

Competency requirements for the emergency management of animals

Purpose of this guideline

The *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* (MPA) regulates the possession and use of medicines, poisons and prohibited substances in Queensland. Human and veterinary medicines must be stored, used and disposed of in an appropriate, effective and safe way to ensure that risks to public health and safety are appropriately managed. For this reason, persons who are authorised to carry out activities using the substances must have the necessary competencies to carry out the activities safely.

Under the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021 (MPMR), a general approval (emergency management of animals) may be granted to an entity for the purpose of the emergency care and treatment of sick, injured or orphaned animals. Among other things, this class of approval authorises a 'qualified person' working for the holder of the approval to possess stock of the medicines stated in the approval and administer a medicine on an oral prescription or a standing order from a veterinary surgeon working under the approval.

In this context, a qualified person, means a person who has—

- (a) completed a training course approved by the chief executive about the safe administration of medicines to animals; or
- (b) skills and knowledge equivalent to the competency the person would achieve by completing the training course mentioned in paragraph (a), as stated in writing by a veterinary surgeon.

This guideline establishes the minimum competency requirements for persons administering medicines to animals under a general approval (emergency management of animals). Persons who have qualifications (and experience) specified in Part 1 may be considered a 'qualified person'. Persons who have demonstrated, to a veterinary surgeon in the past two years, the required competencies in Part 2 may also be considered a 'qualified person'.

Further information

For further information, please see additional guidelines and factsheets:

- Factsheet – General approvals
- Initial application for a general approval (emergency management of animals)

To apply for or renew a general approval (emergency management of animals), please complete the relevant application form and submit to medicines.applications@health.qld.gov.au.

For additional information on this guideline, contact the Healthcare Approvals and Regulation Unit (HARU): HARU@health.qld.gov.au.

Part 1 – Approved training courses for a general approval (emergency management of animals)

Acceptable qualifications/experience	Conditions
Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing	
Certificate IV in Captive Animals	If qualification completed over 2 years ago, must have completed a minimum of 50 hours animal care and management activities relevant to the necessary competencies in the previous 12 months
Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation where the electives 'ACMACR405 Assist with the euthanasia of sick, injured or unwanted pound animals' and 'ACMGAS305 Rescue animals and apply basic first aid' have been completed	If qualification completed over 2 years ago, must have completed a minimum of 50 hours animal care and management activities relevant to the necessary competencies in the previous 12 months
Certificate III in Captive Animals	If qualification completed over 2 years ago, must have completed a minimum of 50 hours animal care and management activities relevant to the necessary competencies in the previous 12 months
Certificate III in Animal Studies	If qualification completed over 2 years ago, must have completed a minimum of 50 hours animal care and management activities relevant to the necessary competencies in the previous 12 months
Completion of the course "Capture and Handling of Wild Animals in Australia" provided by the University of Queensland	If qualification completed over 2 years ago, must have completed a minimum of 50 hours animal care and management activities relevant to the necessary competencies in the previous 12 months

Part 2 – Competency requirements for persons administering medicines under a general approval (emergency management of animals)

Necessary competencies

A person administering medicines to animals for their care or treatment under a general approval must have the capability to do the following:

1. Select suitable method of euthanasia/sedation/treatment according to size and number of animals and legislative constraints in consultation with supervisor
2. Select and prepare appropriate medicines, equipment and material
3. Follow safe work practices to minimise risks to animals, self and others
4. Euthanise animals in a humane, rapid and appropriate manner and confirm death
5. Sedate or treat animals in a humane and appropriate manner as directed by supervisor
6. Dispose of animal carcass and/or biological waste not required for research or post-mortem purposes, in accordance with legislative requirements
7. Decontaminate, clean and store medicines, equipment and materials or dispose of accordingly
8. Access and use management systems to keep and maintain accurate records of medicines usage