

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR EVALUATION OF VETERINARY FACILITIES

All locations in which veterinary medicine is practiced shall be adequate for the maintenance of good hygiene and the practice of veterinary medicine. All areas of a veterinary facility shall be maintained in a clean and odor free condition at all times. The minimum standards for all facilities in which veterinary medicine is practiced shall be:

(a) General facility requirements:

- (1) Adequate space and safeguards for each patient.
- (2) Clean facilities in good repair, free from clutter of equipment or materials not used in the practice of veterinary medicine.
- (3) Clean, well-maintained grounds.
- (4) Parking area sufficient for clients and staff.
- (5) Facilities for the separation of inpatients.
- (6) Signs and exterior lighting in good taste and useful in identifying the hospital.
- (7) Hospital names reflective of service provided.
- (8) Adequate heating, cooling, and ventilation to maintain a comfortable environment for patients and staff.
- (9) Proper lighting in examination and treatment rooms.
- (10) Hot and cold running water.
- (11) Sanitary storage appropriate for building size.
- (12) Floors and walls of a material that can be efficiently cleaned and sanitized.
- (13) Fire protection equipment within easy access.
- (14) Library: Provide current basic textbooks and periodicals.
- (15) Any outside housing for small animals, i.e. runs, must provide adequate shelter and bedding if the temperature drops below 50° and sufficient cooling and shade if the temperature rises above 85°.

(b) Records:

- (1) Legible record for each individual animal, accurately documented in a timely manner.
Exception: Herd or flock records may be kept on a client rather than an individual animal basis.
- (2) Filed in an adequate filing system.
- (3) Readily accessible and organized to facilitate prompt retrieval of information.
- (4) Patient condition and problem specifically stated.
- (5) Available for a minimum of three years following the last examination, office visit, or discharge of the animal from the veterinary facility. Patient records include radiographs and laboratory results.

(c) Examination Facilities:

- (1) Table constructed of impervious and smooth material easily sanitized between patients.
- (2) Waste receptacle or chute.
- (3) Adequate lighting and space.
- (4) Laboratory aides and diagnostic equipment available, including otoscope, ophthalmoscope, stethoscope, thermometer, and microscope.

(d) Materials and equipment required:

- (1) Sterile syringes and needles.
- (2) Aseptic IV equipment.
- (3) Appropriate suture material.

(4) Refrigeration of animal biologics, reagents, drugs, and foods separate from human food and drink.

(e) Pharmacy:

(1) Maintained and operated ethically and in compliance with both state and federal laws,

(2) Labels on all dispensed prescription drugs which include:

i. Name, address, and telephone number of the prescribing and dispensing facility.

ii. Name of client.

iii. Name of animal.

iv. Date dispensed.

v. Directions for administration, unless pre-labeled by the manufacturer.

vi. Name, strength, and quantity of drugs, unless pre-labeled by the manufacturer.

vii. THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS

a. Veterinary Use Only!

b. Keep Away from Children!

(3) Patient records (or client herd records) which document controlled substances and doses administered or dispensed.

(4) Documentation of receipt, distribution, and administration of controlled substances.

(5) Storage and safekeeping of controlled substances.

(6) Child resistant containers should be used as required by state and federal laws.

(7) Access to blood storage and blood donors.

(f) Clinical Pathology:

(1) Available on premise or via outsource through a pathology service outside the hospital within a reasonable time.

i. Blood chemistry

ii. Culture and antibiotic sensitivity

iii. Complete blood count

iv. Histopathology

v. Necropsy

(2) Within the hospital:

i. Urinalysis (minimum of dipstick and capability of determining specific gravity).

ii. Mechanical method of determining anemia.

iii. Flotation tests for detection of intestinal parasites.

iv. Exams for circulating microfilaria and exams for determining presence of heartworm antigen.

(g) Radiology:

(1) Access to functioning radiographic equipment adequate to produce diagnostic radiographs.

(2) Compliance with all State Health Department regulations, including posting of safety regulations and use of leaded gloves and aprons.

(3) Films or images which are legibly and permanently identified with the name of the owner and the patient and date.

(4) If radiological service is not available, referrals may be a suitable means of access to radiological service.

