.</i>
<p>Registered Veterinary Facility</p>	<p>A Registered Veterinary Facility (“RVF”) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland, at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine, but not to or for the general public. It is a premises which, in the opinion of the Veterinary Council, having considered the type and scope of practice to be carried out at or from the premises, is more properly classed as a RVF, in circumstances where many of the requirements for other classes of veterinary premises would not be relevant. Examples of circumstances where RVF may be the appropriate class of premises include (but are not limited to) (a) where an advisory service is provided which does not involve prescribing medication; or (b) practising to or for an industry-based client.</p>
<p>Registered Veterinary Hospital</p>	<p>A Registered Veterinary Hospital (“RVH”) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location, registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine. A RVH provides facilities for the hospitalisation of animals with 24-hour care at the premises, provided by a registered person as necessary, and offers a range of surgical, medical and diagnostic techniques. The RVH should have a multidisciplinary team of registered veterinary practitioners and, if appropriate, registered veterinary specialists to deliver the service required as dictated by the hospital’s case load. The category of animals treated at the Hospital is indicated by the appropriate suffix (Companion Animals – CA, Equine – EQ or Food Animal – FA).</p> <p>From 1 January 2024, all newly registered RVHs must employ at least one Registered Veterinary Nurse as part of the veterinary team. This mandatory requirement will come into place for all existing RVHs from 1 January 2026.</p>
<p>Registered Veterinary Office</p>	<p>A Registered Veterinary Office (“RVO”) is a premises registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland from which one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine on animals at a farm or other location removed from the RVO. Animals MUST NOT be seen at the premises. This does not exclude emergency treatment in an exceptional case.</p>

SOPO	Scope of practice options - additional options available to expand the range of veterinary services offered at a premises.
The Act	The Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended.
Veterinary Nursing Care	The care provided by a person registered under Part 8 of the Act and acting in compliance with the definition of veterinary nursing in Section 91 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended.
Veterinary Premises	“Veterinary premises” means any premises where the practice of veterinary medicine by a registered person occurs, including an ambulance or other vehicle equipped to facilitate such practice.
VPA	Veterinary Product Authorisation.

APPENDIX 2. PAS Standards Registered Veterinary Office

A Registered Veterinary Office (“RVO”) is a premises registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland from which one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine on animals at a farm or other location removed from the RVO. Animals **MUST NOT** be seen at the premises. This does not exclude emergency treatment in an exceptional case.

A Registered Veterinary Office (“RVO”) is a classification of veterinary premises which may be registered by the Veterinary Council of Ireland. A RVO is an office or shopfront from which veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses provide ambulatory veterinary services usually to farm animal and equine animal clients, at locations removed from the RVO. In the interest of animal health and welfare, it is not permissible for veterinary practitioners or veterinary nurses to see or to treat animals at a RVO. This is because the facilities and equipment required at a RVO are not sufficient to provide adequate veterinary care at the premises.

As all veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses have a duty of care to animals under the Codes of Professional Conduct, it is permissible for animals to be seen or treated on the premises of a RVO in exceptional emergency circumstances, usually to provide critical first aid care to enable the transport of the animal to a Registered Veterinary Clinic or Registered Veterinary Hospital for further treatment, monitoring, and hospitalisation.

KEY ABBREVIATIONS	
SOPO	<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
N/A	<i>Not Applicable</i>
RVO	<i>Registered Veterinary Office</i>
RVC	<i>Registered Veterinary Clinic</i>
RVH	<i>Registered Veterinary Hospital CA Companion Animal EQ Equine FA Food Animal</i>
RVF	<i>Registered Veterinary Facility</i>
RMVU	<i>Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit</i>

PAS Standards - Registered Veterinary Office

The requirements to be met by veterinary premises in the RVO classification in order to be eligible for registration and to be issued or to retain a COS.

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
1 - SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT		Mandatory Requirement
1.1	All Registered Veterinary Offices must provide a 24-hour emergency service to their clients in compliance with the Code of Professional Conduct. Emergency out of hours cover may be arranged with another registered veterinary practice within a reasonable distance and clients must be made aware of such an arrangement either before or when seeking Registered Practitioner assistance. Documentary evidence of such an arrangement must be available and may be requested by an Authorised Officer.	<i>The public can have access to emergency veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.2	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Clinical pathology sampling is a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
1.3	If radiography services are not provided from the premises, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>All patients must have access to radiography services.</i>
1.4	Signs must be kept in good repair. Consultation days and hours of attendance must be clearly visible, as well as telephone numbers to contact outside these hours. Telephone numbers for emergency cover must also be made available.	<i>The public can have access to veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.5	The equipment required for the procedures performed must be stored in a safe secure location, not accessible to the public.	<i>Registered persons require certain items of equipment to carry out their work. Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness. Veterinary equipment can also be hazardous if accessible to and/or used by untrained individuals.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
2 - RECORDS		Mandatory Requirement
2.1	<p>An efficient system of recording, filing and retrieving patient records must be maintained for each animal, herd, stud, flock or farm, appropriate to the facility, the equipment and the services provided, with due regard to confidentiality.</p> <p>Records must indicate the person responsible for carrying out the procedure or service. Records may be in written or electronic format and a satisfactory back-up system should be maintained. Records must be kept for at least 7 years.</p> <p>Authorised Officers may ask to inspect one or more animal/ herd/stud/flock/farm records.</p> <p>Records should include dated examination findings, dated diagnostic test findings, all treatments, anaesthetics and surgeries, and relevant communications with clients.</p> <p>Records must be promptly made available to clients on request.</p>	<p><i>Properly maintained clinical records allow prompt and effective treatment of animals and allow continuity of care within and between practices.</i></p>
2.2	<p>If the practice operates from more than one premises, the clinical records system must be accessible from each premises.</p>	<p><i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and appropriate veterinary care.</i></p>
2.3	<p>Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species treated from the premises.</p>	<p><i>This is to ensure that an appropriate range of animal remedies is available.</i></p>
2.4	<p>Records monitoring the safe and correct storage of animal remedies by refrigeration must be kept and made available for inspection.</p>	<p><i>The reporting of adverse drug reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i></p>
2.5 - 2.12 NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION		
2.13	<p>Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.</p>	<p><i>Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i></p>
2.14	<p>A log of exposures and number of views taken must be kept and available for inspection. The log of exposures may be stored manually or electronically.</p>	<p><i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle). Manual restraint is not permitted for companion animals (CA) radiography, and only permitted for other species of animals in extreme emergencies. Fingers must never be within the primary beam.</i></p>
2.15	<p>Records of routine services on all equipment must be maintained and available for inspection.</p>	<p><i>Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness.</i></p>

	<p>Records which may be requested by an Authorised Officer under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Equipment service records ▶ Written duty rota for Registered Veterinary Practitioners on call ▶ Records of Environmental Protection Agency Certification ▶ Arrangements for 24-hour cover ▶ Arrangement for external radiography services ▶ Arrangements for post-mortem examination ▶ Records of diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology tests ▶ Records of caseload and range of species treated ▶ Practice Safety Statement ▶ Accident Record Book ▶ Contracts with appropriate waste disposal providers (sharps, pharmaceutical, clinical, anatomical, non-clinical) ▶ Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions reports (if applicable) ▶ Cleaning protocols and schedules ▶ Evidence of VCI registration of registered persons ▶ Reference range value ▶ Exposure log ▶ Dosimeter records ▶ Technique chart 	
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No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
3 - HEALTH AND SAFETY		Mandatory Requirement
3.1	A practice Safety Statement must be available and must reflect the scope of work and species seen from the premises.	<i>This is a legal requirement under health & safety legislation.</i>
3.2	A sufficient number of working smoke detectors and readily accessible serviced fire extinguishers must be provided.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.3	A well-stocked emergency first aid box and accident record book must be available and properly maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client safety.</i>
3.4	Pressurised gas cylinders, where present, must be stored safely and securely.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.5	Non-clinical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>

3.6	Clinical waste and anatomical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.7	Pharmaceutical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.8	All other hazardous waste must be disposed of in a safe and appropriate manner.	<i>All waste must be appropriately and safely disposed of.</i>
3.9	Sharps must be placed directly in an approved container and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.10	NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION	

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
4 - PHARMACY		Mandatory Requirement
4.1	A range of animal remedies consistent with good standard of practice and range of procedures undertaken must be stored at the premises.	<i>It is in the interest of animal welfare that an appropriate range of products are available to the treating veterinary practitioner.</i>
4.2	The storage, safekeeping, dispensing, record-keeping and management of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, at the premises must be in conformance with Veterinary Product Authorisation and Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.	<i>There are legal obligations on veterinary practitioners regarding the storage and supply and record keeping of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, in the current Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.</i>
4.3	If refrigeration of animal remedies is required it must be stored at required temperatures and separate from that of domestic storage, pathological samples or carcasses.	<i>This is necessary to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
4.4	A system must be in place for the recording and reporting to the Health Products Regulatory Authority of any suspected Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions.	<i>The reporting of suspected veterinary medicine adverse reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
5 - BIOSECURITY		Mandatory Requirement
5.1	All areas of a veterinary premises, including all instruments and equipment used, must be maintained in a sanitary and orderly condition at all times.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.2	The entire facility must be clean, uncluttered and free from obstructions.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of injury to staff, client or patients.</i>
5.3	NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION	
5.4	Sanitising agents capable of killing viruses and bacteria must be used to disinfect the premises as appropriate, and measures must be in place to prevent the spread of disease between sites.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.5	Adequate measures must be in place to prevent the spread of contagious disease.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.6	A disinfectant boot dip and protective clothing must be provided if required.	<i>This is in the interest of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
6 - POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION AND CARCASE DISPOSAL		Mandatory Requirement
6.1	Arrangements must be in place for the post-mortem examination of animals either from the premises, at another registered premises or at a veterinary pathology laboratory.	<i>Post-mortem examination provides useful information for the veterinary practitioner and the owner and aids in diagnosis and treatment of cohort animals.</i>
6.2	All animal tissues must be enclosed in appropriate containers and kept in an area away from the public before being promptly removed for disposal or dispatch.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination and prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>
6.3	NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION	
6.4	Where post-mortem services are being provided, adequate facilities should be provided, separate from public areas.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination and prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
7 - VEHICLE		Mandatory Requirement
7.1	Each vehicle used by a registered person in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine must comply with appropriate legislation.	<i>A registered person is expected to conform with legal requirements.</i>
7.2	Vehicles must be kept in a clean and tidy condition in the interest of animal health.	<i>A practice vehicle is an intrinsic part of a registered person's professional image.</i>
7.3	Appropriate clean protective clothing and footwear, and appropriate cleaning equipment must be carried in the vehicle.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of spread of disease between sites or between animals and people.</i>

7.4	In the vehicle, animal remedies must be stored according to the legislation and the manufacturers' recommendations, safely and securely with a stock level that is adequate for anticipated demand and monitored to ensure it is used within date.	<i>It is unsafe and illegal to use out-of-date animal remedies. Animal remedies have specific storage requirements which must be adhered to in order to maintain their safety and efficiency. Veterinary equipment and many animal remedies can be dangerous if handled by lay people and it is incumbent on practitioners to minimise the risk of break-ins to practice vehicles storing such equipment/remedies.</i>
7.5	Adequate and clean restraint and diagnostic equipment and sampling material must be carried to allow the diagnosis and treatment of those conditions normally encountered.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are facilitated by access to the correct equipment for restraint and diagnosis. Separation of dirty equipment avoids the spread of disease between animals.</i>
7.6	Suitable waste disposal containers must be provided for clinical, biological and sharps waste.	<i>This is a requirement under health and safety legislation.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
8 - LIBRARY		Mandatory Requirement
8.1	The library must be sufficient in scope to provide current reference material on the usual range of emergency and critical conditions expected, in addition to all treatments performed within the normal scope of practice.	<i>The internet provides timely access to the most up-to-date research and information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
9 - OFFICE		Mandatory Requirement
9.1	The current Certificate of Suitability must be displayed in a prominent place.	<i>This is a requirement under the Act. An Authorised Officer is entitled to ask to see the COS.</i>
9.2	Names and qualifications of registered veterinary practitioners and registered veterinary nurses practising from the premises must be displayed.	<i>Persons practising from a Registered Premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council.</i>
9.3	Persons practising from the premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
9.4 - 9.8 NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION		
9.9	A sign indicating basic call-out fees must be publicly displayed.	<i>This is for client information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
10 - PREMISES – EXTERNAL		Mandatory Requirement
10.1	The veterinary premises must be a permanent structure.	<i>Solid foundations and a permanent structure are essential. Impermanent or mobile buildings are unacceptable. A permanent structure reassures clients that continuity of care will be available for their animals.</i>
10.2	The COS Holder shall confirm that the premises complies with all local planning regulations.	<i>This is a legal requirement, and compliance with local planning ensures continuity of care for clients and their animals.</i>
10.3	The grounds and exterior must be well maintained.	<i>To eliminate hazards which might cause injury to staff, clients or patients.</i>
10.4	NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION	
10.5	There must be adequate external lighting of the structure and environs.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients and staff.</i>
10.6	Doors and windows must be secure.	<i>This is to prevent the theft of animal remedies.</i>
10.7	NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION	
11 – EXAMINATION ROOM– NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION		
12 – TREATMENT/PROCEDURE ROOM – NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION		
13 - IN-PATIENT ROOM AND FACILITIES – NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION		
14 - FOOD STORAGE AND PREPARATION – NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION		
15 - ANAESTHESIA AND RECOVERY – NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION		
16- SURGERY – NOT APPLICABLE TO RVO CLASSIFICATION		

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
17 - LABORATORY		Scope of Practice Option
17.1	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. If in-house laboratory diagnostic services are provided, the laboratory area/bench must be clearly defined and used only for laboratory purposes.	<i>The use of laboratory testing to support good veterinary practice is considered essential. Clinical pathology sampling can be a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
17.2	Where samples are submitted to an outside laboratory they must be collected, stored, packaged, and dispatched in a manner that ensures the safety of personnel in contact with sample material and minimises sample deterioration to ensure optimum test results.	<i>Accuracy and reliability of test results depends on appropriate sample collection, storage and dispatch.</i>
17.3	There must be adequate facilities for the storage of specimens and reagents, including refrigeration if required.	<i>This is to ensure the accuracy and reliability of test results.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
18 - RADIOGRAPHY AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING		Scope of Practice Option
18.1	Where an X-ray source is used, the source and its use must be suitably authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”). Proof of suitable Environmental Protection Agency authorisation must be publicly displayed and available for inspection.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>
18.2	Permanent identification of the radiograph must occur at the time of exposure or just prior to processing.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>
18.3	Protective equipment, restraining devices, including sedation and anaesthesia, and plate holders, must be available. No part of any person shall be exposed to the primary X-ray beam, even if shielded by protective clothing. The primary beam shall not be directed through unshielded doors, floors, windows or ceilings behind which people may be situated.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle).</i>
18.4	Where required, adequate dosimeters must be in place, as determined by an EPA risk assessment.	<i>As per Regulation 42(6) of SI 30 of 2019: ‘the employer, shall make arrangements to retain the record referred to in subparagraph (1)(a) during the period of the working life involving exposure to ionising radiation of the worker concerned and afterwards until they have or would have attained the age of 75 years, but, in any case not less than 30 years after termination of the work involving exposure to ionising radiation’.</i>
18.5	A properly formulated technique chart must be available, and exposure should be based on body part/thickness with a measuring calliper also available.	<i>ALARA principle: a chart helps reduce repeat radiographs.</i>
18.6	Suitable arrangements for the efficient filing, storage, and retrieval of radiographs must be in place.	<i>Ready access to radiographs ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
18.7	If radiography services are not provided from the premises, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>Radiography is an integral diagnostic modality in veterinary medicine and should be available to all patients, even if not provided at the premises.</i>

APPENDIX 3. PAS Standards Registered Veterinary Clinic

A Registered Veterinary Clinic (RVC) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location, registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine.

