

CONSULTATION NOTICE – RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Thoroughbred
Rule	Proposed AR 104B and definition of 'qualified veterinary surgeon'
Description	Introduction of Veterinary Permit System
Authorised for Consultation	June 9, 2025
Consultation Closes	June 27, 2025
Submissions to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) has received notice that the Racing Australia (**RA**) Board has approved the circulation of draft amendments to the Australian Rules of Racing, which seek to introduce a new AR 104B (Veterinary Permit System) and amend the definition of 'qualified veterinary surgeon'.

A summary of the draft amendments is provided below:

- veterinarians providing veterinary services to a horse in training and/or competing must be registered with a state veterinary regulatory authority and must hold a permit issued by a Principal Racing Authority (**PRA**) (in Queensland, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission);
- trainers must not allow horses under their care to receive veterinary services from veterinarians who are not so registered and permitted;
- an exception is allowed in emergency circumstances where the health or welfare of a horse is at risk if immediate veterinary services are not provided, and a registered and permitted veterinarian is not available;
- veterinarians must provide copies of the treatment records or other relevant documents for any horse under the care of a trainer in training/competing upon request of the Stewards;
- applications for veterinary permits must be made in the required form, and PRA's will be able to refuse to grant, or impose conditions on the grant of a permit as they think fit;
- PRA's will be able to revoke or vary permits where the holder of the permit is not actively using it, ceases to meet the requirements of the permit, or breaches any of its terms and conditions;
- PRA's may choose not to require permits where legislation provides them with jurisdiction over the activities of veterinarians in respect of thoroughbred racing; and
- due to the proposal to introduce a veterinary permit system nationally, the definition of 'qualified veterinary surgeon' is proposed to be amended accordingly.

The full text of, and background to, the draft amendments are set out in Annexure A.

Stakeholders and interested parties are invited to review the draft amendments, and provide any feedback they may have in accordance with the details set out above.

Following the closure of the consultation period, RQ will compile any feedback/submissions received and provide it to RA.

Annexure A

Currently, only Racing NSW and Racing Victoria have a permit system in place for private veterinarians who wish to provide veterinary services within the thoroughbred racing industry. This has led to inconsistencies where a veterinarian denied a permit in these jurisdictions can continue to provide veterinary services in the remaining states and territories.

To address this, RA is proposing to implement a national rule to ensure a consistent approach to the regulation of veterinary services provided within the thoroughbred racing industry.

Following extensive consultation and drafting, the following draft rule amendments have been approved by RA for stakeholder consultation:

AR 2 Dictionary

qualified veterinary surgeon means a veterinarian who is:

- (a) registered with the Veterinary Practitioners Board (or equivalent regulatory body) in a State or Territory of Australia; and
- (b) approved by the relevant PRA (including by way of permit, approval or licence) ~~if required by a Local Rule of that PRA.~~

AR 104B – Veterinary Permit System

- (1) Subject to sub-rule (3), A qualified veterinary surgeon (veterinarian) shall not provide veterinary services to a horse in training and/or competing unless that veterinarian: -

(a) is registered with the Veterinary Practitioners Board (or equivalent regulatory authority) in a State or Territory of Australia; and

(b) has been issued a permit by a PRA.

Provided that, in circumstances where a PRA derives jurisdiction, in respect of the activity of a veterinarian in their respective code of racing, from an Act of Parliament or such other recognised instrument, as the case may be, then that PRA may elect not to require any such veterinarian to be subject to obtaining a permit from that PRA under this rule, on the basis that any requirement and/or action which a PRA is able to give effect to in respect of any matter involving a veterinarian under this Rule is not curtailed and/or nullified by virtue of the decision by a PRA not to require and/or issue a permit, and for those purposes it shall be deemed that the veterinarian is a person to whom a permit has been issued by the relevant PRA.

- (2) A trainer shall not allow a horse under his care or control to receive veterinary services from any person other than a veterinarian who is compliant with the requirements of sub-rule 1.
- (3) Sub-rule 1 does not apply in emergency circumstances where the health or welfare of a horse is at risk if veterinary services are not provided immediately and a veterinarian who has complied with the requirements of sub-rule 1 is not available to provide those services.
- (4) Without limiting any other powers or obligations under the Rules a veterinarian must promptly provide copies of the treatment records or other relevant documents for any horse under the care of a trainer that is in training/competing upon request of the Stewards.
- (5) Without limiting any other rules any person who has been found guilty of a breach of this rule may be penalised.
- (6) An application by a person for a permit to provide veterinary services must: -
 - (a) be in the required form; and
 - (b) provide such information as is required by a PRA.



- (7) A PRA may from time to time prepare and cause to be published on its website the relevant requirements and obligations for the grant of a permit to provide veterinary services.
- (8) A PRA may, in exceptional circumstances and in its discretion relieve an applicant for a permit to provide veterinary services from any of the requirements made pursuant to sub-rule 6.
- (9) Having received an application under sub-rule a PRA may:-
(a) refuse to grant a permit; or
(b) grant a permit subject to such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
- (10) A PRA may at any time revoke or vary the terms of a permit granted by it including without limitation, where the holder of the permit: -
(a) is not actively using the permit;
(b) ceased to meet the requirements to be granted a permit in accordance with the rules;
(c) breaches any term or condition on that persons permit.
- (11) For the purposes of this rule “veterinary services” means any services (including the prescribing or provision of any medication) provided to or in connection with a horse by a person who is a qualified veterinarian.
- (12) Notwithstanding the provisions of this rule, and without derogating from any of those provisions, a PRA may determine additional requirements and/or require any such further information in making a determination in respect of an application by a veterinarian to be granted a permit as contemplated by this rule, and may in its own discretion impose conditions, other than those already specified and/or contemplated by this rule, attaching to the granting of a permit.