



NSW CAE Accreditation Scheme Guidelines

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Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, NSW DPI

Use this document as a guide for goat owners and veterinarians to satisfy the requirements of the [CAE Accreditation program](#).

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Approved Private Veterinary Practitioners (APVP)

Only registered [Approved Private Veterinary Practitioners \(APVP\)](#) listed under the CAE Accreditation Scheme can provide CAE accreditation services to herd owners.

Individual private veterinary practitioners wishing to become APVP under the CAE Accreditation Scheme must meet the following requirements:

1. Apply in writing to the CAE Registrar by completing the “Approved Private Veterinary Practitioner Application” [form](#) and the included assessment.
2. Be accredited with the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians (APAV).
3. Be a registered Veterinary Surgeon with the Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW.

A list of CAE Accreditation Scheme APVP will be maintained and available on the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website. The CAE Accreditation Scheme depends heavily on the integrity and attention to detail of the APVP carrying it out.

1. Blood tests, property inspections and examination of herd records must be thorough.
2. Reports must be completed fully and supplied punctually (within 14 days).

Any evidence of a veterinarian failing to comply with the requirements of the CAE Accreditation Scheme may cause that Veterinarian’s approval to be revoked. False or incorrect certification may constitute professional misconduct. The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) will decide on any recommendation for a name to be removed from the list. Professional misconduct detected through the Scheme will be referred to the Veterinary Practitioners Board.

Veterinarians who are listed under CAE Schemes in other states are recognised as APVPs in NSW. Proof is to be supplied to the NSW CAE Registrar.

Testing

Testing for the CAE Accreditation Scheme shall be carried out at a NATA accredited Australian Veterinary Laboratory that can provide appropriate tests. The APVP will collect 10 ml of clotted blood or serum from all goats over 6 months of age. The blood (serological) test will be the Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis antibodies unless otherwise directed by the DPI.

The APVP is responsible for the payment of Laboratory fees for serological testing.

Due to possible non specific reactions (resulting in inconclusive or false positive results), adult does should not be tested in the period 1 month either side of kidding nor should any goat be tested within 1 month of vaccination.

Interpretation of tests

1. **NEGATIVE:** If there are no positive or inconclusive results for any individual goats, the result of the herd test is negative.
2. **INCONCLUSIVE:** Goats classified by the testing laboratory as having an inconclusive result must be isolated and retested within 30 days of the inconclusive test to clarify their status and the status of the herd.
3. **POSITIVE:** If one or more goats return a positive laboratory test result during any test of the herd for CAE, accreditation status must be suspended immediately. The herd status is suspect. The herd cannot become accredited or re-accredited without further investigation by the APVP to confirm the infection status of the ELISA positive goats. This will involve a review of herd management, clinical examination of suspect goats and additional laboratory testing.

Animals classified as ELISA positive, together with any kids raised on their milk, must be isolated immediately. Confirmed positive goats must be destroyed or sold for slaughter within 30 days.

After removing confirmed positive animals, the rest of the herd is required to have two negative tests 6-12 months apart to regain accreditation.

If confirmed positive goats are detected in a herd, and if the owner wishes to proceed with accreditation, the APVP should advise the owner regarding the development of a disease management program. The herd may be run on a two herd system (infected and non-infected herds). A kid rearing program that includes removal of progeny of infected does at birth, cleaning of kids to remove any birth fluids and use of colostrum and milk replacement must be conducted. This program must be auditable with audits conducted by the APVP. The APVP must be satisfied all infected goats have been slaughtered before proceeding with the required testing for CAE Accreditation.

Property inspection and managerial assessment

For Pre-accreditation, the APVP will discuss aspects of the disease and the management of the property to assess the owner's ability to maintain a CAE Accredited herd. At each subsequent accreditation or re-accreditation, management will be reviewed. Details to be discussed include:

1. **Management** – The APVP must be satisfied that the level of property management, the competence of farm staff and their ability to obtain clean musters etc is appropriate. Property and livestock records need to be adequate.
2. **Hygiene**- Standards must be maintained when using needles, tattooing equipment, dehorers and foot shears to minimise transfer of blood and secretions between goats. Wound management and the possibility of venereal and in utero transfer should be discussed. There are risk factors associated with viral transfer through milk, saliva, blood, tears, semen, in utero transfer and respiratory secretions. Feeding pooled fresh (unpasteurised) milk to kids or adults is a high risk factor.

3. The Property- The APVP must be satisfied that the fencing, particularly the boundary fences are goat proof. Facilities must be available to facilitate blood collection and examination of goats. Isolation facilities must be available.
4. Location- This should be considered with particular emphasis on access roads, proximity to public roads, stock routes and reserves. Details of enterprises on neighbouring properties, together with any known disease status of neighbouring animals need to be considered.
5. The Herd- Goats must be permanently identified with individual identification devices (ear tags) or procedures (registered brand tattoos) approved under the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS). Written herd movement records must be kept, along with details of any introductions, strays, shows, sales, agistment, disposals and deaths. The APVP must examine these records.
6. History- the APVP should discuss the herd's history with the owner.
7. Property Plan- the owner must provide the APVP with a plan of the property. This must be approximately to scale and show boundary fences, subdivisional fences, isolation area, the names of adjoining neighbours and their stock type.

