



WA award summary

Animal Welfare Industry Award

1 July 2021

About this award summary

This WA award summary is a summary of the state Animal Welfare Industry Award and does not include all obligations required by the award. It is important that you also refer to the full Animal Welfare Industry Award that is available on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au

Provisions of other employment legislation also apply to employees and have been included in this WA award summary where appropriate. You may need to refer to the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*, the *Long Service Leave Act 1958*, and the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* for full details.

This document is formatted for viewing on the Wageline website and contains web links to other relevant information. If you are using a printed copy in which links are not visible, all additional information can be found at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/wageline or by contacting Wageline on 1300 655 266.

How can we help?





Three Step Check: to make sure this WA award summary is relevant to you

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Step 1 Is the business in the state system?</p> | <p>This WA award summary applies to businesses in the state industrial relations system. It covers businesses (and their employees) that operate as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ sole traders (e.g. Jane Smith trading as Jane’s Veterinary Clinic) ✓ unincorporated partnerships (e.g. Jane and Bob Smith trading as Jane’s Veterinary Clinic) ✓ unincorporated trust arrangements (e.g. Jane and Bob Smith as trustees for Jane’s Veterinary Clinic) ✓ incorporated associations and other non-profit bodies that are not trading or financial corporations <p>This summary does not cover businesses and organisations in the national ‘fair work’ industrial relations system which operate as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Pty Ltd businesses that are trading or financial corporations (e.g. Smith Pty Ltd trading as Jane’s Veterinary Clinic) ✗ incorporated partnerships or incorporated trusts ✗ incorporated associations and other non-profit bodies that are trading or financial corporations <p>For more information visit the Guide to who is in the WA state system page.</p> <p>If the business or organisation is in the national system visit the Fair Work Ombudsman website www.fairwork.gov.au</p> |
| <p>Step 2 Is the business covered by the Animal Welfare Industry Award?</p> | <p>The Animal Welfare Industry Award covers businesses in the state industrial relations system. Businesses covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Veterinary clinics and hospitals ✓ Animal refuges and shelters |
| <p>Step 3 Is the employee’s job covered by the Animal Welfare Industry Award?</p> | <p>The Animal Welfare Industry Award sets pay rates, working hours and other employment arrangements for employees working as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Veterinary assistants ✓ Veterinary nurses ✓ Employees in animal shelters |



Employers covered by this WA award are legally required to keep employment records. Employers can be fined up to \$5,000 for not keeping employment records, for keeping inadequate or fraudulent records, or for not providing records to Industrial Inspectors when required to do so. Page 6 details record keeping requirements.

The Animal Welfare Industry Award is a legal document that outlines the minimum wages and conditions of employment that must be provided to employees who are covered by the award. Employers and employees cannot agree to lesser conditions.

Industrial Inspectors at the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety have statutory powers to investigate employee complaints about underpayment of wages or leave entitlements under this WA award and state employment laws. The department can prosecute employers in the Industrial Magistrates Court for not paying the rates of pay, including overtime, penalty rates and allowances required by this WA award.

Employees who believe that they have been underpaid, or wish to make an anonymous report of wage theft, should visit the [Making a complaint about underpayment of wages or entitlements](#) page for more information.



To receive email updates when WA award pay rates change, subscribe to [Wageline News](#).



Rates of pay

All rates of pay are gross rates (before tax). The table below provides the rates that apply from the first pay period on or after **1 July 2021**.

Adult rates of pay

| Classification (see page 11 for classification descriptions) | Weekly | Hourly | Casual (includes 20% loading) |
|---|------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Introductory | \$779.00 | \$20.50 | \$24.60 |
| Level 1 | \$823.10 | \$21.66 | \$25.99 |
| Level 2 | \$836.80 | \$22.02 | \$26.43 |
| Level 3 (Cert III) | \$887.40 | \$23.35 | \$28.02 |
| Level 4 (Cert IV) | \$952.40 | \$25.06 | \$30.08 |
| Level 5 (Diploma) | \$1,013.50 | \$26.67 | \$32.01 |

Junior rates of pay

Junior employees receive a percentage of the minimum rate for the appropriate classification:

| Age | Percentage of adult |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 20 years of age | 90% |
| 19 years of age | 80% |
| 18 years of age | 70% |
| 17 years of age | 60% |
| 16 or 15 years of age | 50% |

Under the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*, it is illegal to employ children under the age of 15 in this industry, except if the child is working as part of a school program or in a family business.

