

HOW VETERINARY FACILITY MINIMUM STANDARDS PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

AIR QUALITY

- Ventilation and thermal regulation for the safety of staff, clients and animals.
- Anesthetic gases without proper filtration and ventilation are health hazards (for staff, clients and animals).
- Improper ventilation may enhance the possibility of communicable diseases of pets i.e., kennel cough or other respiratory diseases.
- Air quality is vital to maintain a sterile surgical suite, which reduces the risk of surgical complications.

LIGHTING

- Inadequate lighting may lead to inadequate physical examinations of pets, i.e., misinterpretation of mucous membrane color, or lesions of the integument, etc.
- Improper lighting can impair the veterinarian's ability to perform major surgery—lack of visualization can lead to missed lesions and difficulties with surgical techniques.

POTABLE WATER

- Staff, clients and animals alike require the ability to consume water to meet physiologic hydration demands.

WASTE DISPOSAL

- Numerous wastes will be generated in the average veterinary hospital, such as deceased pets, and biohazards such as fecal matter and medical wastes, which can lead development of bacteria, parasites or other hazardous infectious diseases for both staff and pets. Waste must be disposed of properly.

STORAGE

- Vaccines, medications, pet food and other medical supplies will have varying requirements for storage, i.e., refrigeration, room temperature, dry storage, etc., and may be rendered ineffective or even dangerous to administer if not stored properly.

EXAMINATION

- Impervious surfaces are necessary to aid in the disinfection, sterilization and general cleansing of exam tables between patients, to reduce the risk of spreading contagious diseases.

LABORATORY

- As many diagnoses can be made with an in-house laboratory, it is necessary for veterinarians to provide clean work-places to decrease the risk of false positive results if previous pathogens were not cleansed; and to reduce the risk of contamination of lab samples. Properly functional equipment facilitates the ability to make an appropriate diagnosis.

RADIOLOGY

- Radiographs are necessary for diagnosing orthopedic diseases/conditions, dental work or other emergent needs, such as intestinal obstructions, bloat, pneumonia, etc.
- Adequate radiographic equipment allows the veterinarian to appropriately diagnose and treat many disorders. Lack of functional equipment can lead to delayed diagnosis, treatment and even death in the patient.
- Current and functional equipment and procedures are also vital to ensuring safety of the staff by reducing radiation scatter and exposure.

ANIMAL HOUSING

- Appropriate confinement ensures safety of the patient in the hospital, to allow for reduced movement, but comfortable space to stand, sit, turn, and sleep. Proper housing facilitates delivery of medications or treatments, such as intravenous fluid therapy, movement restriction in cases of orthopedic or spinal cord injury, external thermal support or oxygen.
- Must be room temperature or warmer/cooler as indicated, must protect the patient from other patients who may be either aggressive and/or suffering from contagious diseases.

POSTING LICENSES

- This tells the public that veterinarians have graduated from veterinary school, passed national board exams, passed a test on the laws and rules governing veterinary practice in the state, and have met Continuing Education requirements to ensure competency.