Pre-accreditation requirements

1. At the pre-accreditation stage and each subsequent stage the owner must complete and sign an [Owner Agreement Form](#)
2. The pre-accreditation testing is carried out on all goats over 6 months of age.
3. Following this testing, the herd must be maintained in isolation from other goats until the Accreditation test, or introductions should follow the guidelines set out under "Item 11. INTRODUCTION OF GOATS"
4. Adult does should not be tested in the period 1 month either side of kidding. No goat should be tested within 1 month of vaccination.
5. The owner will submit a map of the property to the APVP as outlined in 5.7.
6. All goats must be individually and permanently identified by MLIS approved devices or procedure.
7. Individual numbers and the age, sex and breed of each goat must be recorded at each testing. All goats must be accounted for.
8. The property will be inspected by the APVP for suitability of the handling facilities as well as the goat proof fencing of the boundary fence, internal fencing and the isolation yards.
9. The APVP will examine herd management records and instructions are given to maintain a movement register detailing the dates, transfer of goats on or off the property and their source or destination.
10. If ELISA blood test results for CAE testing are negative, the herd is retested in 6-12 months time. A second negative result will allow the APVP to apply for CAE Accreditation status.
11. If the goat herd owner has any suspicion that CAE is present in the herd, they must inform the AVPV immediately.

Accreditation requirements

1. A negative blood test was performed on all eligible goats by an APVP at least 6 but not more than 12 months prior to the Accreditation testing.
2. A new Owner Agreement Form must be signed.
3. The accreditation testing is carried out on all goats over 6 months of age.
4. Adult does should not be tested in the period 1 month either side of kidding. No goat should be tested within 1 month of vaccination.
5. All goats must be individually and permanently identified by NLIS approved devices or procedures.
6. Individual identification numbers and the age, sex and breed of each goat must be recorded at each testing. All goats must be accounted for.

7. Following the pre-accreditation testing, the herd must be maintained in isolation from other goats until the Accreditation test, or introductions should be from CAE Accredited herds only.
8. If ELISA results for CAE testing are negative, the “Veterinary Report and Recommendation for Accreditation” **form** is forwarded by the APVP to the CAE Registrar.
9. The CAE Registrar will notify the APVP of approval of Accreditation status and the name of the herd will be added to the CAE Free Register.
10. Any ELISA inconclusive or positive animals indicate that infection could be present and the CAE status of the herd is suspect. Accreditation will not be granted. Further investigation is required.
11. If the goat herd owner has any suspicion that CAE is present in the herd, they must inform the APVP immediately.

Re-accreditation requirements

1. CAE Accreditation has been granted within the previous 12 months.
2. A new Owner Agreement Form must be signed.
3. The Re-Accreditation testing is carried out on all goats over 6 months of age.
4. Adult does should not be tested in the period 1 month either side of kidding. No goat should be tested within 1 month of vaccination.
5. All goats must be individually and permanently identified by NDIS approved devices or procedures.
6. Individual identification numbers and the age, sex and breed of each goat must be recorded at each testing. All goats must be accounted for.
7. If ELISA results for CAE testing are negative, the “Veterinary Report and Recommendation for Re-Accreditation” form is forwarded by the APVP to the CAE Registrar.
8. The CAE Registrar will notify the APVP of approval of CAE Accreditation status and the name of the herd will be added to the CAE Free Register.
9. Retesting will be carried out annually for the first 3 years of accreditation. After this period, the APVP may apply to the CAE Registrar who may then permit 24 monthly testing. An audit of the accredited property, which will include review of all introductions to the herd and movement records, will be conducted in lieu of testing at 12 months after reaccreditation.
10. Any ELISA inconclusive or positive animals indicate that infection could be present and the CAE status of the herd is suspect. Re-accreditation will not be granted. Further investigation is required.

Loss or suspension of accreditation

The APVP will notify the CAE Registrar within 14 days if any positive goats are detected, or the rules of the CAE Scheme have been contravened.

Cancellation of CAE Accreditation will occur if any serologically positive animals are detected, or if any goats are clinically affected with CAE. After a breakdown has occurred, the herd returns to Pre-Accreditation status and must have two consecutive negative tests of all goats over 6 months of age, at least 6 but no more than 12 months apart to regain CAE Accreditation status.

Clinically suspected goats should be isolated and their status investigated within 30-60 days.

Suspension of CAE Accreditation will occur when:

1. Testing for renewal is not carried out within 1 month of the due date.
2. There is any breach or suspected breach of the CAE Accreditation Scheme.
3. Any goat is introduced other than in accordance with “INTRODUCTION OF GOATS” protocols
4. Goat milk from a non-CAE accredited source is fed to kids.
5. Goats are moved to or agisted on another property without approval from the APVP.

