

IV Fluids Shortage: Client information

2 August 2024

What are IV Fluids?

Intravenous (IV) fluids are sterile solutions delivered directly into the bloodstream through a vein. They are essential in human and veterinary medicine for various treatments and procedures.

What are IV fluids used for?

Human use: IV fluids are crucial for treating dehydration, resuscitating patients after accidents, supporting pre-term babies, managing heart attacks, treating gastroenteritis, and during surgeries and intensive care.

Animal use: Similarly, in veterinary medicine, IV fluids are used to treat dehydration, during surgeries, for resuscitation, and to administer other medications. They are also used during routine procedures that require an anesthetic, e.g., dentals.

Current shortage

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has acknowledged a worldwide shortage of IV fluids, which is affecting human and animal healthcare. The exact cause is unclear but is believed to be due to a combination of manufacturing issues and increased demand. The shortage is expected to persist into 2025.

Impact on veterinary services

The IV fluid shortage is affecting veterinary practices across Australia.

In some cases, veterinary practices may need to adjust treatment plans or prioritise emergency and critical care cases over elective procedures to manage the limited supply of IV fluids.

Actions to address the shortage

At <insert practice name> we are actively managing and conserving existing supplies, utilising alternative fluids where possible, and ensuring minimal wastage.

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is engaging with suppliers and regulatory bodies, providing guidance to veterinarians, and advocating for the veterinary sector and animal welfare.

How you can help

We appreciate your understanding if we need to delay or alter non-urgent procedures for our patients, and thank you for your patience and support in recognising that this situation is beyond the control of veterinary professionals and that we are doing our best to mitigate the impact on our patients.

Your cooperation and understanding are crucial during this challenging time. <Name of practice> is committed to ensuring the best possible care for your animals despite the constraints imposed by the IV fluids shortage.

For more information or specific veterinary concerns, please get in touch with us. <Include practice contact information>