



PREMISES ACCREDITATION SCHEME

REGULATIONS 2026



VETERINARY COUNCIL OF IRELAND PREMISES ACCREDITATION SCHEME
REGULATIONS 2026

The Veterinary Council of Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 13, 108, and 111 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 (as amended), hereby makes the following regulations:

1. The Veterinary Council of Ireland Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS) Regulations 2017 are hereby revoked with effect from the date specified in paragraph 2(2), without prejudice to any applications received by the Council prior to that date and relating to applications for Certificates of Suitability which expire on 31 December 2025.

2. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Veterinary Council of Ireland Premises Accreditation Scheme Regulations 2026.

(2) These regulations come into force on 1 January 2026.

3. In these regulations—

“Act” means the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 (No. 22 of 2005), as amended from time to time;

“Certificate of Suitability” shall be construed in accordance with section 109 of the Act;

“Council” means the Veterinary Council of Ireland established under section 11 of the Act;

“Exempted place” has the meaning as defined under section 105 of the Act;

“Veterinary premises” has the meaning as defined under section 105 of the Act;

“Veterinary practitioner” means a person registered under Part 4 of the Act;

“registered person” means —

(a) except in Part 7, a person registered under Part 4 or 8 of the Act, and

(b) in Part 7, a person registered within the meaning given to it in section 69;

“Standards” shall mean:

(a) the requirements including mandatory equipment and resources defined under regulation 6(2) and in accordance with Appendix One, and

(b) the specified acts of veterinary medicine deemed suitable for each class of veterinary premises set out in regulation 6(1) and in accordance with Appendix One.

“State premises” has the meaning as defined under section 105 of the Act.

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4. (1) Every registered person who practises veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing in the State must practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing at and/or from a premises to which a Certificate of Suitability applies, unless the premises is a State premises or exempted place.

(2) Every registered person must provide the Council with up-to-date information on where they are practising by submitting such declaration as the Council may specify from time to time stating where they are practising in the State, even where such premises is an exempted place or State premises, or if they are practising outside the State.

(3) The certificate holder shall inform the Council as soon as reasonably possible where a registered person commences or ceases to practise veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing at and/or from the veterinary premises in such a form as the Council may prescribe from time to time.

5. (1) The Council shall establish and maintain a register of veterinary premises comprised of those premises which have been granted a Certificate of Suitability in accordance with the Act and regulation 10(1).

(2) Each entry in the Register shall show:

- (a) The full name, address and description of the certificate holder;
- (b) A description of the veterinary premises to which the Certificate of Suitability refers including its address;
- (c) The date on which the Certificate of Suitability was issued and its expiry date;
- (d) Any renewals of the certificate;
- (e) If appropriate, the class of veterinary premises to which the Certificate of Suitability refers and the specified acts of veterinary medicine that may be carried out there;
- (f) Any conditions attaching to the Certificate of Suitability;
- (g) Such other particulars of, or in respect of, the Certificate of Suitability or the veterinary premises to which it relates as the Council may from time to time prescribe.

6. (1) Veterinary premises are hereby classified into the following classes:

- (a) Veterinary Office
- (b) Veterinary Clinic
- (c) Veterinary Hospital
- (d) Veterinary Facility
- (e) Mobile Veterinary Unit

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(2) The requirements, including the mandatory equipment and resources, and specified acts of veterinary medicine deemed suitable for each class of veterinary premises set out in regulation 6(1) shall be those set out in Appendix One.

(3) In accordance with Appendix One, and save where section 106(1)(b)-(e) of the Act applies, the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing at and/or from a veterinary premises should be limited to the specified aspects of veterinary medicine which are deemed suitable, and should not include any aspects of veterinary medicine which are not deemed suitable, for the class for which a veterinary premises has been granted a certificate under regulation 10(1).

(4) The Council reserves the right to from time to time amend, supplement, discontinue, or otherwise change the classes specified in regulation 6(1) and/or the relevant standards therein.

7. (1) The application fee for:

- (a) the grant of a Certificate of Suitability;
- (b) the renewal of a grant of a Certificate of Suitability; and
- (c) for an inspection in relation to any non-compliance with matters prescribed under section 108 of the Act;

shall be as prescribed by the Council from time to time.

(2) Where an application is made after the date specified in regulation 11 on which certificates of suitability commence, the application fee will be applied on a pro rata basis.

8. (1) An application for the grant of a Certificate of Suitability shall be in the form as set out in Appendices Three and Five and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee and the supporting documentation set out in Appendices Three and Five.

(2) An application for the renewal of a Certificate of Suitability shall be in the form as set out in Appendices Four and Six shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee and the supporting documentation set out in Appendices Four and Six.

(3) Where it is intended to establish a veterinary premises, a veterinary practitioner must make an application to the Council for the issue of a Certificate of Suitability before the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing commences at and/or from the premises.

