

Interpreting eligibility for NSW Government payment of flood related treatments by Private Veterinarians

Private veterinarians can provide “emergency animal treatment for a condition that is as a result of the flood event” without seeking prior approval. This will be done by issuing initial Finance Request (authority to spend the agreed value) approvals for each practice to the total value of \$10,000. If you haven’t been provided with a Finance Request please email emergency.finance@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Is the treatment eligible?

“emergency treatment”: includes initial consult and treatment to address the immediate welfare and veterinary needs of the animal. Does not include subsequent consults and treatment.

Note: Where different animals present with separate conditions at different times, each consult is regarded as initial. e.g. A single owner has a horse that presents with a laceration sustained while escaping floodwaters, then several days later reports lameness in cattle as a result of standing in floodwaters. Both consults and treatments are eligible for payment.

“as a result of the flood event”: includes conditions directly arising from:

- exposure to floodwaters,
- trauma from escaping floodwaters
- the immediate evacuation process
- exposure to prolonged rain
- exposure to wet/muddy ground
- where it is clear that stress from the flood event is a precipitating cause.

Note: where it is unclear whether a case meets the above criteria, please contact emergency.finance@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Example	Covered by AASFA funding?
A horse cuts itself on barbed wire while escaping floodwaters. Vet attends to stitch wound, provide pain relief, and antibiotics.	Y
Several days later (on the same horse), the wound is infected and the stitching breaks down requiring a revisit.	N
A horse presents with pythiosis (‘swamp cancer’) on multiple limbs. Vet attends to assess and instigate treatment.	Y
The same horse is checked 2 weeks later and require further treatment for the same condition.	N
A large percentage of a dairy herd develops mastitis after they had to be dried off due to the flood event. Vet attends and dispenses antibiotics.	Y
Cattle standing in muddy paddocks develop foot abscess. Vet attends to assess and treat.	Y
Dog presents with otitis resulting from prolonged exposure to wet conditions.	Y
During the flood event a dog is lost and reunited with owner 2 weeks later, but has lost weight and appears in poor condition. Owner brings animal to vet for assessment.	Y
Cattle develop pneumonia 10 days after flooding. Vet attends and dispenses treatment.	Y
Animal sustains serious injury as a direct result of the event eg broken limb	Y
Dog is taken to an evac centre and sustains wounds from a fight with another dog at the centre. Vet stitches wound under anaesthesia, provides pain relief, and antibiotics.	Y
Dog is taken to an evac centre then subsequently develops ‘kennel cough’ 1 week later. Presents to vet for assessment and treatment.	Y
Cat is evacuated to a relative’s house. Three days later the cat escapes and is injured, and is taken to vet for treatment.	N
A client who is under financial hardship due to the flood attends a vet practice for a dog vaccination consult.	N

Note: The initial \$10,000 Finance Request amount is not an upper limit for each practice's spending. If the cost of eligible cases exceeds this amount, additional Finance Requests can be generated.

Invoicing:

Invoices must meet ATO invoicing standards and provide:

- Supplier ABN, legal trading name, address, email and contact number
- Supplier bank account details including account name, account number and BSB
- Approved Finance Request number, this will be provided to you eg., FR4567

Please include a description of treatment undertaken, including:

- Name of private veterinarian that undertook the treatment
- Name of owner of the animal/s
- Address of owner of the animal/s
- Treatment undertaken
- Why the condition meets the emergency animal treatment for a condition that is a result of the flood event
- Charge for each individual treatment with costings.

Invoices must be made out to:

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (no abbreviations)
Attention Emergency Operations Unit
Locked Bag 21
Orange NSW 2800

Submit invoices to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development within 30 days of providing treatment by emailing emergency.finance@dpird.nsw.gov.au