(h) Surgery:

- (1) Performed in a manner compatible with current veterinary medical practice with regard to anesthesia, asepsis, life support, pain management, and patient monitoring and recovery in an area dedicated for surgery.
- (2) Positive pressure oxygen delivery system for small animal patients. Large animal anesthesia may be performed compatible with current local veterinary practice.
- (3) Sterilization of instruments with steam pressure or autoclave. Gas sterilization is acceptable for only those instruments which cannot be autoclaved. Cold sterilization acceptable only under field conditions.
- (4) Instruments and equipment appropriate for the type of surgical services provided.
- (5) Appropriate emergency drugs and equipment readily available to the surgical area.
- (6) A surgery table constructed of impervious and smooth material easily sanitized between patients.
- (7) Enhanced lighting in the surgery area with emergency lighting available (i.e. battery operated lighting, such as a headlamp).

(i) Housekeeping:

- (1) A safe, functional, pleasant environment for clients, patients, and staff.
- (2) Clean, sanitary housing for patients.
- (3) Clean water and food containers.
- (4) Waste collection and removal in a timely, safe and sanitary manner, utilizing interior and exterior receptacles.
- (5) Prompt, sanitary and aesthetic disposal of deceased animals, biological waste, and medical waste (including sharps) in compliance with federal, state, county and municipal laws, ordinances, and regulations. Precautions through the use of protective clothing, aseptic techniques and disposal of contaminants should be utilized to prevent the spread of disease from one animal to another or to humans.
- (6) All areas of premises maintained free of vermin and insect pests.
- (7) Appropriate and timely feeding of wholesome, nutritional, and palatable food (except where medically contra-indicated).
- (8) Fresh water within easy reach of all patients (except where medically contra-indicated).
- (9) Storage of animal foodstuffs to prevent contamination and minimize spoilage.

(j) Emergency Services must be provided and readily available. After hours and emergency information provided by answering machines or voicemail should be clear and concise as to who will be responding or what facility will be accepting the referral.

(k) Implementation:

An evaluator, who is a licensed veterinarian, approved, trained and remunerated by the Board, will visit facilities, interview responsible persons; evaluate for compliance and adherence to minimum standards and report to the Board.

(l) Failure: Failure to pass evaluation will result in the issuance of a warning. A follow-up evaluation will be conducted after a period of thirty (30) days. Failure to pass the second evaluation will result in suspension of the certificate of evaluation and closure of the facility until documented deficiencies are corrected. The veterinarian in such a facility can request reevaluation no sooner than seven days after the notice of closure. If significant progress towards correction of deficiencies is noted during the requested evaluation, a request for extension to correct deficiencies may be made to the Board. A detailed plan of action to comply must accompany any request for extension and must be approved by the Board.

(m) The Board may, after notice and hearing, impose a penalty against any owner, operator or responsible veterinarian of any premise operating in violation of the Mississippi Veterinary Practice Act. The maximum penalty (fine) for each violation of the Practice Act is \$1,000.00.

(n) Imposition of penalties (fines) under this Rule shall not prohibit other disciplinary proceedings by the Board wherein a veterinarian is found in violation of the Mississippi Veterinary Practice Act. After a formal hearing where a veterinarian is found in violation of the Practice Act, the Board may reprimand, place on probation, suspend, or revoke the license of a veterinarian and/or levy a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 per violation.

(o) New premises must pass evaluation within six months after beginning operation.

(p) Premises must pass evaluation within six months after change of ownership.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ASSESSMENT OF MOBILE VETERINARY FACILITIES

The minimum standards for all mobile veterinary facilities shall be as follows:

(a) Base of operations and mobile facilities.

- (1) Clean and in good repair.
- (2) Access to water.

(b) Records:

- (1) (1) Legible record for each individual animal, accurately documented in a timely manner. Exception: Herd or flock records may be kept on a client rather than an individual animal basis.
- (2) Filed in an adequate filing system.
- (3) Readily accessible and organized to facilitate prompt retrieval of information.
- (4) Patient condition and problem specifically stated.
- (5) Available for a minimum of three years following the last examination, office visit, or discharge of the animal from the veterinary facility. Patient records include radiographs and laboratory results.

(c) Small Animal Mobile Examination Facilities:

- (1) Table constructed of impervious and smooth material easily sanitized between patients.
- (2) Waste receptacle or chute.
- (3) Adequate lighting and space.
- (4) Laboratory aides and diagnostic equipment available, including otoscope, ophthalmoscope, stethoscope, thermometer, and microscope.