A RVC provides facilities for veterinary examination of animals and the carrying out of routine diagnostic, prophylactic and medical and surgical procedures. If animals are housed overnight appropriate arrangements shall be made for patient monitoring. At least one Registered Veterinary Nurse should be employed as part of the veterinary team at the RVC.

Room requirements for RVCs in the treatment of companion animals at the premises are as follows:

1. *Office/Reception/Waiting Room;*
2. *Examination Room;*
3. *Treatment/Procedure Room;*
4. *Inpatient Room;*
5. *a Public Toilet.*

Room/area requirements for RVCs in the treatment of equine and/or farm animals at the premises are as follows:

1. *Office/Reception/Waiting Room;*
2. *Examination/Treatment/Procedure Area;*
3. *Inpatient Area;*
4. *a Public Toilet.*

A Registered Veterinary Clinic (“RVC”) is a classification of veterinary premises which may be registered by the Veterinary Council of Ireland. A RVC is a veterinary premises at and from which Registered Veterinary Practitioners and Registered Veterinary Nurses provide veterinary services to animal owning clients. RVCs are not required to provide surgical, laboratory, or radiography services, and so animals may be referred to other Registered Veterinary Clinics or Registered Veterinary Hospitals to receive such treatments. A RVC is required to facilitate 24-hour patient care as necessary. Many RVCs provide veterinary services to companion, farm, and equine clients, referred to as “mixed practice” RVCs. RVCs may also provide veterinary services exclusively to companion animal clients (RVC-CA), farm animal clients (RVC-FA), or equine animal clients (RVC-EQ).

Where Companion Animals are Treated at the RVC:-

Rooms required – Office/Reception/Waiting Room – Examination Room – Inpatient Room – Treatment/Procedure Room – Public Toilet

*An ambulatory service to companion animal, farm animal, and equine animal clients is permitted from a RVC-CA. Where required, if facilities for surgical treatment, hospitalisation, and monitoring of farm and equine animals are not available at the premises, referral arrangements must be in place.

Where Farm Animals are Treated at the RVC:-

Rooms/areas required – Office/Reception/Waiting Room – Examination/Procedure/Treatment Area – Inpatient Area – Public Toilet

*An ambulatory service to companion animal, farm animal, and equine animal clients is permitted from a RVC-FA. Where required, if facilities for surgical treatment, hospitalisation, and monitoring of companion and equine animals are not available at the premises, referral arrangements must be in place.

Where Equine Animals are Treated at the RVC:-

Rooms/Areas required – Office/Reception/Waiting Room – Examination/Procedure/Treatment Area – Inpatient Area – Public Toilet

*An ambulatory service to companion animal, farm animal, and equine animal clients is permitted from a RVC-EQ. Where required, if facilities for surgical treatment, hospitalisation, and monitoring of companion and farm animals are not available at the premises, referral arrangements must be in place.

Surgery at the RVC

While it is not a requirement that surgical services are provided at the RVC, RVCs in the provision of surgical services must, as a minimum requirement, have a dedicated surgery area and a separate aseptic scrub area within the treatment/procedure room or area.

Although the minimum requirement is acceptable, it is preferable that a RVC in the provision of surgical services contain a dedicated operating room, separate to the treatment/procedure room.

KEY ABBREVIATIONS	
SOPO	<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
N/A	<i>Not Applicable</i>
RVO	<i>Registered Veterinary Office</i>
RVC	<i>Registered Veterinary Clinic</i>
RVH	<i>Registered Veterinary Hospital CA Companion Animal EQ Equine FA Food Animal</i>
RVF	<i>Registered Veterinary Facility</i>
RMVU	<i>Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit</i>

PAS Standards - Registered Veterinary Clinic

The requirements to be met by veterinary premises in the RVC classification in order to be eligible for registration and to be issued or to retain a COS.

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
1 - SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT		Mandatory Requirement
1.1	All Registered Veterinary Clinics must provide a 24-hour emergency service to their clients in compliance with the Code of Professional Conduct. Emergency out of hours cover may be arranged with another registered veterinary practice within a reasonable distance and clients must be made aware of such an arrangement either before or when seeking Registered Practitioner assistance. Documentary evidence of such an arrangement must be available and may be requested by an Authorised Officer.	<i>The public can have access to emergency veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.2	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Clinical pathology sampling is a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
1.3	If radiography services are not provided at/from the premises, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>All patients must have access to radiography services.</i>
1.4	Signs must be kept in good repair. Consultation days and hours of attendance must be clearly visible, as well as telephone numbers to contact outside these hours. Telephone numbers for emergency cover must also be made available.	<i>The public can have access to veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.5	The equipment required for the procedures performed must be stored in a safe secure location, not accessible to the public.	<i>Registered persons require certain items of equipment to carry out their work. Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness. Veterinary equipment can also be hazardous if accessible to and/or used by untrained individuals.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
2 - RECORDS		Mandatory Requirement
2.1	<p>An efficient system of recording, filing and retrieving patient records must be maintained for each animal, herd, stud, flock or farm, appropriate to the facility, the equipment and the services provided, with due regard to confidentiality.</p> <p>Records must indicate the person responsible for carrying out the procedure or service. Records may be in written or electronic format and a satisfactory back-up system should be maintained. Records must be kept for at least 7 years. Authorised Officers may ask to inspect one or more animal/herd/stud/flock/farm records.</p> <p>Records should include dated examination findings, dated diagnostic test findings, all treatments, anaesthetics and surgeries, and relevant communications with clients.</p> <p>Records must be promptly made available to clients on request.</p>	<i>Properly maintained clinical records allow prompt and effective treatment of animals and allow continuity of care within and between practices.</i>

2.2	If the practice operates from more than one premises, the clinical records system must be accessible from each premises.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and appropriate veterinary care.</i>
2.3	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species treated at/from the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that an appropriate range of animal remedies is available.</i>
2.4	Records monitoring the safe and correct storage of animal remedies by refrigeration must be kept and made available for inspection.	<i>The reporting of adverse drug reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>
2.5	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species hospitalised at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that appropriate equipment and facilities are provided for in- patient care.</i>
2.6	Records indicating times of observation, examination, treatment, feeding, and general care must be kept and available for inspection. The records must be annotated by the person carrying out the observation of procedures.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
2.7	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing anaesthesia at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for anaesthesia and recovery are appropriate.</i>
2.8	Records of anaesthetic monitoring must be available for inspection.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
2.9	A signed anaesthetic consent form must be obtained except in emergency situations. This may be combined with the surgical consent form. These should be available for inspection.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended anaesthesia and the potential risks involved.</i>
2.10	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing surgery at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for surgery and recovery are appropriate.</i>
2.11	Except in emergency situations, a signed surgical consent form must be obtained. This may be combined with the anaesthetic consent form.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended surgical procedure and the potential risks involved.</i>
2.12	Surgery logs must be maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of clinical care.</i>
2.13	Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
2.14	A log of exposures and number of views taken must be kept and available for inspection. The log of exposures may be stored manually or electronically.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle). Manual restraint is not permitted for companion animals (CA) radiography, and only permitted for other species of animals in extreme emergencies. Fingers must never be within the primary beam.</i>
2.15	Records of routine services on all equipment must be maintained and available for inspection.	<i>Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness.</i>

<p>Records which may be requested by an Authorised Officer under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Equipment service records ▶ Written duty rota for Registered Veterinary Practitioners on call ▶ Records of Environmental Protection Agency Certification ▶ Arrangements for 24-hour cover ▶ Arrangement for external radiography services ▶ Arrangements for post-mortem examination ▶ Records of diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology tests ▶ Records of caseload and range of species treated ▶ Practice Safety Statement ▶ Accident Record Book ▶ Contracts with appropriate waste disposal providers (sharps, pharmaceutical, clinical, anatomical, non-clinical) ▶ Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions reports (if applicable) ▶ Cleaning protocols and schedules ▶ Evidence of VCI registration of registered persons ▶ Animal identification systems ▶ Anaesthesia log ▶ Anaesthetic consent forms ▶ Surgery consent forms ▶ Surgery logs ▶ Reference range value ▶ Exposure log ▶ Dosimeter records ▶ Technique chart 	
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No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
3 - HEALTH AND SAFETY		Mandatory Requirement
3.1	A practice Safety Statement must be available and must reflect the scope of work and species seen from the premises.	<i>This is a legal requirement under health & safety legislation.</i>
3.2	A sufficient number of working smoke detectors and readily accessible serviced fire extinguishers must be provided.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.3	A well-stocked emergency first aid box and accident record book must be available and properly maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client safety.</i>
3.4	Pressurised gas cylinders, where present, must be stored safely and securely.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.5	Non-clinical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.6	Clinical waste and anatomical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.7	Pharmaceutical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.8	All other hazardous waste must be disposed of in a safe and appropriate manner.	<i>All waste must be appropriately and safely disposed of.</i>
3.9	Sharps must be placed directly in an approved container and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.10	A staff facility, with separate food preparation/dining area, should be available.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client health and safety (and in compliance with Health & Safety Legislation).</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
4 - PHARMACY		Mandatory Requirement
4.1	A range of animal remedies consistent with good standard of practice and range of procedures undertaken must be stored at the premises.	<i>It is in the interest of animal welfare that an appropriate range of products are available to the treating veterinary practitioner.</i>
4.2	The storage, safekeeping, dispensing, record-keeping and management of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, at the premises must be in conformance with Veterinary Product Authorisation and Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.	<i>There are legal obligations on veterinary practitioners regarding the storage and supply and record keeping of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, in the current Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.</i>

4.3	If refrigeration of animal remedies is required it must be stored at required temperatures and separate from that of domestic storage, pathological samples or carcasses.	<i>This is necessary to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
4.4	A system must be in place for the recording and reporting to the Health Products Regulatory Authority of any suspected Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions.	<i>The reporting of suspected veterinary medicine adverse reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
5 - BIOSECURITY		Mandatory Requirement
5.1	All areas of a veterinary premises, including all instruments and equipment used, must be maintained in a sanitary and orderly condition at all times.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.2	The entire facility must be clean, uncluttered and free from obstructions.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of injury to staff, client or patients.</i>
5.3	Separate cleaning materials and equipment must be used for clinical and non-clinical areas.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
5.4	Sanitising agents capable of killing viruses and bacteria must be used to disinfect the premises as appropriate, and measures must be in place to prevent the spread of disease between sites, where applicable.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.5	Adequate measures must be in place to prevent the spread of contagious disease.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.6	A disinfectant boot dip and protective clothing must be provided if required.	<i>This is in the interest of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
6 - POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION AND CARCASE DISPOSAL		Mandatory Requirement
6.1	Arrangements must be in place for the post-mortem examination of animals either at the premises, at another registered premises or at a veterinary pathology laboratory.	<i>Post-mortem examination provides useful information for the veterinary practitioner and the owner and aids in diagnosis and treatment of cohort animals.</i>
6.2	All animal tissues must be enclosed in appropriate containers and kept in an area away from the public before being promptly removed for disposal or dispatch.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination and prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>
6.3	A dedicated freezer must be available for the disposal of animals.	<i>This is for reasons of public health and hygiene and is to prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
7 - VEHICLE		Mandatory Requirement
7.1	Each vehicle used by a registered person in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine must comply with appropriate legislation.	<i>A registered person is expected to conform with legal requirements.</i>
7.2	Vehicles must be kept in a clean and tidy condition in the interest of animal health.	<i>A practice vehicle is an intrinsic part of a registered person's professional image.</i>
7.3	Appropriate clean protective clothing and footwear, and appropriate cleaning equipment must be carried in the vehicle.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of spread of disease between sites or between animals and people.</i>
7.4	In the vehicle, animal remedies must be stored according to the legislation and the manufacturers' recommendations, safely and securely with a stock level that is adequate for anticipated demand and monitored to ensure it is used within date.	<i>It is unsafe and illegal to use out-of-date animal remedies. Animal remedies have specific storage requirements which must be adhered to in order to maintain their safety and efficiency. Veterinary equipment and many animal remedies can be dangerous if handled by lay people and it is incumbent on practitioners to minimise the risk of break-ins to practice vehicles storing such equipment/remedies.</i>
7.5	Adequate and clean restraint and diagnostic equipment and sampling material must be carried to allow the diagnosis and treatment of those conditions normally encountered.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are facilitated by access to the correct equipment for restraint and diagnosis. Separation of dirty equipment avoids the spread of disease between animals.</i>
7.6	Suitable waste disposal containers must be provided for clinical, biological and sharps waste.	<i>This is a requirement under health and safety legislation.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
8 - LIBRARY		Mandatory Requirement
8.1	The library must be sufficient in scope to provide current reference material on the usual range of emergency and critical conditions expected, in addition to all treatments performed within the normal scope of practice.	<i>The internet provides timely access to the most up-to-date research and information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
9 - OFFICE/RECEPTION/WAITING ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
9.1	The current Certificate of Suitability must be displayed in a prominent place.	<i>This is a requirement under the Act. An Authorised Officer is entitled to ask to see the COS.</i>
9.2	Names and qualifications of registered veterinary practitioners and registered veterinary nurses practising from the premises must be displayed.	<i>Persons practising at a Registered Premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council.</i>
9.3	Persons practising from the premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
9.4	There must be a defined client waiting area of adequate size and with sufficient space and seating for the workload at the premises. This waiting area must be separate from any examination room, treatment/procedure room or inpatient room. There must be sufficient room to separate animals so as to prevent direct contact with each other.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients and ensure that consultations can take place in private.</i>
9.5	The environment in the waiting area must be comfortable for patients, clients and staff with heating, cooling, and ventilation provided as necessary. Noxious odours must be eliminated as much as possible.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients.</i>
9.6	A clean toilet, including hand-washing facilities, must be available to clients on the veterinary premises.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
9.7	Indoor lighting for halls, wards, office/reception/waiting room, examination room(s), treatment/procedure room(s) and surgical room(s) must be adequate for the intended purpose.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.8	There must be adequate internal signage to indicate fire escapes, X-ray areas etc.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.9	A sign indicating basic on-site consultation and call-out fees must be publicly displayed.	<i>This is for client information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
10 - PREMISES – EXTERNAL		Mandatory Requirement
10.1	The veterinary premises must be a permanent structure.	<i>Solid foundations and a permanent structure are essential. Impermanent or mobile buildings are unacceptable. A permanent structure reassures clients that continuity of care will be available for their animals.</i>
10.2	The COS Holder shall confirm that the premises complies with all local planning regulations.	<i>This is a legal requirement, and compliance with local planning ensures continuity of care for clients and their animals.</i>
10.3	The grounds and exterior must be well maintained.	<i>To eliminate hazards which might cause injury to staff, clients or patients.</i>

