



Curtin University Standard Operating Procedure

DISPENSING OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

Number: TEC 09

Version: 1.2

Date: 01/10/2008

Aim/Purpose: Acquisition and dispensing of medicines for therapeutic and some research uses e.g. anaesthesia is governed by the Poisons Act 1964. The facility is required to be licensed under this Act in order to acquire and supply category 2, 3, 4 and 8 poisons for research animal use. Poisons which are the subject of test cannot be supplied by a veterinary surgeon (non-therapeutic use) and a license from the Department of Health should be applied for by the researcher involved.

Information about drug schedules

Schedule 2- Poisons for therapeutic use that should be available to the public only from pharmacies or if there is no pharmacy service available, from people licensed to sell schedule 2 poisons.

Schedule 3- Poisons for therapeutic use that are dangerous or are so liable to abuse as to warrant their availability to the public being restricted to supply by medical practitioners, pharmaceutical chemists, dentists or veterinary surgeons.

Schedule 4- Poisons that should, in the public interest be restricted to prescription or supply by a medical practitioner, dentist, veterinary surgeon or nurse practitioner authorised under section 23 (2)(e), together with substances or preparations intended for therapeutic use, the safety or efficacy of which requires further evaluation. This includes Pentobarbitone.

Schedule 8- Poisons to which the restrictions recommended for drugs of dependence by the 1980 Australian Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drugs should apply.

Restrictions on supply and Use

- A licence under the above Act can only be granted to certain classes of persons. At present the facility manager holds the licence.
- All ordering and supply of veterinary drugs therefore should be done by the veterinarian or the facility manager. These drugs shall be stored in the locked box in the facility manager's office and the facility manager will maintain records of receipt, batch number/expiry dates and dispensing.



- No drugs should be taken from the cabinet without veterinary direction from either the facility manager or back up veterinarian.
- All drugs should be labelled with the word “poison” and should have instructions for use, animal information etc. Adhesive labels for this purpose are kept within the cabinet.

Schedule 8 poisons

- These are drugs of addiction so additional record keeping requirements apply. Poisons on this schedule include buprenorphine, ketamine and hypnorm (fentanyl/fluanisone). A veterinary surgeon must direct use and strict record keeping applies (every ml to be accounted for). A bound register is maintained near the cabinet which the veterinarian will fill out on dispensing.
- To dispose of these poisons the Pharmaceutical Services Branch of the Health Department of Western Australia must be informed and they will collect and dispose of these safely. **Under no circumstances are these drugs to be collected and/or disposed of by others.**

Author: Dr Tara Pike

Date of Approval: 01/10/2008

Reviewed:

DATE	2009-2013	15/04/2014	4/5/2017		
REVIEWER	Reviewed Annually by Dr Beng Chua	Dr Tara Pike	Dr Tara Pike		