Registered trainees

- Registered trainees are employees who are undertaking a traineeship registered with the [Apprenticeship Office](#) at the Department of Training and Workforce Development. Traineeships can be undertaken on a full time, part time or school-based basis.
- Registered trainees under the Animal Welfare Industry Award must be paid the minimum adult or junior rates for registered trainees and are covered by all other provisions of the Animal Welfare Award, including working hours, penalty rates, allowances and leave entitlements.
- The pay rates that apply to registered trainees under this WA award are listed in the minimum pay rates for registered trainees section of the [Pay rates for trainees](#) page.
- An employer is required to pay a registered trainee for time spent at TAFE (or other off the job training) as normal working hours. An employer is not required to pay TAFE fees on behalf of the registered trainee.



Deductions from pay

An employer may **only** make a deduction from an employee's pay if:

- the employee has agreed to the deduction in writing, (as part of a written employment contract or otherwise) and the deduction is paid on behalf of the employee;
- the employer is authorised by the WA award to make the deduction and the deduction is paid on behalf of the employee; or
- the employer is required by a court or a state or federal law to make the deduction (e.g. tax that must be withheld from the employee's pay).



Meal money

When an employee is required to work overtime for more than two hours, and not supplied with a meal by the employer, they must be paid **\$7.75**. If owing to the amount of overtime worked, a second or subsequent meal is required and a meal is not supplied by the employer, a subsequent meal allowance of **\$5.30** must be paid. Meal money provisions do not apply if the employee was notified the previous day or earlier that they are required to work overtime or if the employee lives in the same locality as their place of work and can reasonably go home.

Motor vehicle allowance

If an employee is required and authorised to use their own vehicle in the course of their duties they must be paid a motor vehicle allowance. Allowance rates are available in the Animal Welfare award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au or by contacting Wageline.

Location allowance for employees in regional areas

- Employees employed in certain regional towns must be paid the location allowance relevant to that town. Rates listed below are for adult employees working full time. Junior employees, casual employees, part time employees, apprentices and trainees must be paid proportionate location allowance based on the proportion which their weekly wage is to the adult rate under the WA award.
- If an employee has a dependant (a spouse or partner, or a child if there is no spouse or partner) the employee is entitled to receive double the allowance specified for the relevant town except if the dependant also receives a location or district allowance payment as part of their own employment.
- If an employee has a 'partial dependant' (a dependant who receives a district or location allowance of their own which is less than the location allowance the employee is entitled to under this award) the employee is entitled to receive:
 - the relevant location allowance for the employee's town; **plus**
 - an amount equal to the difference between the employee's location allowance and the amount their partial dependant receives in district or location allowance.
- If an employee receives free board and lodging, or is paid an allowance for board and lodging, the rate of location allowance is adjusted to 66.67% (two thirds) of the rate for the relevant town.