10.4	Client and animal access to the veterinary premises shall be via a direct public entrance, specific to the registered veterinary premises, that connects directly to a public road or public concourse. In the interests of biosecurity, the perimeter of the premises shall be clearly defined and demonstrate physical separation from any other premises, especially any premises where animals not attending the registered premises may be present.	<i>In the interest of biosecurity, health and safety, the security of Animal Remedies, and the public interest, the premises should be secure and self-contained, to demonstrate the independence of the practice of veterinary medicine.</i>
10.5	There must be adequate external lighting of the structure and environs.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients and staff.</i>
10.6	Doors and windows must be self-closing and secure.	<i>This is to prevent the escape or theft of animals and the theft of animal remedies.</i>
10.7	NOT APPLICABLE TO RVC CLASSIFICATION	

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
11 - EXAMINATION ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
11.1	An examination room of reasonable size that is well lit, fit for purpose and provides a setting that ensures client privacy must be available for the examination of patients by a Veterinary Practitioner.	<i>The examination room must be of sufficient size to accommodate the veterinary practitioner, assistant, patient and client comfortably. This is to ensure animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care, and client confidentiality.</i>
11.2	Hand washing facilities with hot and cold water must be available, preferably in each examination room. It is acceptable, though less desirable, that they are in close proximity to the examination room.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.3	Each examination room must contain at least 2 covered/ enclosed waste receptacles, one of which must be for clinical waste only. Bins must enable hands free use.	<i>Open waste bins are unacceptable, unhygienic and may be a source of noxious odours.</i>
11.4	The floor and examination table surface must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.5	Diagnostic equipment needed for the routine physical examination of the patient must be readily available.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are enhanced by access to appropriate diagnostic equipment. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the scope of practice of the premises.</i>
11.6	Restraint devices must be present and must be of adequate design, clean and in good working order.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.7	Equipment for the accurate weighing of patients must be available.	<i>This is to ensure appropriate dosage of veterinary medicinal products.</i>
11.8	Where applicable, there must be a soundly constructed stocks located in, or immediately adjacent to, the examination area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients.</i>

11.9	Where applicable, there must be a soundly constructed crush located in, or immediately adjacent to, the examination area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients.</i>
11.10	Where applicable, a dedicated trot-up area (level, firm and a minimum of 25m long) must be available.	<i>This is to enhance the diagnosis of musculo-skeletal abnormalities.</i>
11.11	NOT APPLICABLE TO RVC CLASSIFICATION	

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
12 - TREATMENT/PROCEDURE ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
12.1	A treatment/procedure room, with all the necessary equipment and medicines relevant to the type of services being provided, must be available. This room must be equipped in such a way that basic examinations, emergency interventions and general surgical preparations can be carried out.	<i>Veterinary treatment can be carried out more efficiently and effectively in a designated room. Precisely what equipment and medicines should be available will depend on the scope of the practice.</i>
12.2	This room must be of adequate size for the procedures being performed.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care and the safety of staff and clients.</i>
12.3	Surfaces and equipment must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
12.4	This room must have a drained sink with hot and cold running water.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
13 - IN-PATIENT ROOM AND FACILITIES		Mandatory Requirement
13.1	If an animal needs to be housed overnight the veterinary practitioner on duty must assume responsibility for the monitoring and care of the animal. This should be documented in records available for inspection.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and optimal veterinary care.</i>
13.2	A separate compartment must be available for each animal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.3	Each compartment must permit easy observation of, and access to, the animal.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.4	Inpatient facilities must be appropriate to the practice caseload, kept clean, must be of adequate size and design, and enable provision and convenient access to food and water.	<i>This is to ensure each animal's safety, security and well-being.</i>
13.5	Where applicable, at least one box must be large enough to house a mare and foal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
13.6	Animal compartments must be cleaned and disinfected, as required and in between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.7	Appropriate facilities must be available for urination and defecation and, where appropriate to the species and individual animal, outdoor exercise at sufficient intervals.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>

13.8	There must be a heating system to ensure temperature can be maintained in a range that is comfortable and safe for all patients.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
13.9	There must be adequate ventilation and lighting in each confinement area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.10	Facilities must have sufficient bedding to meet reasonably anticipated patient needs within the normal scope of the practice. Bedding must be clean, dry, comfortable, and safe for the animal confined. Adequate precautions must be taken to prevent the spread of disease.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.11	Bedding must be disposed of in accordance with waste management legislation.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
13.12	All surfaces must be impervious, non-slip and easily cleaned. All cages, runs, stalls, pens and other animal compartments must be kept in good repair and be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is to prevent injury to the animal, to promote physical comfort and is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.13	An animal identification system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.14	Premises must allow for the effective separation of contagious and non-contagious cases. Whilst a permanent isolation unit/cage/stall is desirable, appropriate provision in the event that such isolation becomes necessary will be acceptable. Appropriate equipment must be available to protect other animals, the veterinary staff and members of the public.	<i>This is in the interest of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.15 - 13.16 NOT APPLICABLE TO RVC CLASSIFICATION		

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
14 - FOOD STORAGE AND PREPARATION		Mandatory Requirement
14.1	There must be a defined area for animal food storage and preparation and a range of diets must be available. This area must be separate from any staff food storage/preparation area and hot and cold running water must be available within the area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
14.2	Food must be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in order to prevent spoiling.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
14.3	Water and feed bowls must be cleaned and disinfected as required.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
15 - ANAESTHESIA AND RECOVERY		Mandatory Requirement
15.1	There must be adequate primary and back-up supplies of oxygen, and suitable equipment for its administration at the premises.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.2	Equipment for the safe induction and maintenance of anaesthesia must be present depending on the species being routinely treated and the range of procedures routinely performed.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.3	Where gaseous anaesthesia is used, an appropriate range of breathing systems and endotracheal tubes of appropriate sizes must be available and appropriately maintained.	<i>This is to ensure access to a patent airway in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.4	All anaesthetic equipment must be serviced by competent personnel according to the manufacturer's recommendations (which should be available). Records must be maintained of such inspections and servicing.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and patient safety. In particular seals should be checked and vaporisers calibrated annually.</i>
15.5	Where gaseous anaesthetic is used, an anaesthetic gas scavenging system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of staff safety.</i>
15.6	Adequate equipment and facilities for resuscitation must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
16 - SURGERY		Scope of Practice Option
16.1	If surgery is performed, a dedicated operating area must be available for the conduct of aseptic surgery- it must not double up as an examination room. This area may be appropriately located in the treatment/procedure room. The operating area should be a closed room with no through traffic and must be adequately screened from public view.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area and to prevent inadvertently causing distress to a client or other visitor. This is also to ensure that emergency surgery can be performed when required.</i>
16.2	The operating area must only contain equipment for use in surgical procedures.	<i>This is to ensure that surgery can be performed more efficiently and effectively.</i>
16.3	An area separate from the aseptic area must be available for induction and pre-operative preparation of patients.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.4	Scrub area must be separate from the aseptic area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.5	There must be an operating table and light with sufficient power to illuminate the surgical field in the operating area. The operating table should be height adjustable if the caseload of the premises dictates this.	<i>This is for the comfort and safety of staff and to allow easy access to the operating site.</i>
16.6	Instruments to be used in surgery must be sterilised by autoclave.	<i>These are the most effective means of sterilisation.</i>

16.7	Packs of sterilised surgical instruments and drapes must be initialled, labelled with the date of sterilisation and contain an indicator of adequate sterilisation.	<i>This is to ensure that only adequately sterilised instruments and drapes are used.</i>
16.8	Caps, masks and sterile gowns, drapes, towels, and gloves must be available.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for cross contamination.</i>
16.9	Appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn in the operating area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.10	An emergency power source should be available.	<i>This is to allow surgery to be completed in the event of a power cut or electricity failure.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
17 - LABORATORY		Scope of Practice Option
17.1	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. If in-house laboratory diagnostic services are provided, the laboratory area/bench must be clearly defined and used only for laboratory purposes.	<i>The use of laboratory testing to support good veterinary practice is considered essential. Clinical pathology sampling can be a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
17.2	Where samples are submitted to an outside laboratory they must be collected, stored, packaged, and dispatched in a manner that ensures the safety of personnel in contact with sample material and minimises sample deterioration to ensure optimum test results.	<i>Accuracy and reliability of test results depends on appropriate sample collection, storage and dispatch.</i>
17.3	There must be adequate facilities for the storage of specimens and reagents, including refrigeration if required.	<i>This is to ensure the accuracy and reliability of test results.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
18 - RADIOGRAPHY AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING		Scope of Practice Option
18.1	Where an X-ray source is used, the source and its use must be suitably authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”). Proof of suitable Environmental Protection Agency authorisation must be publicly displayed and available for inspection.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>
18.2	Permanent identification of the radiograph must occur at the time of exposure or just prior to processing.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>

18.3	Protective equipment, restraining devices, including sedation and anaesthesia, and plate holders, must be available. No part of any person shall be exposed to the primary X-ray beam, even if shielded by protective clothing. The primary beam shall not be directed through unshielded doors, floors, windows or ceilings behind which people may be situated.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle).</i>
18.4	Where required, adequate dosimeters must be in place, as determined by an EPA risk assessment.	<i>As per Regulation 42(6) of SI 30 of 2019: 'the employer, shall make arrangements to retain the record referred to in subparagraph (1)(a) during the period of the working life involving exposure to ionising radiation of the worker concerned and afterwards until they have or would have attained the age of 75 years, but, in any case not less than 30 years after termination of the work involving exposure to ionising radiation'.</i>
18.5	A properly formulated technique chart must be available, and exposure should be based on body part/thickness with a measuring calliper also available.	<i>ALARA principle: a chart helps reduce repeat radiographs.</i>
18.6	Suitable arrangements for the efficient filing, storage, and retrieval of radiographs must be in place.	<i>Ready access to radiographs ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
18.7	If radiography services are not provided at or from the premises, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>Radiography is an integral diagnostic modality in veterinary medicine and should be available to all patients, even if not provided at the premises.</i>

APPENDIX 4. PAS Standards Registered Veterinary Hospital

A Registered Veterinary Hospital (“RVH”) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location, registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine.

A RVH provides facilities for the hospitalisation of animals with 24-hour care at the premises, provided by a registered person as necessary, and offers a range of surgical, medical and diagnostic techniques. The RVH should have a multidisciplinary team of registered veterinary practitioners and, if appropriate, registered veterinary specialists to deliver the service required as dictated by the hospital's case load. The category of animals treated at the Hospital is indicated by the appropriate suffix (Companion Animals – CA, Equine – EQ or Food Animal – FA).

From 1 January 2024, all newly registered RVHs must employ at least one Registered Veterinary Nurse as part of the veterinary team. This mandatory requirement will come into place for all existing RVHs from 1 January 2026.

A Registered Veterinary Hospital (“RVH”) is a classification of veterinary premises which may be registered by the Veterinary Council of Ireland. A RVH is a veterinary premises at and from which veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses provide veterinary services to animal owning clients. A RVH is required to provide surgical, laboratory, and radiography services at the premises, and should have a multi-disciplinary team of veterinary professionals to deliver the required range of services. A RVH is also required to provide 24-hour patient care as necessary and on-site. Many RVHs provide veterinary services to companion, food, and equine clients, referred to as “mixed practice”. A RVH may also provide veterinary services exclusively to companion animal clients (RVH-CA), food animal clients (RVH-FA), or equine animal clients (RVH-EQ).

Registered Veterinary Hospital

Rooms required – Office/Reception/Waiting Room – Examination Room – Inpatient Room – Treatment/

Procedure Room – Surgery – Public Toilet

An ambulatory service to companion animal, food animal, and equine animal clients is permitted from a RVH.

Surgery at the RVH

It is a requirement that surgical services are provided at the RVH. A dedicated operating room must be available for the conduct of aseptic surgery.

KEY ABBREVIATIONS	
SOPO	Scope of Practice Option
N/A	Not Applicable
RVO	Registered Veterinary Office
RVC	Registered Veterinary Clinic
RVH	Registered Veterinary Hospital CA Companion Animal EQ Equine FA Food Animal
RVF	Registered Veterinary Facility
RMVU	Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit

PAS Standards - Registered Veterinary Hospital

The requirements to be met by veterinary premises in the RVH classification in order to be eligible for registration and to be issued or to retain a COS.

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
1 - SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT		Mandatory Requirement
1.1	All Registered Veterinary Hospitals must provide a 24-hour emergency service to their clients in compliance with the Code of Professional Conduct. Emergency out of hours cover may be arranged with another registered veterinary practice within a reasonable distance and clients must be made aware of such an arrangement either before or when seeking Registered Practitioner assistance. Documentary evidence of such an arrangement must be available and may be requested by an Authorised Officer.	<i>The public can have access to emergency veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.2	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Clinical pathology sampling is a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
1.3	Radiography services must be provided on site.	<i>All patients must have access to radiography services.</i>
1.4	Signs must be kept in good repair. Consultation days and hours of attendance must be clearly visible, as well as telephone numbers to contact outside these hours. Telephone numbers for emergency cover must also be made available.	<i>The public can have access to veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.5	The equipment required for the procedures performed must be stored in a safe secure location, not accessible to the public.	<i>Registered persons require certain items of equipment to carry out their work. Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness. Veterinary equipment can also be hazardous if accessible to and/or used by untrained individuals.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
2 - RECORDS		Mandatory Requirement
2.1	<p>An efficient system of recording, filing and retrieving patient records must be maintained for each animal, herd, stud, flock, or farm, appropriate to the facility, the equipment and the services provided, with due regard to confidentiality.</p> <p>Records must indicate the person responsible for carrying out the procedure or service. Records may be in written or electronic format and a satisfactory back-up system should be maintained. Records must be kept for at least 7 years. Authorised Officers may ask to inspect one or more animal/ herd/stud/flock/farm records.</p> <p>Records should include dated examination findings, dated diagnostic test findings, all treatments, anaesthetics and surgeries, and relevant communications with clients.</p> <p>Records must be promptly made available to clients on request.</p>	<i>Properly maintained clinical records allow prompt and effective treatment of animals and allow continuity of care within and between practices.</i>

