

APPENDIX D

Model Infection Control Plan for Veterinary Practices, 2006

National Association of Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) Veterinary Infection Control Committee (VICC)

This model plan should be adapted to your practice in keeping with local, state and federal regulations. A modifiable electronic version is available on the website of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians at www.nasphv.org. Please refer the corresponding sections in the full Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for complete information and guidance (also available at www.nasphv.org).

Clinic: _____

Date of Plan Adoption: _____

Date of Next Review: _____

Infection Control Officer: _____

This plan will be followed as part of our clinic's routine practices. The plan will be reviewed at least annually and as part of new employee training.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE ACTIONS AND EQUIPMENT

Hand Hygiene: Wash hands before and after each patient encounter and after contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions or articles contaminated by these fluids. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking; after using the toilet; after cleaning animal cages or animal care areas; and whenever hands are visibly soiled. Alcohol-based gels may be used if hands are not visibly soiled, but handwashing with soap and running water is preferred. Keep fingernails short. Keep handwashing supplies stocked at all times. Staff responsible _____.

Correct handwashing procedure:

- Wet hands with running water
- Place soap in palms
- Rub hands together to make a lather
- Scrub hands vigorously for 20 seconds
- Dry hands with a disposable towel
- Turn off faucet handle using the disposable towel

Use of Gloves and Sleeves: Wear gloves or sleeves when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin. Wear gloves for dentistry, resuscitations, necropsies, and obstetrical procedures; when cleaning cages and contaminated environmental surfaces and equipment; when handling dirty laundry; when

handling diagnostic specimens (e.g., urine, feces, aspirates, swabs); and when handling an animal with a suspected infectious disease. Change gloves between examination of individual animals or animal groups (e.g., a litter of puppies) and between dirty and clean procedures on the same patient. Gloves should be removed promptly and disposed of after use. Disposable gloves should not be washed and reused. Hands should be washed immediately after glove removal.

Note: Gloves are not necessary when examining or handling normal, healthy animals.

Facial Protection: Wear facial protection whenever exposure to splashes or sprays is likely to occur. Facial protection should include a mask worn with either goggles or a face shield. Wear facial protection for the following procedures: dentistry, resuscitation, nebulization, suctioning, bronchoscopy, wound irrigation, obstetrical procedures, and necropsies. Use a surgical mask when cleaning with high-pressure sprayers.

Respiratory Protection: Wear a disposable N-95 respirator or other particulate respirator when investigating abortions in small ruminants or significant poultry mortality, when handling ill psittacine birds, and in any other circumstance where there is concern about aerosol transmission.

Protective Outerwear: Wear a protective outer garment such as a lab coat, smock, non-sterile gown, or coveralls when attending animals and when conducting cleaning chores. These should be changed whenever soiled, after handling an animal with a known or suspected infectious disease, after working in the isolation room, and after performing a necropsy or other high-risk procedure. Shoes or boots should have thick soles and closed toes, and be water resistant and easily cleanable. Disposable shoe covers should be worn when heavy quantities of infectious materials are present or expected. Impermeable outerwear should be worn during obstetrical procedures and necropsies and whenever substantial splashes or large quantities of body fluids may be encountered. Keep clean outer garments available at all times. Staff responsible _____.

Bite and Other Animal-Related Injury Prevention: Take precautions to prevent bites and other injuries. Use physical restraints, muzzles, bite-resistant gloves, and sedation or anesthesia as needed. Plan an escape route when handling large animals. Do not rely on owners or untrained staff for animal restraint. Notify _____ if there concern for personal safety. When bites or scratches occur, wash the site with soap and water immediately. Report all bites and other injuries to _____ (Infection Control Officer) who will also maintain the incident report log. Consult a physician whenever the skin is broken. An evaluation of the need for medical attention, tetanus immunization, antibiotics, and rabies post-exposure prophylaxis will be made by a physician. Bite incidents will be reported to _____ (public health agency) as required by law. Telephone number: _____.