Location allowance rates effective 1 July 2021

| Town | \$ per week | Town | \$ per week | Town | \$ per week |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Agnew | \$22.70 | Halls Creek | \$53.30 | Norseman | \$20.10 |
| Argyle | \$60.80 | Kalbarri | \$8.10 | Nullagine | \$58.90 |
| Balladonia | \$23.50 | Kalgoorlie | \$9.70 | Onslow | \$39.50 |
| Barrow Island | \$39.50 | Kambalda | \$9.70 | Pannawonica | \$29.60 |
| Boulder | \$9.70 | Karratha | \$38.20 | Paraburdoo | \$29.40 |
| Broome | \$36.50 | Koolan Island | \$40.00 | Port Hedland | \$31.60 |
| Bullfinch | \$10.60 | Koolyanobbing | \$10.60 | Ravensthorpe | \$11.90 |
| Carnarvon | \$18.70 | Kununurra | \$60.80 | Roebourne | \$44.00 |
| Cockatoo Island | \$40.00 | Laverton | \$23.20 | Sandstone | \$22.70 |
| Coolgardie | \$9.70 | Learmonth | \$33.40 | Shark Bay | \$18.70 |
| Cue | \$23.30 | Leinster | \$22.70 | Southern Cross | \$10.60 |
| Dampier | \$31.80 | Leonora | \$23.20 | Telfer | \$54.20 |
| Denham | \$18.70 | Madura | \$24.50 | Teutonic Bore | \$22.70 |
| Derby | \$37.90 | Marble Bar | \$59.00 | Tom Price | \$29.40 |
| Esperance | \$6.60 | Meekatharra | \$20.10 | Whim Creek | \$37.80 |
| Eucla | \$25.40 | Mount Magnet | \$25.20 | Wickham | \$36.50 |
| Exmouth | \$33.40 | Mundrabilla | \$25.00 | Wiluna | \$22.90 |
| Fitzroy Crossing | \$46.10 | Newman | \$21.80 | Wyndham | \$56.90 |



Hours and overtime

- Ordinary hours are:
 - 38 hours a week;
 - worked on not more than 5 consecutive days' of the week; and
 - between 7.00am and 7.00pm
- Part time and casual employees have a minimum shift length of 3 consecutive hours.
- Ordinary hours are to be worked in a 20-day, 4-week cycle with 0.4 of an hour of each day accruing as an entitlement to take the 20th day in each cycle as an Accrued Day Off. The employer and employee may agree that ordinary hours may be worked on a different basis as outlined in the award. View the Animal Welfare Industry Award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au
- The employer must give at least one week's notice (from the first day of a cycle of the standard ordinary hours) of the time at which they require the employee to commence and cease work. If notice is not provided or work is performed outside the hours notified they must be paid for at overtime rates (except in cases of emergency, staff illness or accidents which prevent such notification).
- All ordinary hours of work on Saturdays must be paid at the rate of ordinary time plus 25%. All ordinary hours of work on Sundays must be paid at the rate of ordinary time plus 50%. These penalties apply rather than any night work penalties that may apply on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Employees employed where the ordinary hours of duty extend beyond 7.00pm must be paid an extra 5% for each shift so worked. Employees employed where the ordinary hours of duty extend beyond midnight must be paid an extra 10% for each shift so worked.

Overtime

- All work performed outside the ordinary hours of duty is overtime and must be paid at the rate of time and a half for the first two hours and double time after that.
- Work done after 12 noon on Saturdays or on Sundays must be paid at the rate of double time.
- Work done on a public holiday must be paid at the rate of double time and a half.
- By agreement between the employee and employer time off in lieu of payment for overtime may be granted proportionate to the payment to which the employee is entitled. This time is to be taken in unbroken periods according to each period of overtime worked (unless otherwise agreed between the employee and employer). The actual period of time off may be accrued and taken at a time agreed between the employer and employee.



Meal breaks

- A meal break of not less than 30 minutes and not more than one hour is to be allowed between the fourth and fifth hour of work unless otherwise agreed by the employer and the employee in times of emergency or staff accident or illness.
- All employees must be allowed a tea break of 10 minutes daily between the second and third hour from starting time each day. The tea break will be counted as time worked.
- Employees called upon to work during the ordinary meal break must be paid overtime rates for all such work, except when in the case of emergency it is necessary to work up to 15 minutes into a meal break.



Employment of children

- Under the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*, it is illegal to employ children under the age of 15 in this industry, except if the child is working as part of a school program (e.g. work experience placement), in a not for profit organisation or in a family business.
- School aged children must not be employed during school hours, unless participating in a school program.
- The [When children can work in Western Australia](#) page has more information.



Public holidays

- Full time employees are entitled to public holidays (or days substituted for public holidays) without deduction of pay. Part time employees are entitled to public holidays (or days substituted for public holidays) without deduction of pay if they would ordinarily be required to work on that day if it was not a public holiday.
- Under this award, if a public holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday will be considered to be the public holiday. However, if Boxing Day falls on a Sunday or Monday, the following Tuesday will be considered to be the public holiday. When a public holiday is substituted with another day, the public holiday itself is no longer considered a public holiday for the purposes of the WA award.
- If an employee works on a public holiday or substituted public holiday they must be paid at the rate of double time and one half.
- Visit the [Public Holidays in Western Australia](#) page to view the public holiday dates.