(d) Equipment:

- (1) Sterile syringes and needles.
- (2) Safe and secure storage of biologics, reagents, and medications, refrigeration as appropriate.
- (3) Aseptic intravenous equipment.
- (4) Laboratory and diagnostic equipment compatible with accepted practices in the area.
- (5) Refrigeration (i.e., cooler with cold pack, etc.).

(e) Pharmacy:

- (1) Storage, safekeeping and preparation of drugs in accordance with all state and federal laws.
- (2) Labels on all dispensed prescription drugs which include:
 - i. Name, address, and telephone number of the prescribing and dispensing facility.
 - ii. Name of client.
 - iii. Name of animal.
 - iv. Date dispensed.
 - v. Directions for administration, unless pre-labeled by the manufacturer.
 - vi. Name, strength, and quantity of drugs, unless pre-labeled by the manufacturer.
 - vii. THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS
 - a. Veterinary Use Only!
 - b. Keep Away from Children!
- (3) Patient records (or client herd records) which document controlled substances and doses administered or dispensed.
- (4) Documentation of receipt, distribution, and administration of controlled substances.
- (5) Storage and safekeeping of controlled substances.
- (6) Child resistant containers should be used as required by state and federal laws.

(f) Access to Clinical Pathology service to provide the following:

- (1) Blood Chemistry.
- (2) Culture and antibiotic sensitivity.
- (3) Complete blood count.
- (4) Histopathology.
- (5) Complete necropsy.
- (6) Urinalysis (Minimum of dipstick and capability of determining specific gravity).
- (7) Flotation tests for detection of internal intestinal parasites ova.
- (8) If small animal facility, exams for circulating microfilaria and exams for determining presence of heartworm antigen.

(g) Radiology:

- (1) Access to functioning radiographic equipment adequate to produce diagnostic radiographs which are appropriate to conventional practice needs.
- (2) Compliance with all State Health Department regulations including the posting of safety regulations and the use of leaded aprons and gloves.
- (3) Films or images which are legibly and permanently identified with the name of the owner and patient and date.
- (4) If radiological service is not available, referrals may be a suitable means of access to radiological service.

(h) Surgery:

- (1) Equine and Food Animal (Food animal is defined as those animals primarily grown and managed for human consumption, i.e., cattle, dairy and beef, swine, goats, sheep, camelids, poultry, fish, and ratites.):
 - i. Sterile surgical instruments.
 - ii. Access to a means of sterilization. (Cold sterilization is acceptable only in field conditions.)
 - iii. Appropriate suture material.
 - iv. Aseptic intravenous equipment.
 - v. Anesthesia appropriate for current veterinary practice.
 - vi. Readily available emergency drugs, appropriate to the type of practice.
- (2) Small Animal (any animal not defined as Equine and Food Animal above):
 - i. Sterile surgical instruments.
 - ii. Access to a means of sterilization (cold sterilization is acceptable only in field conditions.)
 - iii. Appropriate suture material.
 - iv. Aseptic intravenous equipment.
 - v. Anesthesia appropriate for current veterinary practice.
 - vi. Positive pressure oxygen delivery system for small animal patients.
 - vii. Readily available emergency drugs, appropriate to the type of practice.

(i) Housekeeping:

- (1) Maintenance of mobile premise to provide a safe, functional, and sanitary environment.
- (2) Prompt, sanitary and aesthetic disposal of deceased animals, biological waste, and medical waste (including sharps) in compliance with all federal, state, county, and municipal laws, ordinances and regulations. Precautions through the use of protective clothing, aseptic techniques and disposal of contaminants should be utilized to prevent the spread of disease from one animal to another or to humans, whether on the same or different premises.

(j) Implementation:

An evaluator, who is a licensed veterinarian, approved, trained and remunerated by the Board, will visit facilities, interview responsible persons, evaluate for compliance and adherence to minimum standards and report to the Board.

(k) Failure: Failure to pass evaluation will result in the issuance of a warning. A follow-up evaluation will be conducted after a period of thirty (30) days. Failure to pass the second evaluation will result in suspension of the certificate of evaluation and closure of the facility until documented deficiencies are corrected. The veterinarian in such a facility can request reevaluation no sooner than seven days after the notice of closure. If significant progress towards correction of deficiencies is noted during the requested evaluation, a request for extension to correct deficiencies may be made to the Board. A detailed plan of action to comply must accompany any request for extension and must be approved by the Board.

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