

Acceptance guideline 8: Veterinary and animal care wastes

Overview

The purpose of this acceptance guideline is to outline under what circumstances Icon Water will permit the discharge of liquid waste into the sewerage network.

Under section 35 of the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014*, it is an offence to discharge into the water or sewerage network any substance that is likely to interfere with the network, or form compounds that would be likely to interfere, unless the consent of the utility is obtained. Significant fines, imprisonment or both may result from an offence. Discharges entering a sewer that are in breach of the conditions set out in this guideline will probably constitute a breach of section 35 of the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* and may lead to prosecution of the person discharging the waste, or allowing the waste to be discharged.

Types of premises

Veterinary surgery activities are stand-alone premises where veterinary surgeons attend to animals. It does not include veterinary research facilities.

This guideline contains specific information on waste types and discharge requirements. The requirements of this guideline are in addition to the requirements specified in *Trade waste acceptance guideline 1: general acceptance criteria for liquid waste*.

Pre-treatment requirements

All sinks are to have hair traps. A dry basket arrestor with a fixed screen must be installed for floor wastes that are discharged to the sewerage system in areas where animals are kept or washed. The basket arrestor and hair traps should be cleaned on a regular basis.

If x-rays are conducted on site, a silver recovery unit (SRU) is also required to treat the waste from the X-ray process, unless digital. The effluent from an SRU should not contain more than 2mg/L of silver. The supplier of the silver recovery unit should supply a written guarantee of the unit with regard to the requirement of effluent silver limit (2mg/L).

A balancing tank/pit is not required for a veterinary surgery.

If the applicant decides not to install a silver recovery unit (SRU), then the untreated wastewater from the X-ray process must be removed from the premises by an ACT EPA licenced contractor.

Plaster traps must be provided under all sinks liable to be used for the discharge of plaster bearing waste. Plaster traps should be cleaned daily. Homemade settling bowls in sinks before plaster traps can be useful for retaining plaster, but are not sufficient on their own.

Stormwater

The wash area must be roofed to exclude rainwater from the sewerage system. Measures are also required to divert any stormwater away from the wash area(s).

Where the areas are unroofed or partly roofed and it is not possible to roof them, measures will need to be taken to divert stormwater away from these areas. Measures will also be required to minimise the volume of rainwater that falls onto the actual wash areas from entering the sewerage system. Where full roofing is not provided over the wash areas, the application for the discharge of liquid trade waste to the sewerage system must be referred to Icon Water for approval.

Housekeeping

- Areas where animals are kept should be dry swept before hosing down the floors.
- Animal droppings, litter, etc. shall not be disposed of to the sewerage system.
- Similarly, any waste disposal products, such as disposable bags, shall not be disposed of to the sewer, even if a manufacturer claims that a product is biodegradable.
- Animal waste disposal units are not permitted to be connected to the sewerage system.

Use of disinfectants for sanitation purposes and pesticides for flea control

Note that organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides are substances excluded from the sewerage system (refer to *Acceptance guideline 1: General acceptance criteria for liquid waste*). Therefore, wash water arising from the use of such substances must not be discharged to the sewerage system. SDSs for disinfectants and pesticides proposed to use at the premises must be forwarded to Icon Water along with the liquid trade waste application form.

Further information

Additional information about the discharge of liquid waste into Icon Water's sewerage network is available at iconwater.com.au/tradewaste or by contacting us on **02 6248 3111** or via email on talktous@iconwater.com.au