Employment records

- Employers are legally required to keep employment records which demonstrate that employees have been paid all entitlements under the Animal Welfare Industry Award and relevant legislation.
- Employers must keep all employment records for at least seven years after they are made for both current and past employees. Records relating to long service leave must be kept for seven years from the date employment ends.
- Employers can be fined up to \$5,000 by the Industrial Magistrates Court for not keeping employment records or for keeping inadequate or fraudulent records. Employers often fail to keep sufficient detail in their employment records.
- Employers must keep records that detail:
 - Employee's name
 - Date of birth if under 21 years of age
 - Date employee commenced with the employer
 - Total number of hours worked each week
 - The gross and net amounts paid to the employee
 - All information required to calculate long service leave entitlements and payment
 - All pay deductions and reasons for them
 - Name of WA award that applies
 - Daily start and finish time and meal breaks taken
 - Employment status (full time, part time, casual)
 - Employee's classification under the award
 - All leave taken, whether paid, partly paid or unpaid
 - Any other information necessary to prove that the wages received by an employee comply with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Industry Award, such as overtime hours worked and allowances paid. Contact [Wageline](#) or view the full Animal Welfare Industry Award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au for details.
- Employment records can be written or electronic as long as they are in a form that can be printed. Time and wage books can be used to keep employment records, however, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure the time and wage book includes all of the required information.
- The records must be in English.
- Wageline's [Employment record obligations for WA award employers](#) publication helps state system employers keep correct employment records. The publication features helpful step by step guides to record keeping and Wageline's [record keeping templates](#).

Payslips

- Employees must be provided with a payslip for each pay period.
- The payslip should include the rate of pay, the ordinary hours and the overtime hours worked, the gross and net wage, any allowances paid and any deductions made.
- Wageline's [Employment record obligations for WA award employers](#) publication includes a payslip template.



Leave entitlements

Quick reference guide

| Leave entitlement | Full time | Part time | Casual |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Annual leave | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Sick and carer's leave | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Unpaid carer's leave | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Bereavement leave | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Unpaid parental leave | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Long service leave | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

This WA award summary covers the basic leave entitlements for employees covered by the Animal Welfare Industry Award but does **not** include all details on leave obligations and entitlements. Full details of conditions are contained in the Animal Welfare Industry Award on the WA Industrial Relations Commission website www.wairc.wa.gov.au, the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993* and the *Long Service Leave Act 1958*.

Bereavement leave

- All employees, including casual employees, are entitled to two days paid bereavement leave on the death of a spouse, de facto partner, parent, step-parent, grandparent, child, step-child, grandchild, sibling or any other member of the employee's household. The two days need not be consecutive.
- Bereavement leave is a minimum entitlement from the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*.

Parental leave

Employees, including eligible casual employees, are entitled to the unpaid parental leave entitlements in the National Employment Standards of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, as well as a number of more beneficial conditions contained in the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993* (a return to work after parental leave on a modified basis and a reversion to pre-parental leave working conditions). Visit the [Parental leave](#) page for more details.

Sick and carer's leave

- Sick and carer's leave entitles a full time or part time employee to paid time off work due to either illness or injury to themselves (sick leave), or because they have to care for a member of their family or household who requires care or support because they are sick, injured or affected by an unexpected emergency (carer's leave).
- Full time and part time employees are entitled to paid sick and carer's leave equal to the number of hours they would ordinarily work in a two week period, up to 76 hours per year. Sick and carer's leave is a cumulative entitlement, and any leave not taken in one year is carried over to the next year.
- Sick and carer's leave accrues on a weekly basis for full and part time employees. Wageline's [Sick leave calculation guide](#) can assist with calculating sick and carer's leave entitlements.
- In the first year of employment, a full time or part time employee can use any paid sick leave that they have accrued to date for caring purposes.
- In the second and subsequent years of employment, a full time employee can only use a maximum of 76 hours of their accrued sick leave entitlement for caring purposes, or a part time employee the relevant proportion of 76 hours based on their ordinary hours of work.
- An employee is entitled to up to two days of unpaid carer's leave per occasion if an employee does not have sufficient paid leave accrued or has exceeded the maximum amount of carer's leave that can be taken in any 12 month period.
- Casual employees are not entitled to paid sick leave or paid carer's leave. Casual employees can access up to two days of unpaid carer's leave per occasion.
- Sick and carer's leave is a minimum entitlement from the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*.
- Visit Wageline's [Sick leave](#) page for definitions of 'member of the family or household' or for more information.
- Wageline's [Employment record obligations for WA award employers](#) publication includes a leave record template.