(4) The veterinary practitioner referred to in regulation 8(3) shall be of sufficient standing in the veterinary practice and have sufficient experience in the practice of veterinary medicine to ensure compliance with the standards relevant to the veterinary premises.

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(5) A Certificate of Suitability shall apply solely to one veterinary premises and only in respect of the premises at the address recorded in the register. In circumstances where it is intended to relocate a premises to a new address, the certificate holder is required to make a new application.

9. (1) On receipt of an application form pursuant to regulations 8(1) or (2), the Council shall appoint an authorised officer under section 117 of the Act to carry out an inspection of the premises the subject of the application.

(2) An authorised officer appointed by the Council may enter any premises where the veterinary practitioner named in the application practices veterinary medicine, at any reasonable time. The authorised officer is permitted to examine any relevant books, documents, and records, and to perform any necessary examinations, tests, inspections, or checks to verify compliance with the Council's regulations and standards.

(3) The veterinary practitioner designated to be the applicant pursuant to regulation 8(1), or the sole veterinary practitioner or the certificate holder at the premises, the subject of the application, shall co-operate with the authorised officer carrying out an inspection of the premises.

(4) Following a premises inspection, an authorised officer shall, as soon as may be after the inspection, make a written report and furnish it to the Council and the applicant or certificate holder, as the case may be.

(5) Where co-operation with the authorised officer or access to the premises is unreasonably withheld,

- (a) in the case of an application for the grant of a Certificate of Suitability under regulation 8(1), the Council may deem that the application has been withdrawn; or
- (b) in the case of an application for the renewal of a Certificate of Suitability under regulation 8(2), the Council may revoke the Certificate of Suitability which was the subject of the application for renewal.

10. (1) Having considered the application under regulations 8(1) or (2), the Council may decide to:

- (a) grant or renew the certificate, as the case may be, to the certificate holder;
- (b) grant or renew the certificate, as the case may be, to the certificate holder, subject to certain conditions; or
- (c) refuse to grant or renew the certificate, as the case may be.

(2) The Council may refuse to grant or renew a certificate, inter alia, where the conditions of the granting, or renewal of the granting, of a certificate are not complied with.

(3) A decision of the Council made pursuant to regulations 10(1)(b) or (c) may be subject to appeal in accordance with the procedure set out in section 113 of the Act.

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11. A certificate shall be valid for such period of time as the Council may from time to time determine, and certificates shall commence and expire on dates to be specified by the Council.

12. Where the Council decides to grant or renew a grant of a Certificate of Suitability that is subject to conditions, the certificate holder shall ensure that the veterinary premises complies with such conditions. Where a person to whom a Certificate of Suitability is granted or renewed that is subject to conditions refuses or fails to comply with all or any of them, they are guilty of an offence pursuant to section 112 of the Act.

13. (1) Where an application is determined on the basis of regulations 10(1)(a) or (b), the Council shall issue an extract from the register to the certificate holder in accordance with section 122(1) of the Act.

(2) The certificate holder must display the sealed extract from the Register in a prominent place at the veterinary premises to which it relates.

(3) Regulation 13(2) shall not apply in respect of an exempted place or State premises.

(4) Notices to the public pursuant to regulation 13(2) shall be in the form of a Certificate of Suitability as set out in Appendix Two. Such notices shall be an original copy of the numbered certificate signed by the Registrar and the President and sealed with the seal of the Council.

(5) The certificate holder shall ensure that the following information is included in an extract from the Register displayed in accordance with regulation 13(2):

- (a) A description of the veterinary premises to which the Certificate of Suitability refers including its address;
- (b) The class of veterinary premises to which the Certificate of Suitability refers and the class of practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing, as the case may be, that may be carried out there;
- (c) The name and registered number of the certificate holder;
- (d) The certificate number;
- (e) The expiry date of the Certificate of Suitability;
- (f) Any conditions attaching to the Certificate of Suitability.

14. If more than one veterinary practitioner carries out the practice of veterinary medicine at and/or from a premises, one veterinary practitioner shall at all times be designated the certificate holder in respect of that premises. Where one veterinary practitioner is the sole veterinary practitioner who carries out the practice of veterinary medicine at and/or from a premises, such veterinary practitioner shall be the certificate holder, whether designated or not.

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15. (1) The Council may, from time to time, whether with notice to the certificate holder or without, select veterinary premises for inspection to assess compliance with these regulations and any standards herein, including compliance with conditions attached to a veterinary premises under regulation 10(1)(b).

(2) The certificate holder must be present for the inspection and shall be required to cooperate with the inspection.

(3) An authorised officer appointed by the Council may enter any premises where the registered person practices veterinary medicine at or from, at any reasonable time. The authorised officer is permitted to examine any relevant books, documents, and records, and to perform any necessary examinations, tests, inspections, or checks to verify compliance with the Council's PAS Regulations and Standards.

(4) Where an authorised officer is refused entry to all or part of the premises to which the Certificate of Suitability relates, the Council may revoke the certificate in accordance with section 114(1)(c) of the Act.