2.2	If the practice operates from more than one premises, the clinical records system must be accessible from each premises.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and appropriate veterinary care.</i>
2.3	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species treated at/from the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that an appropriate range of animal remedies is available.</i>
2.4	Records monitoring the safe and correct storage of animal remedies by refrigeration must be kept and made available for inspection.	<i>The reporting of adverse drug reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>
2.5	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species hospitalised at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that appropriate equipment and facilities are provided for in- patient care.</i>
2.6	Records indicating times of observation, examination, treatment, feeding, and general care must be kept and available for inspection. The records must be annotated by the person carrying out the observation of procedures.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
2.7	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing anaesthesia at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for anaesthesia and recovery are appropriate.</i>
2.8	Records of anaesthetic monitoring must be available for inspection.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
2.9	A signed anaesthetic consent form must be obtained except in emergency situations. This may be combined with the surgical consent form. These should be available for inspection.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended anaesthesia and the potential risks involved.</i>
2.10	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing surgery at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for surgery and recovery are appropriate.</i>
2.11	Except in emergency situations, a signed surgical consent form must be obtained. This may be combined with the anaesthetic consent form.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended surgical procedure and the potential risks involved.</i>
2.12	Surgery logs must be maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of clinical care.</i>
2.13	Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
2.14	A log of exposures and number of views taken must be kept and available for inspection. The log of exposures may be stored manually or electronically.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle). Manual restraint is not permitted for companion animals (CA) radiography, and only permitted for other species of animals in extreme emergencies. Fingers must never be within the primary beam.</i>
2.15	Records of routine services on all equipment must be maintained and available for inspection.	<i>Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness.</i>

	<p>Records which may be requested by an Authorised Officer under this Standard include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Equipment service records ▶ Written duty rota for Registered Veterinary Practitioners on call ▶ Records of Environmental Protection Agency Certification ▶ Arrangements for post-mortem examination ▶ Records of diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology tests ▶ Records of caseload and range of species treated ▶ Practice Safety Statement ▶ Accident Record Book ▶ Contracts with appropriate waste disposal providers (sharps, pharmaceutical, clinical, anatomical, non-clinical) ▶ Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions reports (if applicable) ▶ Cleaning protocols and schedules ▶ Evidence of VCI registration of registered persons ▶ Animal identification systems ▶ Anaesthesia log ▶ Anaesthetic consent forms ▶ Surgery consent forms ▶ Surgery logs ▶ Reference range value ▶ Exposure log ▶ Dosimeter records ▶ Technique chart 	
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No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
3 - HEALTH AND SAFETY		Mandatory Requirement
3.1	A practice Safety Statement must be available and must reflect the scope of work and species seen from the premises.	<i>This is a legal requirement under health & safety legislation.</i>
3.2	A sufficient number of working smoke detectors and readily accessible serviced fire extinguishers must be provided.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.3	A well-stocked emergency first aid box and accident record book must be available and properly maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client safety.</i>
3.4	Pressurised gas cylinders, where present, must be stored safely and securely.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.5	Non-clinical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.6	Clinical waste and anatomical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.7	Pharmaceutical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.8	All other hazardous waste must be disposed of in a safe and appropriate manner.	<i>All waste must be appropriately and safely disposed of.</i>
3.9	Sharps must be placed directly in an approved container and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.10	A staff facility, with separate food preparation/dining area, should be available.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client health and safety (and in compliance with Health & Safety Legislation).</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
4 - PHARMACY		Mandatory Requirement
4.1	A range of animal remedies consistent with good standard of practice and range of procedures undertaken must be stored at the premises.	<i>It is in the interest of animal welfare that an appropriate range of products are available to the treating veterinary practitioner.</i>
4.2	The storage, safekeeping, dispensing, record-keeping and management of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, at the premises must be in conformance with Veterinary Product Authorisation and Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.	<i>There are legal obligations on veterinary practitioners regarding the storage and supply and record keeping of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, in the current Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.</i>

4.3	If refrigeration of animal remedies is required it must be stored at required temperatures and separate from that of domestic storage, pathological samples or carcasses.	<i>This is necessary to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
4.4	A system must be in place for the recording and reporting to the Health Products Regulatory Authority of any suspected Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions.	<i>The reporting of suspected veterinary medicine adverse reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
5 - BIOSECURITY		Mandatory Requirement
5.1	All areas of a veterinary premises, including all instruments and equipment used, must be maintained in a sanitary and orderly condition at all times.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.2	The entire facility must be clean, uncluttered and free from obstructions.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of injury to staff, client or patients.</i>
5.3	Separate cleaning materials and equipment must be used for clinical and non-clinical areas.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
5.4	Sanitising agents capable of killing viruses and bacteria must be used to disinfect the premises as appropriate, and measures must be in place to prevent the spread of disease between sites, where applicable.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.5	Adequate measures must be in place to prevent the spread of contagious disease.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.6	A disinfectant boot dip and protective clothing must be provided if required.	<i>This is in the interest of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
6 - POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION AND CARCASE DISPOSAL		Mandatory Requirement
6.1	Arrangements must be in place for the post-mortem examination of animals either at the premises, at another registered premises or at a veterinary pathology laboratory	<i>Post-mortem examination provides useful information for the veterinary practitioner and the owner and aids in diagnosis and treatment of cohort animals.</i>
6.2	All animal tissues must be enclosed in appropriate containers and kept in an area away from the public before being promptly removed for disposal or dispatch.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination and prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>
6.3	A dedicated freezer must be available for the disposal of animals.	<i>This is for reasons of public health and hygiene and is to prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
7 - VEHICLE		Mandatory Requirement
7.1	Each vehicle used by a registered person in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine must comply with appropriate legislation.	<i>A registered person is expected to conform with legal requirements.</i>
7.2	Vehicles must be kept in a clean and tidy condition in the interest of animal health.	<i>A practice vehicle is an intrinsic part of a registered person's professional image.</i>
7.3	Appropriate clean protective clothing and footwear, and appropriate cleaning equipment must be carried in the vehicle.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of spread of disease between sites or between animals and people.</i>
7.4	In the vehicle, animal remedies must be stored according to the legislation and the manufacturers' recommendations, safely and securely with a stock level that is adequate for anticipated demand and monitored to ensure it is used within date.	<i>It is unsafe and illegal to use out-of-date animal remedies. Animal remedies have specific storage requirements which must be adhered to in order to maintain their safety and efficiency. Veterinary equipment and many animal remedies can be dangerous if handled by lay people and it is incumbent on practitioners to minimise the risk of break-ins to practice vehicles storing such equipment/remedies.</i>
7.5	Adequate and clean restraint and diagnostic equipment and sampling material must be carried to allow the diagnosis and treatment of those conditions normally encountered.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are facilitated by access to the correct equipment for restraint and diagnosis. Separation of dirty equipment avoids the spread of disease between animals.</i>
7.6	Suitable waste disposal containers must be provided for clinical, biological and sharps waste.	<i>This is a requirement under health and safety legislation.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
8 - LIBRARY		Mandatory Requirement
8.1	The library must be sufficient in scope to provide current reference material on the usual range of emergency and critical conditions expected, in addition to all treatments performed within the normal scope of practice.	<i>The internet provides timely access to the most up-to-date research and information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
9 - OFFICE/RECEPTION/WAITING ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
9.1	The current Certificate of Suitability must be displayed in a prominent place.	<i>This is a requirement under the Act. An Authorised Officer is entitled to ask to see the COS.</i>
9.2	Names and qualifications of registered veterinary practitioners and registered veterinary nurses practising from the premises must be displayed.	<i>All registered persons must work at or from an accredited premises (unless the premises is exempt).</i>
9.3	Persons practising from the premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland.	<i>It is a legal requirement that all veterinary practitioners and veterinary nurses who provide veterinary services are registered with the Veterinary Council.</i>
9.4	There must be a defined client waiting area of adequate size and with sufficient space and seating for the workload at the premises. This waiting area must be separate from any examination room, treatment/procedure room or inpatient room. There must be sufficient room to separate animals so as to prevent direct contact with each other.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients and ensure that consultations can take place in private.</i>
9.5	The environment in the waiting area must be comfortable for patients, clients and staff with heating, cooling, and ventilation provided as necessary. Noxious odours must be eliminated as much as possible.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients.</i>
9.6	A clean toilet, including hand-washing facilities, must be available to clients on the veterinary premises.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
9.7	Indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examination and surgical rooms must be adequate for the intended purpose.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.8	There must be adequate internal signage to indicate fire escapes, X-ray areas etc.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.9	A sign indicating basic on-site consultation and call-out fees must be publicly displayed.	<i>This is for client information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
10 - PREMISES – EXTERNAL		Mandatory Requirement
10.1	The veterinary premises must be a permanent structure.	<i>Solid foundations and a permanent structure are essential. Impermanent or mobile buildings are unacceptable. A permanent structure reassures clients that continuity of care will be available for their animals.</i>
10.2	The COS Holder shall confirm that the premises complies with all local planning regulations.	<i>This is a legal requirement, and compliance with local planning ensures continuity of care for clients and their animals.</i>
10.3	The grounds and exterior must be well maintained.	<i>To eliminate hazards which might cause injury to staff, clients or patients.</i>

10.4	Client and animal access to the veterinary premises shall be via a direct public entrance, specific to the registered veterinary premises, that connects directly to a public road or public concourse. In the interests of biosecurity, the perimeter of the premises shall be clearly defined and demonstrate physical separation from any other premises, especially any premises where animals not attending the registered premises may be present.	<i>In the interest of biosecurity, health and safety, the security of Animal Remedies, and the public interest, the premises should be secure and self-contained, to demonstrate the independence of the practice of veterinary medicine.</i>
10.5	There must be adequate external lighting of the structure and environs.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients and staff.</i>
10.6	Doors and windows must be self-closing and secure.	<i>This is to prevent the escape or theft of animals and the theft of animal remedies.</i>
10.7	Animal loading and unloading facilities must be of appropriate design and construction and be in good repair.	<i>This is so that patients can be unloaded safely and efficiently.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
11 - EXAMINATION ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
11.1	An examination room of reasonable size that is well lit, fit for purpose and provides a setting that ensures client privacy must be available for the examination of patients by a Veterinary Practitioner.	<i>The examination room must be of sufficient size to accommodate the veterinary practitioner, assistant, patient and client comfortably. This is to ensure animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care, and client confidentiality.</i>
11.2	Hand washing facilities with hot and cold water must be available, preferably in each examination room. It is acceptable, though less desirable, that they are in close proximity to the examination room.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.3	Each examination room must contain at least 2 covered/ enclosed waste receptacles, one of which must be for clinical waste only. Bins must enable hands free use.	<i>Open waste bins are unacceptable, unhygienic and may be a source of noxious odours.</i>
11.4	The floor and examination table surface must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.5	Diagnostic equipment needed for the routine physical examination of the patient must be readily available.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are enhanced by access to appropriate diagnostic equipment. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.6	Restraint devices must be present and must be of adequate design, clean and in good working order.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.7	Equipment for the accurate weighing of patients must be available.	<i>This is to ensure appropriate dosage of veterinary medicinal products.</i>

11.8	Where applicable, there must be a soundly constructed stocks located in, or immediately adjacent to, the examination area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients.</i>
11.9	Where applicable, there must be a soundly constructed crush located in, or immediately adjacent to, the examination area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients.</i>
11.10	Where applicable, a dedicated trot-up area (level, firm and a minimum of 25m long) must be available.	<i>This is to enhance the diagnosis of musculo-skeletal abnormalities.</i>
11.11	Where applicable, an all-weather lunge ring must be available at the premises.	<i>This is to enhance the diagnosis of musculo-skeletal and upper respiratory tract abnormalities.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
12 - TREATMENT/PROCEDURE ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
12.1	A treatment/procedure room, with all the necessary equipment and medicines relevant to the type of services being provided, must be available. This room must be equipped in such a way that basic examinations, emergency interventions and general surgical preparations can be carried out.	<i>Veterinary treatment can be carried out more efficiently and effectively in a designated room. Precisely what equipment and medicines should be available will depend on the scope of the practice.</i>
12.2	This room must be of adequate size for the procedures being performed.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care and the safety of staff and clients.</i>
12.3	Surfaces and equipment must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
12.4	This room must have a drained sink with hot and cold running water.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
13 - IN-PATIENT ROOM AND FACILITIES		Mandatory Requirement
13.1	Patient monitoring must be provided as necessary at the premises on a 24-hour basis by a registered person. A written duty rota must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.2	A separate compartment must be available for each animal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.3	Each compartment must permit easy observation of, and access to, the animal.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.4	Inpatient facilities must be appropriate to the practice caseload, kept clean, must be of adequate size and design, and enable provision and convenient access to food and water.	<i>This is to ensure each animal's safety, security and well-being.</i>
13.5	Where applicable, at least one box must be large enough to house a mare and foal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
13.6	Animal compartments must be cleaned and disinfected, as required and in between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

13.7	Appropriate facilities must be available for urination and defecation and, where appropriate to the species and individual animal, outdoor exercise at sufficient intervals.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
13.8	There must be a heating system to ensure temperature can be maintained in a range that is comfortable and safe for all patients.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
13.9	There must be adequate ventilation and lighting in each confinement area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.10	Facilities must have sufficient bedding to meet reasonably anticipated patient needs within the normal scope of the practice. Bedding must be clean, dry, comfortable, and safe for the animal confined. Adequate precautions must be taken to prevent the spread of disease.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.11	Bedding must be disposed of in accordance with waste management legislation.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
13.12	All surfaces must be impervious, non-slip and easily cleaned. All cages, runs, stalls, pens and other animal compartments must be kept in good repair and be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is to prevent injury to the animal, to promote physical comfort and is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.13	An animal identification system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.14	Isolation facilities must be available with limited access, separate air space, hand-washing facilities and separate drains. Appropriate equipment must be available to protect other animals, the veterinary staff and members of the public.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.15	Appropriate facilities suitable for neonatal care must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.16	Intensive care facilities for critically ill patients must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
14 - FOOD STORAGE AND PREPARATION		Mandatory Requirement
14.1	There must be a defined area for animal food storage and preparation and a range of diets must be available. This area must be separate from any staff food storage/preparation area and hot and cold running water must be available within the area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
14.2	Food must be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in order to prevent spoiling.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
14.3	Water and feed bowls must be cleaned and disinfected as required.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
15 - ANAESTHESIA AND RECOVERY		Mandatory Requirement
15.1	There must be adequate primary and back-up supplies of oxygen, and suitable equipment for its administration at the premises.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.2	Equipment for the safe induction and maintenance of anaesthesia must be present depending on the species being routinely treated and the range of procedures routinely performed.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.3	An appropriate range of breathing systems and endotracheal tubes of appropriate sizes must be available and appropriately maintained.	<i>This is to ensure access to a patent airway in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.4	All anaesthetic equipment must be serviced by competent personnel according to the manufacturer's recommendations (which should be available). Records must be maintained of such inspections and servicing.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and patient safety. In particular seals should be checked and vaporisers calibrated annually.</i>
15.5	An anaesthetic gas scavenging system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of staff safety.</i>
15.6	Adequate equipment and facilities for resuscitation must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
16 - SURGERY		Mandatory Requirement
16.1	A dedicated operating area must be available for the conduct of aseptic surgery- it must not double up as an examination room. The operating area should be a closed room with no through traffic and must be adequately screened from public view.	<i>This is to ensure that emergency surgery can be performed when required.</i>
16.2	The operating area must only contain equipment for use in surgical procedures.	<i>This is to ensure that surgery can be performed more efficiently and effectively.</i>
16.3	An area separate from the aseptic area must be available for induction and pre-operative preparation of patients.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.4	Scrub area must be separate from the aseptic area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.5	There must be an operating table and light with sufficient power to illuminate the surgical field in the operating area. The operating table should be height adjustable if the caseload of the premises dictates this.	<i>This is for the comfort and safety of staff and to allow easy access to the operating site.</i>
16.6	Instruments to be used in surgery must be sterilised by autoclave.	<i>These are the most effective means of sterilisation.</i>
16.7	Packs of sterilised surgical instruments and drapes must be initialled, labelled with the date of sterilisation and contain an indicator of adequate sterilisation.	<i>This is to ensure that only adequately sterilised instruments and drapes are used.</i>
16.8	Caps, masks and sterile gowns, drapes, towels, and gloves must be available.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for cross contamination.</i>