Long service leave

- Long service leave is a paid leave entitlement for employees who have continuous employment with 'one and the same employer' for a specified period. Full time, part time and casual employees are entitled to long service leave under the *Long Service Leave Act 1958*.
- To be entitled to long service leave an employee's employment with their employer must be continuous. The amount of their long service leave is determined by the employee's period of continuous employment.
- There are a range of paid and unpaid absences or interruptions to an employee's employment that count towards the employee's period of employment for the purposes of accruing long service leave. Some other types of absences do not break an employee's continuous employment, but do not count towards an employee's period of employment for the purposes of accruing long service leave. See the [Long service leave – What is continuous employment](#) page for more information.
- 'The one and the same employer' also includes employers who previously owned a business, where there has been a transmission of business. This means an employer who buys or otherwise acquires a business or part of a business will take on the long service leave obligations for existing employees if there has been a transmission of business. This applies regardless of anything written in a sale of business contract.

| Taking long service leave | |
|--|--|
| <p>The long service leave entitlement for full time, part time and casual employees is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after 10 years of continuous employment with the one and the same employer – $8^{2/3}$ (8.667) weeks of leave on ordinary pay; and • for every 5 years of continuous employment with the one and the same employer after the initial 10 years – $4^{1/3}$ (4.333) weeks of leave on 'ordinary pay'. | |
| When employment ceases | |
| Employee with between 7 and 10 years of continuous employment | <p>When an employee with at least 7 but less than 10 years of continuous employment resigns or is terminated, they are entitled to pro rata long service leave on the basis of $8^{2/3}$ (8.667) weeks for 10 years of continuous employment. This entitlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is calculated on the employee's entire period of employment; that is, years, months, weeks and days; • applies to employees who resign, are made redundant, die or whose employer has terminated them for any reason other than serious misconduct; and • does not apply to an employee whose employer has terminated them for serious misconduct. |
| Employee with 10 or more years of continuous employment | <p>Full entitlement – 10 years or more of continuous employment</p> <p>An employee who resigns or whose employment is terminated for any reason is entitled to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $8^{2/3}$ (8.667) weeks of leave if they have completed 10 years of continuous employment; and • an additional $4^{1/3}$ (4.333) weeks of leave for each subsequent 5 years' after the initial 10 years' of continuous employment. <p>Pro-rata entitlement – more than 10 years of continuous employment</p> <p>When an employee with more than 10 years but less than 15 years of continuous employment resigns or is terminated, they are entitled to pro rata leave. This entitlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is calculated on the basis of $8^{2/3}$ weeks for 10 years of continuous employment for each year of employment since they completed 10 years of continuous employment; • is calculated on completed years of employment only; that is, it does not include months, weeks or days; and • does not apply to an employee whose employer has terminated them for serious misconduct. <p>This pro rata entitlement (calculated on the basis of $8^{2/3}$ weeks for 10 years of continuous employment) will also apply to each year of employment since an employee completed 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 years etc. of employment.</p> |

- The [Long service leave](#) pages of the Wageline website contain extensive information on:
 - What counts as continuous employment, including details on the impact of various types of paid and unpaid absences or interruptions on continuous employment
 - What happens when business ownership changes
- The [WA long service leave calculator](#) can provide an estimate of an employee’s long service leave entitlement when employment ends as a result of resignation, dismissal, death or redundancy. The WA long service leave calculator is available at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/lslcalculator.