Re-accreditation after suspension

1. In the case of testing not being carried out within 1 month of being due, subject to effective testing, renewal will be for 12 months from the date when testing was due.
2. In the case of breaches to rules of the scheme, subject to such conditions as the CAE Registrar may consider necessary.

Introduction of goats

1. There is no requirement for the introduction of goats from another CAE Accredited herd to be tested.
2. Goats from non-accredited herds may be introduced subject to two negative CAE ELIZA blood tests at an interval of 6 months. These goats must be kept in isolation during this period.
3. Goats that are introduced under 6 months of age must be isolated and tested twice at an interval of 6 months apart, once they reach 6 months of age.
4. Any goat that returns a positive test at the first or second test is to be removed immediately.

Goats returning to the property

1. Goats returning within 14 days from shows or unsold from sales may rejoin the herd provided they have not been in direct or indirect contact with goats or unpasteurised goat's milk from non- CAE Accredited sources, nor shared drinking or feeding facilities.
2. Goats returning after more than 14 days or goats that have been in direct or indirect contact with goats or unpasteurised goat's milk from non-accredited sources must be held in isolation and be blood tested twice at an interval of 6-12 months.
3. The APVP is the arbiter of whether attendance at show or sale has risked direct contact with Non-CAE Accredited herds.

Stray goats

The owner shall report to the APVP any stray goats on or from the property or any significant failure of isolation of the herd. Testing will be at the discretion of the APVP and appropriate to the circumstance.

Where the owner's goats have strayed, protocols detailed in 12. "GOATS RETURNING TO THE PROPERTY" shall be followed.

Agistment

Agistment of CAE Accredited goats onto another property must be approved by the APVP, so long as non-accredited goats are not present on that property.

Removal of the herd to another property without prior approval of the APVP may result in suspension of CAE Accreditation.

Introduction of semen and embryos

Semen from any buck may be used for artificial insemination provided the buck is tested for CAE with negative results within 30 days prior to semen collection, or the buck comes from a CAE Accredited herd.

Embryos may be used from donor does from a CAE Accredited herd, or from does that have had two serological tests at 6 monthly intervals while in isolation, with the final test being in the month before mating.

Change of ownership

Where ownership of a CAE Accredited herd changes, the herd may be CAE Accredited in the new owners name, provided the new owner complies with the rules of the CAE Accreditation Scheme. A new 'Owner Application and Agreement' form should be signed by

the new owner and the APVP, and a new 'Veterinary Report and Recommendation for Accreditation' [Form](#) completed and forwarded to the CAE Registrar.

Where a CAE Accredited herd moves to a new property, the APVP must conduct a property inspection, obtain a map of the new property, and a completed CAE Veterinary Report and Recommendation for Accreditation Form be sent to the CAE Registrar.

Departmental control

Participation in the CAE Accreditation Scheme is voluntary. The owner may withdraw from the scheme at any time. The APVP may recommend suspension and the CAE Registrar may suspend the CAE Accreditation at any time a breach of the rules is suspected.

To ensure that the purposes of the scheme is being fulfilled, the DPI may

1. Inspect the property and herd
2. Discuss the health of the herd with the APVP
3. Make any other investigations and impose whatever other conditions are considered necessary to ensure that the rules of the scheme are being adhered to.
4. Audit the performance of the APVP against specifications of the scheme

The DPI will maintain a computerised register of CAE Free Accredited herds and APVPs*. This will be public information. No information regarding previous testing or pre-accreditation status will be divulged to any unauthorised person.

**Not yet available at time of publication.*

Owner's responsibility

An Owner Agreement Form must be signed at each stage of the CAE Accreditation Scheme.

Owners must:

1. Permit property inspections by the APVP.
2. Present all eligible goats (over 6 months) for testing.
3. Notify the APVP of any goats which present with signs of CAE, and have them tested by the APVP.
4. Maintain and make available to the APVP all required management records.
5. Keep a schedule of all goats on the property (individual identification such as tag numbers or tattoos, age, breed, sex, origin, disposal, death).
6. Keep records of all goat movements onto and off the property, and the origin of introduced goats.
7. Provide to the APVP, a property plan, approximately to scale, detailing internal and boundary fences, isolation facilities, neighbours names and types of stock.
8. Make suitable facilities available for the bleeding of goats.
9. Detail any new land acquired in a new property plan and give it to the APVP.
10. Control livestock movements by maintaining fences.
11. Ensure isolation from non-CAE accredited, untested or infected goats.
12. Prevent straying and treat any goats that have strayed from a CAE accredited herd as introductions from a non-CAE accredited herd.
13. Ensure that no goat milk from non-CAE accredited sources is fed to kids or adults. Pooled fresh milk is not fed. Reconstituted powdered milk or pasteurised milk from any source may be fed.
14. Inform the APVP within 7 days of introduction of goats from non- accredited herds. These goats must remain isolated.

More information

- Local Land Services, Tel: 1300 795 299
- To view details of your LLS region: <http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/>

- Tel: 1800 680 244, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare,
- Department of Primary Industries at biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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