16.9	Appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn in the operating area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.10	An emergency power source should be available.	<i>This is to allow surgery to be completed in the event of a power cut or electricity failure.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
17 - LABORATORY		Mandatory Requirement
17.1	A basic range of in-house laboratory diagnostic services must be provided. At a minimum, equipment should include: binocular microscope with mechanical stage, electric light source and oil-immersion facility, centrifuge, refractometer, biochemistry, electrolyte and haematology analyser. The laboratory area/ bench must be clearly defined and used only for laboratory purposes.	<i>The use of laboratory testing to support good veterinary practice is considered essential. Clinical pathology sampling can be a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
17.2	Where samples are submitted to an outside laboratory they must be collected, stored, packaged, and dispatched in a manner that ensures the safety of personnel in contact with sample material and minimises sample deterioration to ensure optimum test results.	<i>Accuracy and reliability of test results depends on appropriate sample collection, storage and dispatch.</i>
17.3	There must be adequate facilities for the storage of specimens and reagents, including refrigeration if required, and disposal of waste materials.	<i>This is to ensure the accuracy and reliability of test results.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
18 - RADIOGRAPHY AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING		Mandatory Requirement
18.1	Where an X-ray source is used, the source and its use must be suitably authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). Proof of suitable Environmental Protection Agency authorisation must be publicly displayed and available for inspection.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>
18.2	Permanent identification of the radiograph must occur at the time of exposure or just prior to processing.	<i>This is to prevent confusion between patients and to ensure appropriate care.</i>
18.3	Protective equipment, restraining devices, including sedation and anaesthesia, and plate holders, must be available. No part of any person shall be exposed to the primary X-ray beam, even if shielded by protective clothing. The primary beam shall not be directed through unshielded doors, floors, windows or ceilings behind which people may be situated.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle). Manual restraint is not permitted for companion animals (CA) radiography, and only permitted for other species of animals in extreme emergencies. Fingers must never be within the primary beam.</i>

18.4	Where required, adequate dosimeters must be in place, as determined by an EPA risk assessment.	<i>As per Regulation 42(6) of SI 30 of 2019: 'the employer, shall make arrangements to retain the record referred to in subparagraph (1)(a) during the period of the working life involving exposure to ionising radiation of the worker concerned and afterwards until they have or would have attained the age of 75 years, but, in any case not less than 30 years after termination of the work involving exposure to ionising radiation'.</i>
18.5	A properly formulated technique chart must be available, and exposure should be based on body part/thickness with a measuring calliper also available.	<i>ALARA principle: a chart helps reduce repeat radiographs.</i>
18.6	Suitable arrangements for the efficient filing, storage, and retrieval of radiographs must be in place.	<i>Ready access to radiographs ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
18.7	Radiography services must be provided on site.	<i>A Registered Veterinary Hospital must provide an appropriate range of diagnostic modalities such as radiography, ultrasound, ECG and endoscopy, including appropriate means of recording/storage of images and/or results of examinations.</i>

APPENDIX 5. PAS Standards - Registered Veterinary Facility

A Registered Veterinary Facility (“RVF”) is a permanent premises, at a fixed location registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland, at, and from which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine, but not to or for the general public.

It is a premises which, in the opinion of the Veterinary Council, having considered the type and scope of practice to be carried out at or from the premises, is more properly classed as a RVF, in circumstances where many of the requirements for other classes of veterinary premises would not be relevant. Examples of circumstances where RVF may be the appropriate class of premises include (but are not limited to):

- (a) where an advisory service is provided which does not involve prescribing medication; or
- (b) practising to or for an industry-based client.

KEY ABBREVIATIONS	
SOPO	<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
N/A	<i>Not Applicable</i>
RVO	<i>Registered Veterinary Office</i>
RVC	<i>Registered Veterinary Clinic</i>
RVH	<i>Registered Veterinary Hospital CA Companion Animal EQ Equine FA Food Animal</i>
RVF	<i>Registered Veterinary Facility</i>
RMVU	<i>Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit</i>

PAS Standards - Registered Veterinary Facility

The requirements to be met by veterinary premises in the RVF classification in order to be eligible for registration and to be issued or to retain a COS are determined by the Council and may vary from premises to premises.

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
1 - SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT		Scope of Practice Option
1.1	All registered premises must provide a 24-hour emergency service to their clients in compliance with the Code of Professional Conduct. Emergency out of hours cover may be arranged with another registered veterinary practice within a reasonable distance and clients must be made aware of such an arrangement either before or when seeking Registered Practitioner assistance. Documentary evidence of such an arrangement must be available and may be requested by an Authorised Officer.	<i>The public can have access to emergency veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.2	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Clinical pathology sampling is a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
1.3	If radiography services are not provided from the premises, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>All patients must have access to radiography services.</i>
1.4	Signs must be kept in good repair. Consultation days and hours of attendance must be clearly visible, as well as telephone numbers to contact outside these hours. Telephone numbers for emergency cover must also be made available.	<i>The public can have access to veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.5	The equipment required for the procedures performed must be stored in a safe secure location, not accessible to the public.	<i>Registered persons require certain items of equipment to carry out their work. Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness. Veterinary equipment can also be hazardous if accessible to and/or used by untrained individuals.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
2 - RECORDS		Scope of Practice Option
2.1	<p>An efficient system of recording, filing and retrieving patient records must be maintained for each animal, herd, stud, flock, or farm, appropriate to the facility, the equipment and the services provided, with due regard to confidentiality.</p> <p>Records must indicate the person responsible for carrying out the procedure or service. Records may be in written or electronic format and a satisfactory back-up system should be maintained. Records must be kept for at least 7 years. Authorised Officers may ask to inspect one or more animal/herd/stud/flock/farm records.</p> <p>Records should include dated examination findings, dated diagnostic test findings, all treatments, anaesthetics and surgeries, and relevant communications with clients.</p> <p>Records must be promptly made available to clients on request.</p>	<i>Properly maintained clinical records allow prompt and effective treatment of animals and allow continuity of care within and between practices.</i>

2.2	If the practice operates from more than one premises, the clinical records system must be accessible from each premises.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and appropriate veterinary care.</i>
2.3	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species treated at or from the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that an appropriate range of animal remedies is available.</i>
2.4	Records monitoring the safe and correct storage of animal remedies by refrigeration must be kept and made available for inspection.	<i>The reporting of adverse drug reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>
2.5	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species housed/hospitalised at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that appropriate equipment and facilities are provided for in- patient care.</i>
2.6	Records indicating times of observation, examination, treatment, feeding, and general care must be kept and available for inspection. The records must be annotated by the person carrying out the observation of procedures.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
2.7	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing anaesthesia at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for anaesthesia and recovery are appropriate.</i>
2.8	Records of anaesthetic monitoring must be available for inspection.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
2.9	A signed anaesthetic consent form must be obtained except in emergency situations. This may be combined with the surgical consent form. These should be available for inspection.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended anaesthesia and the potential risks involved.</i>
2.10	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing surgery at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for surgery and recovery are appropriate.</i>
2.11	Except in emergency situations, a signed surgical consent form must be obtained. This may be combined with the anaesthetic consent form.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended surgical procedure and the potential risks involved.</i>
2.12	Surgery logs must be maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of clinical care.</i>
2.13	Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
2.14	A log of exposures and number of views taken must be kept and available for inspection. The log of exposures may be stored manually or electronically.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle). Manual restraint is not permitted for companion animals (CA) radiography, and only permitted for other species of animals in extreme emergencies. Fingers must never be within the primary beam.</i>
2.15	Records of routine services on all equipment must be maintained and available for inspection.	<i>Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness.</i>

Records which may be requested by an Authorised Officer under this Standard include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Equipment service records
- ▶ Written duty rota for registered veterinary practitioners on call
- ▶ Records of Environmental Protection Agency Certification
- ▶ Arrangements for 24-hour cover
- ▶ Arrangement for external radiography services
- ▶ Arrangements for post-mortem examination
- ▶ Records of diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology tests
- ▶ Records of caseload and range of species treated
- ▶ Practice Safety Statement
- ▶ Accident Record Book
- ▶ Contracts with appropriate waste disposal providers (sharps, pharmaceutical, clinical, anatomical, non-clinical)
- ▶ Animal Remedies Regulations records
- ▶ Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions reports (if applicable)
- ▶ Cleaning protocols and schedules
- ▶ Evidence of VCI registration of registered persons
- ▶ Animal identification systems
- ▶ Anaesthesia log
- ▶ Anaesthetic consent forms
- ▶ Surgery consent forms
- ▶ Surgery logs
- ▶ Reference range value
- ▶ Exposure log
- ▶ Dosimeter records
- ▶ Technique chart

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
3 - HEALTH AND SAFETY		Scope of Practice Option
3.1	A practice Safety Statement must be available and must reflect the scope of work and species seen at/from the premises.	<i>This is a legal requirement under health & safety legislation.</i>
3.2	A sufficient number of working smoke detectors and readily accessible serviced fire extinguishers must be provided.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.3	A well-stocked emergency first aid box and accident record book must be available and properly maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client safety.</i>
3.4	Pressurised gas cylinders, where present, must be stored safely and securely.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.5	Non-clinical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.6	Clinical waste and anatomical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.7	Pharmaceutical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.8	All other hazardous waste must be disposed of in a safe and appropriate manner.	<i>All waste must be appropriately and safely disposed of.</i>
3.9	Sharps must be placed directly in an approved container and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.10	A staff facility, with separate food preparation/dining area, should be available.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client health and safety (and in compliance with Health & Safety Legislation).</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
4 - PHARMACY		Scope of Practice Option
4.1	A range of animal remedies consistent with good standard of practice and range of procedures undertaken must be stored at the premises.	<i>It is in the interest of animal welfare that an appropriate range of products are available to the treating veterinary practitioner.</i>
4.2	The storage, safekeeping, dispensing, record-keeping and management of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, at the premises must be in conformance with Veterinary Product Authorisation and Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.	<i>There are legal obligations on veterinary practitioners regarding the storage and supply and record keeping of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, in the current Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.</i>

4.3	If refrigeration of animal remedies is required it must be stored at required temperatures and separate from that of domestic storage, pathological samples or carcasses.	<i>This is necessary to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
4.4	A system must be in place for the recording and reporting to the Health Products Regulatory Authority of any suspected Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions.	<i>The reporting of suspected veterinary medicine adverse reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
5 - BIOSECURITY		Scope of Practice Option
5.1	All areas of a veterinary premises, including all instruments and equipment used, must be maintained in a sanitary and orderly condition at all times.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.2	The entire facility must be clean, uncluttered and free from obstructions.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of injury to staff, client or patients.</i>
5.3	Separate cleaning materials and equipment must be used for clinical and non-clinical areas.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
5.4	Sanitising agents capable of killing viruses and bacteria must be used to disinfect the premises as appropriate, and measures must be in place to prevent the spread of disease between sites, where applicable.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.5	Adequate measures must be in place to prevent the spread of contagious disease.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.6	A disinfectant boot dip and protective clothing must be provided if required.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
6 - POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION AND CARCASE DISPOSAL		Scope of Practice Option
6.1	Arrangements must be in place for the post-mortem examination of animals either at the premises, at another registered premises or at a veterinary pathology laboratory.	<i>Post-mortem examination provides useful information for the veterinary practitioner and the owner and aids in diagnosis and treatment of cohort animals.</i>
6.2	All animal tissues must be enclosed in appropriate containers and kept in an area away from the public before being promptly removed for disposal or dispatch.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination and prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>
6.3	A dedicated freezer must be available for the disposal of animals.	<i>This is for reasons of public health and hygiene and is to prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
7 - VEHICLE		Scope of Practice Option
7.1	Each vehicle used by a registered person in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine must comply with appropriate legislation.	<i>A registered person is expected to conform with legal requirements.</i>
7.2	Vehicles must be kept in a clean and tidy condition in the interest of animal health.	<i>A practice vehicle is an intrinsic part of a registered person's professional image.</i>
7.3	Appropriate clean protective clothing and footwear, and appropriate cleaning equipment must be carried in the vehicle.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of spread of disease between sites or between animals and people.</i>
7.4	In the vehicle, animal remedies must be stored according to the legislation and the manufacturers' recommendations, safely and securely with a stock level that is adequate for anticipated demand and monitored to ensure it is used within date.	<i>It is unsafe and illegal to use out-of-date animal remedies. Animal remedies have specific storage requirements which must be adhered to in order to maintain their safety and efficiency. Veterinary equipment and many animal remedies can be dangerous if handled by lay people and it is incumbent on practitioners to minimise the risk of break-ins to practice vehicles storing such equipment/remedies.</i>
7.5	Adequate and clean restraint and diagnostic equipment and sampling material must be carried to allow the diagnosis and treatment of those conditions normally encountered.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are facilitated by access to the correct equipment for restraint and diagnosis. Separation of dirty equipment avoids the spread of disease between animals.</i>
7.6	Suitable waste disposal containers must be provided for clinical, biological and sharps waste.	<i>This is a requirement under health and safety legislation.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
8 - LIBRARY		Scope of Practice Option
8.1	The library must be sufficient in scope to provide current reference material on the usual range of emergency and critical conditions expected, in addition to all treatments performed within the normal scope of practice.	<i>The internet provides timely access to the most up-to-date research and information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
9 - OFFICE/RECEPTION/WAITING ROOM		Scope of Practice Option
9.1	The current Certificate of Suitability must be displayed in a prominent place.	<i>This is a requirement under the Act. An Authorised Officer is entitled to ask to see the COS.</i>
9.2	Names and qualifications of registered veterinary practitioners and registered veterinary nurses practising from the premises must be displayed.	<i>Persons practising at a Registered Premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council.</i>
9.3	Persons practising from the premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
9.4	There must be a defined client waiting area of adequate size and with sufficient space and seating for the workload at the premises. This waiting area must be separate from any examination room, treatment/procedure room or inpatient room. There must be sufficient room to separate animals so as to prevent direct contact with each other.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients and ensure that consultations can take place in private.</i>
9.5	The environment in the waiting area must be comfortable for patients, clients and staff with heating, cooling, and ventilation provided as necessary. Noxious odours must be eliminated as much as possible.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients.</i>
9.6	A clean toilet, including hand-washing facilities, must be available to clients on the veterinary premises.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
9.7	Indoor lighting for halls, wards, office/reception/waiting room, examination room(s), treatment/procedure room(s) and surgical room(s) must be adequate for the intended purpose.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.8	There must be adequate internal signage to indicate fire escapes, X-ray areas etc.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.9	A sign indicating basic on-site consultation and call-out fees must be publicly displayed.	<i>This is for client information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
10 - PREMISES – EXTERNAL		Scope of Practice Option
10.1	The veterinary premises must be a permanent structure.	<i>Solid foundations and a permanent structure are essential. Impermanent or mobile buildings are unacceptable. A permanent structure reassures clients that continuity of care will be available for their animals.</i>
10.2	The COS Holder shall confirm that the premises complies with all local planning regulations.	<i>This is a legal requirement, and compliance with local planning ensures continuity of care for clients and their animals.</i>
10.3	The grounds and exterior must be well maintained.	<i>To eliminate hazards which might cause injury to staff, clients or patients.</i>