Annual leave

- Full time employees are entitled to a minimum of four weeks of paid annual leave for each year of completed service, up to 152 hours. Part time employees are entitled to a minimum of four weeks of paid annual leave per year paid on a pro rata basis according to the number of hours they are required ordinarily to work in a four week period. Casual employees are not entitled to annual leave.
- Annual leave is a minimum entitlement in the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993* and the Animal Welfare Industry Award sets out additional requirements regarding annual leave and annual leave loading.
- During a period of annual leave an employee must be paid annual leave loading of 17.5%.
- On termination, annual leave loading of 17.5% is paid on fully accrued annual leave entitlements for completed years of employment. Annual leave loading is not paid on proportionate leave (leave accrued in an incomplete year of employment) on termination.
- Annual leave accrues on a weekly basis:
 - A full time employee accrues 2.923 hours of annual leave for each completed week of work.
 - A part time employee accrues the relevant proportion of 2.923 hours of annual leave for each completed week of work.
 - Visit Wageline’s [Annual leave calculation guide](#) to work out annual leave entitlements.
- Wageline’s [Employment record obligations for WA award employers](#) publication includes a leave record template.



Resignation, termination and redundancy

Resignation by the employee

- Full time and part time employees are required to provide:
 - one day’s notice if the employee is on a probationary period of up to 3 months; and
 - one week’s notice at all other times.
- A casual employee can resign by providing one hour’s notice to the employer.

Termination

- An employer is required to give a casual employee one hour’s notice of termination.
- Except in cases of serious misconduct, an employer is required to give full time and part time employees the following period of notice of termination (or payment in lieu):

| Period of continuous service | Notice period |
|--|---------------|
| Not more than 1 year | 1 week |
| More than 1 year but not more than 3 years* | 2 weeks |
| More than 3 years but not more than 5 years* | 3 weeks |
| More than 5 years * | 4 weeks |

*Employees over 45 years of age with two or more years of continuous service must receive an additional week’s notice.

Dismissal requirements

- Under state laws, employees cannot be dismissed if to do so would be harsh, unfair or oppressive. There must be a valid and fair reason for dismissal, such as:
 - consistent unsatisfactory work performance (which has been raised with the employee and the employee given further training and an opportunity to improve their work performance);
 - inappropriate behaviour or actions; or
 - serious misconduct.
- The [Dismissal information](#) page outlines obligations and requirements when an employee is terminated.

Redundancy

- An employee is redundant when their employer has made a definite decision that they no longer wish the job the employee has been doing to be done by anyone.
- When an employee has been made redundant they are entitled to receive:
 - the appropriate notice period or pay in lieu of notice, as outlined in the Termination section above;
 - paid leave for job interviews;
 - any unpaid wages;
 - any unused accrued and pro rata annual leave;
 - any unused accrued long service leave;
 - pro rata long service leave (if applicable); and
 - severance pay (if applicable).
- Visit the [Redundancy – General information](#) page for information on redundancy obligations.

Severance pay – Employers who employ 15 or more employees

- Employers covered by this award who employ 15 or more employees must pay severance pay when an employee is made redundant, as outlined in the table below.
- Employers who employ less than 15 employees are not required to make severance payments to redundant employees.

| Period of continuous service* | Number of weeks severance pay |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Less than 1 year | Nil |
| 1 year and less than 2 years | 4 weeks |
| 2 years and less than 3 years | 6 weeks |
| 3 years and less than 4 years | 7 weeks |
| 4 years and less than 5 years | 8 weeks |
| 5 years and less than 6 years | 10 weeks |
| 6 years and less than 7 years | 11 weeks |
| 7 years and less than 8 years | 13 weeks |
| 8 years and less than 9 years | 14 weeks |
| 9 years and less than 10 years | 16 weeks |
| 10 years and over | 12 weeks |

*An employee's period of continuous service includes any service with that business under a previous employer where there has been a transmission of the business.