(5) Following a premises inspection, an authorised officer shall, as soon as may be after the inspection, make a written report and furnish it to the Council and the certificate holder.

16. (1) Where a certificate holder intends to cease or ceases the practice of veterinary medicine at and/or from a veterinary premises to which a certificate relates, the certificate holder must notify the Council in writing as soon as possible.

(2) In the notice referred to in regulation 16(1), the certificate holder shall request that the Council revoke the Certificate of Suitability.

(3) Where it is intended to continue to practise veterinary medicine at and/or from the premises, an application from a veterinary practitioner for the grant of a new certificate must be submitted as soon as reasonably possible for consideration by the Council.

17. (1) The Council may revoke a Certificate of Suitability where any of the grounds set out in section 114 of the Act apply.

(2) The Council may deem a certificate holder to have ceased to practise veterinary medicine at and/or from a veterinary premises if they are unable to fulfil their role and responsibilities as a certificate holder because they are not practising at and/or from the veterinary practice for an extended period.

18. (1) A veterinary office, veterinary facility or mobile veterinary unit shall not state in its title, or in any other statement indicate in a manner that could mislead the public, that it is a veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital.

(2) A veterinary office, veterinary clinic, veterinary facility or mobile veterinary unit shall not state in its title, or in any other statement indicate in a manner that could mislead the public, that it is a veterinary hospital.

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(3) A mobile veterinary unit must be associated with a premises which has been granted a certificate in either the veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital classes.

(4) The name of a veterinary premises must be lawful and appropriate and must reflect the professional nature of the acts of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing being practised at and/or from the veterinary premises.

(5) The name of a veterinary premises shall not contain elements that are misleading to the public, in bad taste, offensive, contrary to the best interest of the public, or contrary to the standing and dignity of the veterinary profession.

(6) The name of a veterinary premises shall not suggest or imply that a veterinary practitioner practises a specialty at and/or from the premises unless a veterinary practitioner practises at and/or from the premises who is registered in the part of the Register that relates to veterinary specialists.

(7) The name of a veterinary premises shall not explicitly or implicitly claim superiority over any other veterinary premises.

(8) The name of a veterinary premises shall not be so similar to the name of any existing veterinary premises so as to cause confusion to the public.

19. (1) The certificate holder shall be responsible for compliance with the provisions of the Act and this regulation relating to a veterinary premises.

(2) The certificate holder shall be responsible for ensuring a veterinary premises complies with the standards and shall maintain sufficient knowledge of the veterinary premises such that they can reasonably satisfy themselves that the standards are being met at the veterinary premises.

(3) The certificate holder shall practise veterinary medicine at and/or from the veterinary premises for which they are so designated.

(4) The certificate holder shall ensure that the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing at and/or from a veterinary premises is carried out in compliance with all applicable legislation, including planning legislation.

(5) In circumstances where a Certificate of Suitability is revoked or otherwise ceases to have effect, the certificate holder shall ensure that all patient and clinical records are transferred in accordance with the directions of the client and in a timely manner.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

These regulations set out the application procedure for a Registered Veterinary Practitioner to apply for a Certificate of Suitability, the classes of certificates of suitability that may be issued, and further requirements and ancillary matters in relation to such certificates of suitability including the role of the Certificate of Suitability Holder.

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Appendix One

*The following equipment and resources shall be available at
Veterinary Offices/Veterinary Clinics/Veterinary Hospitals/Mobile Veterinary
Units/Veterinary Facilities*

(Please see PAS Standards & Guidelines 2026 -2029 Document Rev.1 01/12/2025)

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Appendix Two
Certificate of Suitability Sample



CERTIFICATE OF SUITABILITY*

Premises Accreditation Scheme

Name of Premises

Address of Premises

Registered Veterinary Classification

Certificate Holder: Full Name (VCI Reg. No. 00/00)

Certificate No.

0000

President
Uachtarán

Expiry Date

DD Month YYYY

Registrar
Cláraitheoir

* Under Section 109 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 and the Veterinary Practice (Amendment) Act 2012

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Appendix Three

*Registered Veterinary Office, Clinic, Hospital,
Facility & Mobile Veterinary Unit Application
Form for Grant of a Certificate of Suitability
(please see VCI Form No.26.0.3 02/12/2025)*

Appendix Four

*Registered Veterinary Office, Clinic, Hospital, Facility &
Mobile Veterinary Unit Application Form for the renewal of a
Grant of a Certificate of Suitability (please see VCI Form
No.26.0.4 02/12/2025)*

Appendix Five

*Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (Charity)
Application Form for Grant of a Certificate of
Suitability (please see VCI Form No.26.0.3
02/12/2025)*

Appendix Six

*Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (Charity) Application Form
for the renewal of a Grant of a Certificate of Suitability (please
see VCI Form No.26.0.4 02/12/2025)*