10.4	Client and animal access to the veterinary premises shall be via a direct public entrance, specific to the registered veterinary premises, that connects directly to a public road or public concourse. In the interests of biosecurity, the perimeter of the premises shall be clearly defined and demonstrate physical separation from any other premises, especially any premises where animals not attending the registered premises may be present.	<i>In the interest of biosecurity, health and safety, the security of Animal Remedies, and the public interest, the premises should be secure and self-contained, to demonstrate the independence of the practice of veterinary medicine.</i>
10.5	There must be adequate external lighting of the structure and environs.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients and staff.</i>
10.6	Doors and windows must be self-closing and secure.	<i>This is to prevent the escape or theft of animals and the theft of animal remedies.</i>
10.7	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RVF CLASSIFICATION	

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
11 - EXAMINATION ROOM		Scope of Practice Option
11.1	An examination room of reasonable size that is well lit, fit for purpose and provides a setting that ensures client privacy must be available for the examination of patients by a Veterinary Practitioner.	<i>The examination room must be of sufficient size to accommodate the veterinary practitioner, assistant, patient and client comfortably. This is to ensure animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care, and client confidentiality.</i>
11.2	Hand washing facilities with hot and cold water must be available, preferably in each examination room. It is acceptable, though less desirable, that they are in close proximity to the examination room.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.3	Each examination room must contain at least 2 covered/ enclosed waste receptacles, one of which must be for clinical waste only. Bins must enable hands free use.	<i>Open waste bins are unacceptable, unhygienic and may be a source of noxious odours.</i>
11.4	The floor and examination table surface must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.5	Diagnostic equipment needed for the routine physical examination of the patient must be readily available.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are enhanced by access to appropriate diagnostic equipment. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.6	Restraint devices must be present and must be of adequate design, clean and in good working order.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.7	Equipment for the accurate weighing of patients must be available.	<i>This is to ensure appropriate dosage of veterinary medicinal products.</i>
11.8	Where applicable, there must be a soundly constructed stocks located in, or immediately adjacent to, the examination area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients.</i>

11.9	Where applicable, there must be a soundly constructed crush located in, or immediately adjacent to, the examination area.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients.</i>
11.10	Where applicable, a dedicated trot-up area (level, firm and a minimum of 25m long) must be available.	<i>This is to enhance the diagnosis of musculo-skeletal abnormalities.</i>
11.11	Where applicable, an all-weather lunge ring must be available at the premises.	<i>This is to enhance the diagnosis of musculo-skeletal and upper respiratory tract abnormalities.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
12 - TREATMENT/PROCEDURE ROOM		Scope of Practice Option
12.1	A treatment/procedure room, with all the necessary equipment and medicines relevant to the type of services being provided, must be available. This room must be equipped in such a way that basic examinations, emergency interventions and general surgical preparations can be carried out.	<i>Veterinary treatment can be carried out more efficiently and effectively in a designated room. Precisely what equipment and medicines should be available will depend on the scope of the practice.</i>
12.2	This room must be of adequate size for the procedures being performed.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care and the safety of staff and clients.</i>
12.3	Surfaces and equipment must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
12.4	This room must have a drained sink with hot and cold running water.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
13 - IN-PATIENT ROOM AND FACILITIES		Scope of Practice Option
13.1	If an animal needs to be housed overnight the veterinary practitioner on duty must assume responsibility for the monitoring and care of the animal. This should be documented in records available for inspection.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.2	A separate compartment must be available for each animal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.3	Each compartment must permit easy observation of, and access to, the animal.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.4	Inpatient facilities must be appropriate to the practice caseload, kept clean, must be of adequate size and design, and enable provision and convenient access to food and water.	<i>This is to ensure each animal's safety, security and well-being.</i>
13.5	Where applicable, at least one box must be large enough to house a mare and foal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
13.6	Animal compartments must be cleaned and disinfected, as required and in between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.7	Appropriate facilities must be available for urination and defecation and, where appropriate to the species and individual animal, outdoor exercise at sufficient intervals.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>

13.8	There must be a heating system to ensure temperature can be maintained in a range that is comfortable and safe for all patients.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
13.9	There must be adequate ventilation and lighting in each confinement area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.10	Facilities must have sufficient bedding to meet reasonably anticipated patient needs within the normal scope of the practice. Bedding must be clean, dry, comfortable, and safe for the animal confined. Adequate precautions must be taken to prevent the spread of disease.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.11	Bedding must be disposed of in accordance with waste management legislation.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
13.12	All surfaces must be impervious, non-slip and easily cleaned. All cages, runs, stalls, pens and other animal compartments must be kept in good repair and be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is to prevent injury to the animal, to promote physical comfort and is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.13	An animal identification system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.14	Premises must allow for the effective separation of contagious and non-contagious cases. Whilst a permanent isolation unit/cage/stall is desirable, appropriate provision in the event that such isolation becomes necessary will be acceptable. Appropriate equipment must be available to protect other animals, the veterinary staff and members of the public.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.15	Appropriate facilities suitable for neonatal care must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.16	Intensive care facilities for critically ill patients must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
14 - FOOD STORAGE AND PREPARATION		Scope of Practice Option
14.1	There must be a defined area for animal food storage and preparation and a range of diets must be available. This area must be separate from any staff food storage/preparation area and hot and cold running water must be available within the area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
14.2	Food must be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in order to prevent spoiling.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
14.3	Water and feed bowls must be cleaned and disinfected as required.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
15 - ANAESTHESIA AND RECOVERY		Scope of Practice Option
15.1	There must be adequate primary and back-up supplies of oxygen, and suitable equipment for its administration at the premises.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.2	Equipment for the safe induction and maintenance of anaesthesia must be present depending on the species being routinely treated and the range of procedures routinely performed.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.3	Where gaseous anaesthesia is used, an appropriate range of breathing systems and endotracheal tubes of appropriate sizes must be available and appropriately maintained.	<i>This is to ensure access to a patent airway in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.4	All anaesthetic equipment must be serviced by competent personnel according to the manufacturer's recommendations (which should be available). Records must be maintained of such inspections and servicing.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and patient safety. In particular seals should be checked and vaporisers calibrated annually.</i>
15.5	Where gaseous anaesthetic is used, an anaesthetic gas scavenging system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of staff safety.</i>
15.6	Adequate equipment and facilities for resuscitation must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
16 - SURGERY		Scope of Practice Option
16.1	If surgery is performed, a dedicated operating area must be available for the conduct of aseptic surgery- it must not double up as an examination room. This area may be appropriately located in the treatment/procedure room. The operating area should be a closed room with no through traffic and must be adequately screened from public view.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area and to prevent inadvertently causing distress to a client or other visitor. This is also to ensure that emergency surgery can be performed when required.</i>
16.2	The operating area must only contain equipment for use in surgical procedures.	<i>This is to ensure that surgery can be performed more efficiently and effectively.</i>
16.3	An area separate from the aseptic area must be available for induction and pre-operative preparation of patients.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.4	Scrub area must be separate from the aseptic area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.5	There must be an operating table and light with sufficient power to illuminate the surgical field in the operating area. The operating table should be height adjustable if the caseload of the premises dictates this.	<i>This is for the comfort and safety of staff and to allow easy access to the operating site.</i>
16.6	Instruments to be used in surgery must be sterilised by autoclave.	<i>These are the most effective means of sterilisation.</i>

16.7	Packs of sterilised surgical instruments and drapes must be initialled, labelled with the date of sterilisation and contain an indicator of adequate sterilisation.	<i>This is to ensure that only adequately sterilised instruments and drapes are used.</i>
16.8	Caps, masks and sterile gowns, drapes, towels, and gloves must be available.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for cross contamination.</i>
16.9	Appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn in the operating area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.10	An emergency power source should be available.	<i>This is to allow surgery to be completed in the event of a power cut or electricity failure.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
17 - LABORATORY		Scope of Practice Option
17.1	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. If in-house laboratory diagnostic services are provided, the laboratory area/bench must be clearly defined and used only for laboratory purposes.	<i>The use of laboratory testing to support good veterinary practice is considered essential. Clinical pathology sampling can be a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
17.2	Where samples are submitted to an outside laboratory they must be collected, stored, packaged, and dispatched in a manner that ensures the safety of personnel in contact with sample material and minimises sample deterioration to ensure optimum test results.	<i>Accuracy and reliability of test results depends on appropriate sample collection, storage and dispatch.</i>
17.3	There must be adequate facilities for the storage of specimens and reagents, including refrigeration if required.	<i>This is to ensure the accuracy and reliability of test results.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
18 - RADIOGRAPHY AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING		Scope of Practice Option
18.1	Where an X-ray source is used, the source and its use must be suitably authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”). Proof of suitable Environmental Protection Agency authorisation must be publicly displayed and available for inspection.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>
18.2	Permanent identification of the radiograph must occur at the time of exposure or just prior to processing.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>

18.3	Protective equipment, restraining devices, including sedation and anaesthesia, and plate holders, must be available. No part of any person shall be exposed to the primary X-ray beam, even if shielded by protective clothing. The primary beam shall not be directed through unshielded doors, floors, windows or ceilings behind which people may be situated.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle).</i>
18.4	Where required, adequate dosimeters must be in place, as determined by an EPA risk assessment.	<i>As per Regulation 42(6) of SI 30 of 2019: 'the employer, shall make arrangements to retain the record referred to in subparagraph (1)(a) during the period of the working life involving exposure to ionising radiation of the worker concerned and afterwards until they have or would have attained the age of 75 years, but, in any case not less than 30 years after termination of the work involving exposure to ionising radiation'.</i>
18.5	A properly formulated technique chart must be available, and exposure should be based on body part/thickness with a measuring calliper also available.	<i>ALARA principle: a chart helps reduce repeat radiographs.</i>
18.6	Suitable arrangements for the efficient filing, storage, and retrieval of radiographs must be in place.	<i>Ready access to radiographs ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
18.7	If radiography services are not provided at or from the premises, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>Radiography is an integral diagnostic modality in veterinary medicine and should be available to all patients, even if not provided at the premises.</i>

APPENDIX 6. PAS Standards - Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit

A Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (“RMVU”) is a mobile unit, usually associated with a registered charity, appropriately equipped and registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland at which one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine. In addition, a RMVU must:

1. Be associated with a Registered Veterinary Clinic (“RVC”) or a Registered Veterinary Hospital (“RVH”).
2. Have a separate Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) for each location where the service is being offered. Each location chosen must in particular be suitable for public access, health and safety and biosecurity.
3. Submit a schedule of locations, consultation days and hours of attendance to the Council.

KEY ABBREVIATIONS	
SOPO	<i>Scope of Practice Option</i>
N/A	<i>Not Applicable</i>
RVO	<i>Registered Veterinary Office</i>
RVC	<i>Registered Veterinary Clinic</i>
RVH	<i>Registered Veterinary Hospital CA Companion Animal EQ Equine FA Food Animal</i>
RVF	<i>Registered Veterinary Facility</i>
RMVU	<i>Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit</i>

PAS Standards - Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit

The requirements to be met by veterinary premises in the RMVU classification in order to be eligible for registration and to be issued or to retain a COS.

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
1 - SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT		Mandatory Requirement
1.1	All registered premises must provide a 24-hour emergency service to their clients in compliance with the Code of Professional Conduct. Emergency out of hours cover may be arranged with another registered veterinary practice within a reasonable distance and clients must be made aware of such an arrangement either before or when seeking Registered Practitioner assistance. Documentary evidence of such an arrangement must be available and may be requested by an Authorised Officer.	<i>The public can have access to emergency veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.2	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Clinical pathology sampling is a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
1.3	If radiography services are not provided from the premises, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>All patients must have access to radiography services.</i>
1.4	Signs must be kept in good repair. Consultation days and hours of attendance must be clearly visible, as well as telephone numbers to contact outside these hours. Telephone numbers for emergency cover must also be made available.	<i>The public can have access to veterinary care at all times.</i>
1.5	The equipment required for the procedures performed must be stored in a safe secure location, not accessible to the public.	<i>Registered persons require certain items of equipment to carry out their work. Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness. Veterinary equipment can also be hazardous if accessible to and/or used by untrained individuals.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
2 - RECORDS		Mandatory Requirement
2.1	<p>An efficient system of recording, filing and retrieving patient records must be maintained for each animal, herd, stud, flock, or farm, appropriate to the facility, the equipment and the services provided, with due regard to confidentiality.</p> <p>Records must indicate the person responsible for carrying out the procedure or service. Records may be in written or electronic format and a satisfactory back-up system should be maintained. Records must be kept for at least 7 years.</p> <p>Authorised Officers may ask to inspect one or more animal/ herd/stud/flock/farm records. Records should include dated examination findings, dated diagnostic test findings, all treatments, anaesthetics and surgeries, and relevant communications with clients.</p> <p>Records must be promptly made available to clients on request.</p>	<i>Properly maintained clinical records allow prompt and effective treatment of animals and allow continuity of care within and between practices.</i>

2.2	If the practice operates from more than one premises, the clinical records system must be accessible from each premises.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and appropriate veterinary care.</i>
2.3	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species treated at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that an appropriate range of animal remedies is available.</i>
2.4	Records monitoring the safe and correct storage of animal remedies by refrigeration must be kept and made available for inspection.	<i>The reporting of adverse drug reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>
2.5	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species hospitalised at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that appropriate equipment and facilities are provided for in- patient care.</i>
2.6	Records indicating times of observation, examination, treatment, feeding, and general care must be kept and available for inspection. The records must be annotated by the person carrying out the observation of procedures.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
2.7	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing anaesthesia at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for anaesthesia and recovery are appropriate.</i>
2.8	Records of anaesthetic monitoring must be available for inspection.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
2.9	A signed anaesthetic consent form must be obtained except in emergency situations. This may be combined with the surgical consent form. These should be available for inspection.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended anaesthesia and the potential risks involved.</i>
2.10	Records must be kept of the annual caseload and range of species undergoing surgery at the premises.	<i>This is to ensure that equipment and facilities for surgery and recovery are appropriate.</i>
2.11	Except in emergency situations, a signed surgical consent form must be obtained. This may be combined with the anaesthetic consent form.	<i>This is to ensure that clients are fully informed of the intended surgical procedure and the potential risks involved.</i>
2.12	Surgery logs must be maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of clinical care.</i>
2.13	Records of tests undertaken must be available and stored in chronological order or entered onto client record forms.	<i>Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
2.14	A log of exposures and number of views taken must be kept and available for inspection. The log of exposures may be stored manually or electronically.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle). Manual restraint is not permitted for companion animals (CA) radiography, and only permitted for other species of animals in extreme emergencies. Fingers must never be within the primary beam.</i>
2.15	Records of routine services on all equipment must be maintained and available for inspection.	<i>Equipment must be properly maintained to ensure its effectiveness.</i>