- These severance pay requirements do not apply to probationary employees, apprentices and trainees, casual and contract employees or employees terminated due to serious misconduct or for other reasons not related to redundancy.
- Redundancy pay is calculated based on the applicable number of weeks' severance multiplied by ordinary time earnings. Ordinary time earnings excludes overtime, penalty rates, and allowances.
- If the employee resigns during the notice period, they are entitled to the same severance pay they would receive if they had worked until the end of the notice period. However, in this circumstance the employee is not entitled to payment in lieu of notice.
- Visit the [Redundancy payments](#) page for information on redundancy payments.



Introductory level

An employee who has had no experience in this industry shall initially be engaged at the introductory level for a period not exceeding 3 months. During this period the employer will provide on the job training to assist the employee to gain the appropriate skills.

Level 1

Employees at this level will perform routine tasks involving adherence to determined procedures and with only minimal scope for deviation from these procedures. An employee at this level will:

- (i) work under direct supervision with regular close checking of their work
- (ii) develop and then apply their knowledge and skills to a limited range of tasks and roles
- (iii) work within a specified range of contexts where the choice of action is clear and restricted
- (iv) normally develop and then use their competencies within established routines, where methods and procedures are predictable.

Typical activities at this level may include:

- (i) assists other employees in their duties
- (ii) appropriate induction to the industry and the routines of the practice
- (iii) basic animal care; grooming, feeding, cleaning and restraint as instructed.

Level 2

Work at this level will involve the use of limited discretion and initiative. Knowledge relating to the care of animals will be involved. An employee at this level will, in addition to level 1 duties:

- (i) work under direct supervision with routine checking of their work
- (ii) develop and then apply their knowledge and skills to a limited range of tasks and roles
- (iii) work within a specified range of contexts where the choice of action is clear and restricted
- (iv) normally use their competencies within established routines, where methods and procedures are predictable
- (v) exercise discretion and judgment against established criteria.

Typical activities at this level may include:

- (i) basic animal care, animal handling
- (ii) consult duty veterinarian
- (iii) tasks relating to the clinic and surgery including maintaining patient records and compiling patient and client histories
- (iv) ability to undertake basic animal health procedures.

Level 3

A Level 3 employee will possess the competencies of Certificate III in Companion in Animal Services or other equivalent qualification or possess knowledge and experience which enables them to operate at trade equivalent level. An employee at this level will, in addition to lower level duties:

- (i) generally be working under limited supervision
- (ii) normally use their competencies within established routines, where methods and procedures are predictable
- (iii) exercise discretion and judgment against established criteria.

Typical activities at this level may include:

- (i) assist with animal care under limited supervision
- (ii) limited Staff Supervision of introductory and Level 1
- (iii) undertake daily clinic routines and routine monitoring of patient care
- (iv) ability to follow clinic procedures for hazard identification and risk control
- (v) ability to provide grief support to clients/animal owners
- (vi) work in the companion animal industry
- (vii) provide basic first aid for animals.

Level 4

A Level 4 employee will possess the competencies of AQF Level 4, or other equivalent qualification such as the ACVN. The attainment of these competencies by an individual employee will be determined through a formal assessment process carried out through a Registered Training Organisation. An employee at this level will, in addition to lower level duties:

- (i) use their competencies within established routines, where methods and procedures are predictable
- (ii) exercise discretion and judgment against established criteria.

Typical activities and competencies at this level for a veterinary nurse may include:

- (i) be registered under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960. Notwithstanding the above an employee at this level may also be employed to undertake the duties of an Inspector.
- (ii) ability to undertake limited Staff Supervision
- (iii) ability to undertake daily clinic routines and patient care
- (iv) ability to identifying deviation from normal animal behaviour which may suggest illness, and taking appropriate action
- (v) ability to undertake the maintenance of records relating to the physical aspects of the animals
- (vi) can perform clinic pathology procedures
- (vii) can conduct medical and surgical support
- (viii) can identify vital signs of patients and relate these findings to the supervising veterinary surgeon.

Level 5

A Level 5 employee will possess a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing or recognized equivalent qualification. The attainment of the competencies by an individual employee necessary for the granting of such qualifications, will be determined through a formal assessment process carried out through a Registered Training Organisation.

An employee at this level will, in addition to lower level duties:

- (i) exercise skills, discretion and responsibilities beyond that required at Level 4
- (ii) be registered under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960.

Disclaimer

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