Records which may be requested by an Authorised Officer under this Standard include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Equipment service records
- ▶ Written duty rota for registered veterinary practitioners on call
- ▶ Records of Environmental Protection Agency Certification
- ▶ Arrangements for 24-hour cover
- ▶ Arrangement for external radiography services
- ▶ Arrangements for post-mortem examination
- ▶ Records of diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology tests
- ▶ Records of caseload and range of species treated
- ▶ Practice Safety Statement
- ▶ Accident Record Book
- ▶ Contracts with appropriate waste disposal providers (sharps, pharmaceutical, clinical, anatomical, non-clinical)
- ▶ Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions reports (if applicable)
- ▶ Cleaning protocols and schedules
- ▶ Evidence of VCI registration of registered persons
- ▶ Animal identification systems
- ▶ Anaesthesia log
- ▶ Anaesthetic consent forms
- ▶ Surgery consent forms
- ▶ Surgery logs
- ▶ Reference range value
- ▶ Exposure log
- ▶ Dosimeter records
- ▶ Technique chart

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
3 - HEALTH AND SAFETY		Mandatory Requirement
3.1	A practice Safety Statement must be available and must reflect the scope of work and species seen at the premises.	<i>This is a legal requirement under health & safety legislation.</i>
3.2	A sufficient number of working smoke detectors and readily accessible serviced fire extinguishers must be provided.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.3	A well-stocked emergency first aid box and accident record book must be available and properly maintained.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client safety.</i>
3.4	Pressurised gas cylinders, where present, must be stored safely and securely.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient safety.</i>
3.5	Non-clinical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.6	Clinical waste and anatomical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.7	Pharmaceutical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.8	All other hazardous waste must be disposed of in a safe and appropriate manner.	<i>All waste must be appropriately and safely disposed of.</i>
3.9	Sharps must be placed directly in an approved container and disposed of in an appropriate manner by an appropriately registered contractor.	<i>This is in the interests of staff, client and patient health and safety.</i>
3.10	A staff facility, with separate food preparation/dining area, should be available.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and client health and safety (and in compliance with Health & Safety Legislation).</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
4 - PHARMACY		Mandatory Requirement
4.1	A range of animal remedies consistent with good standard of practice and range of procedures undertaken must be stored at the premises.	<i>It is in the interest of animal welfare that an appropriate range of products are available to the treating veterinary practitioner.</i>
4.2	The storage, safekeeping, dispensing, record-keeping and management of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, at the premises must be in conformance with Veterinary Product Authorisation and Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.	<i>There are legal obligations on veterinary practitioners regarding the storage and supply and record keeping of animal remedies, including controlled drugs, in the current Animal Remedies Regulations, the Misuse of Drugs Acts, and the Code of Conduct.</i>

4.3	If refrigeration of animal remedies is required it must be stored at required temperatures and separate from that of domestic storage, pathological samples or carcasses.	<i>This is necessary to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
4.4	A system must be in place for the recording and reporting to the Health Products Regulatory Authority of any suspected Veterinary Medicine Adverse Reactions.	<i>The reporting of suspected veterinary medicine adverse reactions assists the surveillance of the safety of veterinary medicines.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
5 - BIOSECURITY		Mandatory Requirement
5.1	All areas of a veterinary premises, including all instruments and equipment used, must be maintained in a sanitary and orderly condition at all times.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.2	The entire facility must be clean, uncluttered and free from obstructions.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of injury to staff, client or patients.</i>
5.3	Separate cleaning materials and equipment must be used for clinical and non-clinical areas.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination.</i>
5.4	Sanitising agents capable of killing viruses and bacteria must be used to disinfect the premises as appropriate, and measures must be in place to prevent the spread of disease between sites, where applicable.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.5	Adequate measures must be in place to prevent the spread of contagious disease.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of disease spread.</i>
5.6	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RMVU CLASSIFICATION	

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
6 - POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION AND CARCASE DISPOSAL		Mandatory Requirement
6.1	Arrangements must be in place for the post-mortem examination of animals either at the premises, at another registered premises or at a veterinary pathology laboratory.	<i>Post-mortem examination provides useful information for the veterinary practitioner and the owner and aids in diagnosis and treatment of cohort animals.</i>
6.2	All animal tissues must be enclosed in appropriate containers and kept in an area away from the public before being promptly removed for disposal or dispatch.	<i>This is to prevent cross-contamination and prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>
6.3	A dedicated freezer must be available for the disposal of animals.	<i>This is for reasons of public health and hygiene and is to prevent distress to staff, clients and members of the public.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
7 - VEHICLE		Mandatory Requirement
7.1	Each vehicle used by a registered person in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine must comply with appropriate legislation.	<i>A registered person is expected to conform with legal requirements.</i>
7.2	Vehicles must be kept in a clean and tidy condition in the interest of animal health.	<i>A practice vehicle is an intrinsic part of a registered person's professional image.</i>
7.3	Appropriate clean protective clothing and footwear, and appropriate cleaning equipment must be carried in the vehicle.	<i>This is to minimise the risk of spread of disease between sites or between animals and people.</i>
7.4	In the vehicle, animal remedies must be stored according to the legislation and the manufacturers' recommendations, safely and securely with a stock level that is adequate for anticipated demand and monitored to ensure it is used within date.	<i>It is unsafe and illegal to use out-of-date animal remedies. Animal remedies have specific storage requirements which must be adhered to in order to maintain their safety and efficiency. Veterinary equipment and many animal remedies can be dangerous if handled by lay people and it is incumbent on practitioners to minimise the risk of break-ins to practice vehicles storing such equipment/remedies.</i>
7.5	Adequate and clean restraint and diagnostic equipment and sampling material must be carried to allow the diagnosis and treatment of those conditions normally encountered.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are facilitated by access to the correct equipment for restraint and diagnosis. Separation of dirty equipment avoids the spread of disease between animals.</i>
7.6	Suitable waste disposal containers must be provided for clinical, biological and sharps waste.	<i>This is a requirement under health and safety legislation.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
8 - LIBRARY		Mandatory Requirement
8.1	The library must be sufficient in scope to provide current reference material on the usual range of emergency and critical conditions expected, in addition to all treatments performed within the normal scope of practice.	<i>The internet provides timely access to the most up-to-date research and information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
9 - OFFICE/RECEPTION/WAITING ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
9.1	The current Certificate of Suitability must be displayed in a prominent place.	<i>This is a requirement under the Act. An Authorised Officer is entitled to ask to see the COS.</i>
9.2	Names and qualifications of registered veterinary practitioners and registered veterinary nurses practising from the premises must be displayed.	<i>Persons practising at a Registered Premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council.</i>
9.3	Persons practising from the premises must be registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
9.4	There must be a defined client waiting area of adequate size and with sufficient space and seating for the workload at the premises. This waiting area must be separate from any examination room, treatment/procedure room or inpatient room. There must be sufficient room to separate animals so as to prevent direct contact with each other.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients and ensure that consultations can take place in private.</i>
9.5	The environment in the waiting area must be comfortable for patients, clients and staff with heating, cooling, and ventilation provided as necessary. Noxious odours must be eliminated as much as possible.	<i>This is to ensure the comfort and safety of staff, clients and patients.</i>
9.6	A clean toilet, including hand-washing facilities, must be available to clients on the veterinary premises.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
9.7	Indoor lighting for halls, wards, office/reception/waiting room, examination room(s), treatment/procedure room(s) and surgical room(s) must be adequate for the intended purpose.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.8	There must be adequate internal signage to indicate fire escapes, X-ray areas etc.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients, patients and staff.</i>
9.9	A sign indicating basic on-site consultation and call-out fees must be publicly displayed.	<i>This is for client information.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
10 - PREMISES – EXTERNAL		Mandatory Requirement
10.1	The RMVU must be associated with a veterinary premises registered under the PAS in the RVC or RVH classification which must be a permanent structure.	<i>A permanent structure reassures clients that continuity of care will be available for their animals.</i>
10.2	The COS Holder shall confirm that the premises complies with all local planning regulations.	<i>This is a legal requirement, and compliance with local planning ensures continuity of care for clients and their animals.</i>
10.3	The grounds and exterior must be well maintained.	<i>To eliminate hazards which might cause injury to staff, clients or patients.</i>

10.4	Client and animal access to the veterinary premises shall be via a direct public entrance, specific to the registered veterinary premises, that connects directly to a public road or public concourse. In the interests of biosecurity, the perimeter of the premises shall be clearly defined and demonstrate physical separation from any other premises, especially any premises where animals not attending the registered premises may be present.	<i>In the interest of biosecurity, health and safety, the security of Animal Remedies, and the public interest, the premises should be secure and self-contained, to demonstrate the independence of the practice of veterinary medicine.</i>
10.5	There must be adequate external lighting of the structure and environs.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of clients and staff.</i>
10.6	Doors and windows must be self-closing and secure.	<i>This is to prevent the escape or theft of animals and the theft of animal remedies.</i>
10.7	NOT APPLICABLE TO RMVU CLASSIFICATION	

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
11 - EXAMINATION ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
11.1	An examination room of reasonable size that is well lit, fit for purpose and provides a setting that ensures client privacy must be available for the examination of patients by a Veterinary Practitioner.	<i>The examination room must be of sufficient size to accommodate the veterinary practitioner, assistant, patient and client comfortably. This is to ensure animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care, and client confidentiality.</i>
11.2	Hand washing facilities with hot and cold water must be available, preferably in each examination room. It is acceptable, though less desirable, that they are in close proximity to the examination room.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.3	Each examination room must contain at least 2 covered/ enclosed waste receptacles, one of which must be for clinical waste only. Bins must enable hands free use.	<i>Open waste bins are unacceptable, unhygienic and may be a source of noxious odours.</i>
11.4	The floor and examination table surface must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
11.5	Diagnostic equipment needed for the routine physical examination of the patient must be readily available.	<i>Veterinary practice and animal welfare are enhanced by access to appropriate diagnostic equipment. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.6	Restraint devices must be present and must be of adequate design, clean and in good working order.	<i>This is to ensure the safety of patients, staff and clients. Precisely what equipment should be available will depend on the nature of the practice.</i>
11.7	Equipment for the accurate weighing of patients must be available.	<i>This is to ensure appropriate dosage of veterinary medicinal products.</i>
11.8	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RMVU CLASSIFICATION	

11.9	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RMVU CLASSIFICATION
11.10	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RMVU CLASSIFICATION
11.11	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RMVU CLASSIFICATION

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
12 - TREATMENT/PROCEDURE ROOM		Mandatory Requirement
12.1	A treatment/procedure room, with all the necessary equipment and medicines relevant to the type of services being provided, must be available. This room must be equipped in such a way that basic examinations, emergency interventions and general surgical preparations can be carried out.	<i>Veterinary treatment can be carried out more efficiently and effectively in a designated room. Precisely what equipment and medicines should be available will depend on the scope of the practice.</i>
12.2	This room must be of adequate size for the procedures being performed.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare, appropriate veterinary care and the safety of staff and clients.</i>
12.3	Surfaces and equipment must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
12.4	This room must have a drained sink with hot and cold running water.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
13 - IN-PATIENT ROOM AND FACILITIES		Mandatory Requirement
13.1	If an animal needs to be housed overnight the veterinary practitioner on duty must assume responsibility for the monitoring and care of the animal. This should be documented in records available for inspection.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.2	A separate compartment must be available for each animal.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.3	Each compartment must permit easy observation of, and access to, the animal.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.4	Inpatient facilities must be appropriate to the practice caseload, kept clean, must be of adequate size and design, and enable provision and convenient access to food and water.	<i>This is to ensure each animal's safety, security and well-being.</i>
13.5	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RMVU CLASSIFICATION	
13.6	Animal compartments must be cleaned and disinfected, as required and in between patients.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.7	Appropriate facilities must be available for urination and defecation and, where appropriate to the species and individual animal, outdoor exercise at sufficient intervals.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
13.8	There must be a heating system to ensure temperature can be maintained in a range that is comfortable and safe for all patients.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>

13.9	There must be adequate ventilation and lighting in each confinement area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.10	Facilities must have sufficient bedding to meet reasonably anticipated patient needs within the normal scope of the practice. Bedding must be clean, dry, comfortable, and safe for the animal confined. Adequate precautions must be taken to prevent the spread of disease.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare and disease control.</i>
13.11	Bedding must be disposed of in accordance with waste management legislation.	<i>This is a legal requirement.</i>
13.12	All surfaces must be impervious, non-slip and easily cleaned. All cages, runs, stalls, pens and other animal compartments must be kept in good repair and be capable of being cleaned and disinfected between patients.	<i>This is to prevent injury to the animal, to promote physical comfort and is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.13	An animal identification system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of optimal nursing and veterinary care.</i>
13.14	Premises must allow for the effective separation of contagious and non-contagious cases. Whilst a permanent isolation unit/cage/stall is desirable, appropriate provision in the event that such isolation becomes necessary will be acceptable. Appropriate equipment must be available to protect other animals, the veterinary staff and members of the public.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>
13.15	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RMVU CLASSIFICATION	
13.16	NOT APPLICABLE FOR RMVU CLASSIFICATION	

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
14 - FOOD STORAGE AND PREPARATION		Mandatory Requirement
14.1	There must be a defined area for animal food storage and preparation and a range of diets must be available. This area must be separate from any staff food storage/preparation area and hot and cold running water must be available within the area.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
14.2	Food must be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions in order to prevent spoiling.	<i>This is in the interests of animal welfare.</i>
14.3	Water and feed bowls must be cleaned and disinfected as required.	<i>This is in the interests of hygiene and disease control.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
15 - ANAESTHESIA AND RECOVERY		Mandatory Requirement
15.1	There must be adequate primary and back-up supplies of oxygen, and suitable equipment for its administration at the premises.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.2	Equipment for the safe induction and maintenance of anaesthesia must be present depending on the species being routinely treated and the range of procedures routinely performed.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.3	Where gaseous anaesthesia is used, an appropriate range of breathing systems and endotracheal tubes of appropriate sizes must be available and appropriately maintained.	<i>This is to ensure access to a patent airway in the interests of patient safety.</i>
15.4	All anaesthetic equipment must be serviced by competent personnel according to the manufacturer's recommendations (which should be available). Records must be maintained of such inspections and servicing.	<i>This is in the interests of staff and patient safety. In particular seals should be checked and vaporisers calibrated annually.</i>
15.5	Where gaseous anaesthetic is used, an anaesthetic gas scavenging system must be used.	<i>This is in the interests of staff safety.</i>
15.6	Adequate equipment and facilities for resuscitation must be available.	<i>This is in the interests of patient safety.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
16 - SURGERY		Scope of Practice Option
16.1	If surgery is performed, a dedicated operating area must be available for the conduct of aseptic surgery- it must not double up as an examination room. This area may be appropriately located in the treatment/procedure room. The operating area should be a closed room with no through traffic and must be adequately screened from public view.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area and to prevent inadvertently causing distress to a client or other visitor. This is also to ensure that emergency surgery can be performed when required.</i>
16.2	The operating area must only contain equipment for use in surgical procedures.	<i>This is to ensure that surgery can be performed more efficiently and effectively.</i>
16.3	An area separate from the aseptic area must be available for induction and pre-operative preparation of patients.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.4	Scrub area must be separate from the aseptic area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.5	There must be an operating table and light with sufficient power to illuminate the surgical field in the operating area. The operating table should be height adjustable if the caseload of the premises dictates this.	<i>This is for the comfort and safety of staff and to allow easy access to the operating site.</i>
16.6	Instruments to be used in surgery must be sterilised by autoclave.	<i>These are the most effective means of sterilisation.</i>

16.7	Packs of sterilised surgical instruments and drapes must be initialled, labelled with the date of sterilisation and contain an indicator of adequate sterilisation.	<i>This is to ensure that only adequately sterilised instruments and drapes are used.</i>
16.8	Caps, masks and sterile gowns, drapes, towels, and gloves must be available.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for cross contamination.</i>
16.9	Appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn in the operating area.	<i>This is to reduce the potential for contamination of the operating area.</i>
16.10	An emergency power source should be available.	<i>This is to allow surgery to be completed in the event of a power cut or electricity failure.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
17 - LABORATORY		Scope of Practice Option
17.1	Access to a diagnostic laboratory and clinical pathology services must be available. If in-house laboratory diagnostic services are provided, the laboratory area/bench must be clearly defined and used only for laboratory purposes.	<i>The use of laboratory testing to support good veterinary practice is considered essential. Clinical pathology sampling can be a useful aid to veterinary diagnosis. Ready access to results of laboratory tests ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
17.2	Where samples are submitted to an outside laboratory they must be collected, stored, packaged, and dispatched in a manner that ensures the safety of personnel in contact with sample material and minimises sample deterioration to ensure optimum test results.	<i>Accuracy and reliability of test results depends on appropriate sample collection, storage and dispatch.</i>
17.3	There must be adequate facilities for the storage of specimens and reagents, including refrigeration if required, and disposal of waste materials.	<i>This is to ensure the accuracy and reliability of test results.</i>

No.	STANDARD	RATIONALE
18 - RADIOGRAPHY AND DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING		Scope of Practice Option
18.1	Where an X-ray source is used, the source and its use must be suitably authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). Proof of suitable Environmental Protection Agency authorisation must be publicly displayed and available for inspection.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>
18.2	Permanent identification of the radiograph must occur at the time of exposure or just prior to processing.	<i>Practices must comply with Irish and European legislation and EPA guidelines on the use and exposure to ionising radiation. This is required under the Radiological Protection Act 1991 as amended by SI 125 of 2000.</i>

18.3	Protective equipment, restraining devices, including sedation and anaesthesia, and plate holders, must be available. No part of any person shall be exposed to the primary X-ray beam, even if shielded by protective clothing. The primary beam shall not be directed through unshielded doors, floors, windows or ceilings behind which people may be situated.	<i>Exposure to ionising radiation for patients and staff should be as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA principle).</i>
18.4	Where required, adequate dosimeters must be in place, as determined by an EPA risk assessment.	<i>As per Regulation 42(6) of SI 30 of 2019: 'the employer, shall make arrangements to retain the record referred to in subparagraph (1)(a) during the period of the working life involving exposure to ionising radiation of the worker concerned and afterwards until they have or would have attained the age of 75 years, but, in any case not less than 30 years after termination of the work involving exposure to ionising radiation'.</i>
18.5	A properly formulated technique chart must be available, and exposure should be based on body part/thickness with a measuring calliper also available.	<i>ALARA principle: a chart helps reduce repeat radiographs.</i>
18.6	Suitable arrangements for the efficient filing, storage, and retrieval of radiographs must be in place.	<i>Ready access to radiographs ensures prompt and effective treatment of animals.</i>
18.7	If radiography services are not provided at or from the premises, arrangements must be made to obtain this service at another veterinary premises within a reasonable distance.	<i>Radiography is an integral diagnostic modality in veterinary medicine and should be available to all patients, even if not provided at the premises.</i>

APPENDIX 7. Applying for a Certificate of Suitability

The following information is in relation to making an application for a Certificate of Suitability in respect of any Registered Veterinary Office, Registered Veterinary Clinic, Registered Veterinary Hospital, or Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit.

For applications in respect of Registered Veterinary Facilities, see appendix 8.

Application requirements:

- ▶ Completed Certificate of Suitability Application form
- ▶ A labelled map identifying the external boundaries of the premises, to include surrounding buildings if applicable
- ▶ A labelled floor plan showing the internal layout of the premises and the dimensions of each room within the premises
- ▶ Payment of the Certificate of Suitability fee

Application Procedure:

- ▶ In order for a Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) to be granted under the Council’s Premises Accreditation Scheme (“PAS”), a COS application must first be submitted accompanying all application requirements and payment of the appropriate fee.
- ▶ After submitting the application in full, the registered applicant will be contacted to discuss the application, the proposed veterinary premises, and their availability for a premises inspection.
- ▶ Following this the premises is assigned for inspection to one of the Council’s Authorised Officers. The Authorised Officer is asked to declare any conflict of interest before an inspection is assigned to them. Once the Authorised Officer declares no conflict of interest, the applicant is notified of the assigned Authorised Officer and is also asked to declare any conflicts of interest to the Council before the inspection is arranged.
- ▶ The assigned Authorised Officer will contact the applicant directly to arrange a mutually agreeable inspection date and time.
- ▶ The applicant must be present at the premises during the inspection.
- ▶ An inspection of the premises is then carried out by the Authorised Officer against the relevant PAS Standards, ensuring that the premises will be fit for purpose and in compliance with all requirements.
- ▶ The Authorised Officer will identify and record any non-conformances with the PAS Standards during the inspection.
- ▶ At the end of the inspection, the applicant signs an undertaking to address any identified non-conformances by a date agreed with the Authorised Officer.
- ▶ The Authorised Officer’s inspection report is then submitted to the Council for consideration.
- ▶ In the days following the inspection, a copy of the inspection report is provided to the applicant by email, and they are asked to confirm when they have addressed any identified non-conformances, and to submit supporting documentary evidence where necessary.
- ▶ The Council’s Practice Premises Committee (“the PPC”) then considers the full application along with the inspection report and any confirmation of completion of non-conformances submitted since the inspection.
- ▶ Based on the available information the PPC will make a recommendation in respect of the premises to the Council. If the PPC determines that it requires further information in respect of the premises prior to considering the application, it may defer consideration to a later meeting pending requested information from the applicant.
- ▶ The Council at its meeting will consider the application and all accompanying information including the PPC recommendation. It will then make a decision under section 112 (1) of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended, to grant, to grant with conditions or to refuse to grant a COS.

- ▶ As soon as possible after the Council's meeting, the applicant is informed of the decision by email.
- ▶ If the COS is granted, the premises will be added to the Council's Register of Certificates of Suitability. An official Council-sealed certificate is posted to the now COS Holder to display publicly at the premises. The certificate will display the premises details and classification, COS expiration date and the COS number which is unique to the registered premises.

Please note:

- ▶ Registrants who apply to the Council for a Certificate of Suitability in respect of a veterinary premises may propose which classification they feel is most appropriate for the premises. However, the Council ultimately decides which classification a premises will be registered in.
- ▶ The premises must be prepared for inspection to a degree that enables the Authorised Officer to carry out a complete assessment against all PAS Standards and requirements. If the Authorised Officer cannot inspect all PAS Standards during the first inspection, the Council may determine that a further inspection is necessary before the Council can consider the application. Any required further inspections will be at a cost to the applicant of €320.

Timeline:

- ▶ It is recommended that applications are submitted, at a minimum, **three months** in advance of the proposed date of the premises opening.
- ▶ Please be advised that the Practice Premises Committee and the Veterinary Council meet 6-8 times per year on dates predetermined at the start of the year. Applications must be submitted in sufficient time to allow consideration by the Practice Premises Committee and the Veterinary Council.
- ▶ Premises inspections must be carried out well in advance of the Practice Premises Committee meeting date. This is to ensure enough time for the premises inspection report to be prepared and to give applicants sufficient time to address any non-conformances identified.

Contact:

Applicants can contact this office with any Premises Accreditation Scheme queries by email to pas@vci.ie, or by phone on 01 6684402. Information is also available on the Council's website www.vci.ie.

APPENDIX 8. Registered Veterinary Facility Application Procedure

The following information is in relation to making an application for a Certificate of Suitability in respect of any Registered Veterinary Facility.

Eligibility Criteria:

The proposed premises must first meet the following criteria to be eligible for registration in the Registered Veterinary Facility classification:

- ▶ It must be a private veterinary premises independent of the State or State agencies
- ▶ It must be a non-public serving premises
- ▶ The practice of veterinary medicine must take place at and/or from the premises by registered persons
- ▶ It must not suitably fit into any other veterinary premises classification under the Premises Accreditation Scheme (“PAS”)

Stage 1 – RVF Proposal

Application requirements:

- ▶ Completed RVF Proposal Form
- ▶ A labelled map identifying the external boundaries of the premises, to include surrounding buildings if applicable
- ▶ A labelled floor plan showing the internal layout of the premises and the dimensions of each room within the premises
- ▶ Payment of the application fee (€100)

Stage 1 – Procedure:

- ▶ In order for a COS to be granted in the RVF classification the applicant must first submit a proposal application in respect of the premises, providing the Council with sufficient information in relation to the nature and scope of practice of the proposed premises. The RVF applicant declares all PAS Standards that are applicable to the RVF within its proposed scope of practice.
- ▶ After submitting the proposal application in full, the registered applicant will be contacted to discuss the application, the proposed veterinary premises, and if any further information is required.
- ▶ The proposal application is considered by the Practice Premises Committee who will determine if the nature and scope of practice is appropriate for the RVF classification. The Committee may at this stage seek additional information from the RVF applicant, and it may propose an alternative scope of practice with additional PAS Standards for agreement by the RVF applicant.
- ▶ The Practice Premises Committee may consider the RVF proposal over a number of meetings. The Practice Premises Committee may also refuse the proposal at any stage and notify the RVF applicant of this fact.
- ▶ If the Practice Premises Committee determines that the premises is eligible to proceed to the Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) application stage, the RVF applicant will be notified of this fact and invited to submit an application for a COS in respect of the premises. The submitted COS application must indicate full compliance with the agreed mandatory PAS Standards.

Stage 2 – Making a COS Application

Application requirements:

- ▶ Completed Certificate of Suitability Application form.
- ▶ Payment of the Certificate of Suitability fee.

Stage 2 – Procedure:

- ▶ In order for a Certificate of Suitability (“COS”) to be granted under the Council’s Premises Accreditation Scheme (“PAS”), a COS application must first be submitted accompanying all application requirements and payment of the appropriate fee. In the application, the applicant must indicate full compliance with the mandatory PAS Standards determined in respect of the proposed RVF premises.
- ▶ After submitting the application in full, the registered applicant will be contacted to discuss the application, the proposed veterinary premises, and their availability for a premises inspection.
- ▶ Following this the premises is assigned for inspection to one of the Council’s Authorised Officers. The Authorised Officer is asked to declare any conflict of interest before an inspection is assigned to them. Once the Authorised Officer declares no conflict of interest, the applicant is notified of the assigned Authorised Officer and is also asked to declare any conflicts of interest to the Council before the inspection is arranged.
- ▶ The assigned Authorised Officer will contact the applicant directly to arrange a mutually agreeable inspection date and time.
- ▶ The applicant must be present at the premises during the inspection.
- ▶ An inspection of the premises is then carried out by the Authorised Officer against the determined mandatory PAS Standards, ensuring that the premises will be fit for purpose and in compliance with all requirements.
- ▶ The Authorised Officer will identify and record any non-conformances with the determined mandatory PAS Standards during the inspection.
- ▶ At the end of the inspection, the applicant signs an undertaking to address any identified non-conformances by a date agreed with the Authorised Officer.
- ▶ The Authorised Officer’s inspection report is then submitted to the Council for consideration.
- ▶ In the days following the inspection, a copy of the inspection report is provided to the applicant by email, and they are asked to confirm when they have addressed any identified non-conformances, and to submit supporting documentary evidence where necessary.
- ▶ The Council’s Practice Premises Committee (“the PPC”) then considers the full application along with the inspection report and any confirmation of completion of non-conformances submitted since the inspection.
- ▶ Based on the available information the PPC will make a recommendation in respect of the premises to the Council. If the PPC determines that it requires further information in respect of the premises prior to considering the application, it may defer consideration to a later meeting pending requested information from the applicant.
- ▶ The Council at its meeting will consider the application and all accompanying information including the PPC recommendation. It will then make a decision under section 112 (1) of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended, to grant, to grant with conditions or to refuse to grant a COS.
- ▶ As soon as possible after the Council’s meeting, the applicant is informed of the decision by email.
- ▶ If the COS is granted, the premises will be added to the Council’s Register of Certificates of Suitability. An official Council-sealed certificate is posted to the now COS Holder to display publicly at the premises. The certificate will display the premises details and classification, COS expiration date and the COS number which is unique to the registered premises.

Please note:

- ▶ Registrants who apply to the Council for a Certificate of Suitability in respect of a veterinary premises may propose which classification they feel is most appropriate for the premises. However, the Council ultimately decides which classification a premises will be registered in.
- ▶ The premises must be prepared for inspection to a degree that enables the Authorised Officer to carry out a complete assessment against all PAS Standards and requirements. If the Authorised Officer cannot inspect all PAS Standards during the first inspection, the Council may determine that a further inspection is necessary before the Council can consider the application. Any required further inspection will be at a cost to the applicant of €320.

Timeline:

- ▶ It is recommended that applications are submitted, at a minimum, **six months** in advance of the proposed date of the RVF classified premises opening.
- ▶ Please be advised that the Practice Premises Committee and the Veterinary Council meet 6-8 times per year on dates predetermined at the start of the year. Applications must be submitted in sufficient time to allow consideration by the Practice Premises Committee and the Veterinary Council.
- ▶ Premises inspections must be carried out well in advance of the Practice Premises Committee meeting date. This is to ensure enough time for the premises inspection report to be prepared and to give applicants sufficient time to address any non-conformances identified.
- ▶ An application for a RVF classified premises may be considered over the course of a number of meetings. The Practice Premises Committee or the Council may seek additional information in respect of the proposed premises at any time, and this may impact on the time it takes to reach a decision.

Contact:

Applicants can contact this office with any Premises Accreditation Scheme queries by email to pas@vci.ie, or by phone on 01 6684402. Information is also available on the Council's website www.vci.ie.

APPENDIX 9. Fees

Fees in relation to a Certificate of Suitability are as follows:

1.	The fee to accompany an application for a Certificate of Suitability in the 2022-2025 PAS cycle The fee applicable in the corresponding year is as follows:	2022	€1250.00
		2023	€1050.00
		2024	€850.00
		2025	€650.00
2.	RVF Proposal Application Fee	€100.00	
3.	Fee to issue a replacement Certificate of Suitability	€100.00	
4.	Fee in respect of an application to change the classification of a registered veterinary premises	€400.00	
5.	Premises repeat inspection fee	€320.00	

Veterinary Council of Ireland

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