PROTECTIVE ACTIONS DURING VETERINARY PROCEDURES

Intake: Avoid bringing aggressive or potentially infectious animals in through the reception area. If they must come through the main entrance, carry the animal or place it on a gurney so that it can be taken directly into an exam room.

Examination of Animals: Wear appropriate protective outerwear and wash hands before and after examination of individual animals or animal groups (e.g., a litter of puppies). Potentially infectious animals will be examined in a dedicated exam room and remain there until diagnostic procedures and treatments have been performed.

Injections, Venipuncture, and Aspirations: Wear gloves while performing venipuncture on animals suspected of having an infectious disease and when performing soft tissue aspirations. Currently, there is no data indicating that venipuncture on healthy animals carries a significant risk of infection.

Needlestick Injury Prevention: Do not recap needles except in rare instances when required as part of a medical procedure or protocol. Dispose of all sharps in designated puncture-proof sharps containers. Dispose of the used syringe with attached needle in the sharps container when injecting live vaccines or aspirating body fluids. For most other veterinary procedures, use the needle removal device on the sharps container and dispose of the syringe in the regular trash. Sharps containers are located in every area of the clinic where sharps are used. Do not transfer sharps from one container to another.

Dental Procedures: Wear protective outerwear, gloves, mask, and a face shield or goggles when performing dental procedures or working nearby (such as when monitoring anesthesia).

Resuscitation: Wear gloves, mask, and a face shield or goggles.

Obstetrics: Wear gloves and/or shoulder-length sleeves, mask or respirator, face shield or goggles, and impermeable outerwear.

Necropsy: Wear cut-resistant gloves, mask, face shield or goggles, and impermeable outerwear. Only necessary personnel are allowed in the vicinity of the procedure. Wear a respirator when using a band saw or other power equipment. If an animal is suspected of having a notifiable infectious or a foreign animal disease, consult with the State Veterinarian before proceeding with a necropsy. Contact information for State Veterinarian's office_____.

Diagnostic Specimen Handling: Wear protective outerwear and gloves. Discard gloves and wash hands before touching clean items (e.g., microscope, telephone). Eating and drinking are not allowed in the laboratory.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFECTION CONTROL

Isolation of Infectious Animals: Animals with a contagious or zoonotic disease will be housed in isolation as soon as possible. Clearly mark the room or cage to indicate the patient's status and describe additional precautions. Only equipment needed for the care and treatment of the patient should be kept in the isolation room, and there should also be dedicated cleaning supplies. Disassemble and thoroughly clean and disinfect any equipment that must be taken out of the room. Discard gloves after use. Leave other personal protective equipment (e.g., gown, mask) in the isolation room for reuse. Clean and disinfect protective equipment between patients and whenever contaminated by body fluids. Bag potentially contaminated materials before removal from the isolation room. Use disinfectant footbath before entering and leaving the room. Access to the isolation room is limited. Keep a sign-in log of all people (including owners or other non-employees) having contact with a patient in isolation. Monitor air pressure daily while the room is in use.

Staff responsible _____

Cleaning and Disinfection of Equipment and Environmental Surfaces: Clean surfaces and equipment first to remove organic matter, and then use an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant, applied according to manufacturer's instructions. Minimize dust and aerosols when cleaning. Clean and disinfect animal cages, toys, and food and water bowls between animals and whenever visibly soiled. Clean litter boxes once a day. Wear gloves when cleaning, and wash hands afterwards. There is a written checklist for each area of the facility (e.g., waiting room, exam rooms, treatment area, kennels) specifying the frequency of cleaning, disinfection procedures, products to be used, and staff responsible.

Handling Laundry: Wear gloves when handling soiled laundry. Wash animal bedding and other laundry with standard laundry detergent and machine dry. Use separate storage and transport bins for clean and dirty laundry.

Decontamination and Spill Response: Immediately spray a spill or splash of blood or body fluids with disinfectant and contain it with absorbent material (e.g., paper towels, sawdust, cat litter). Don gloves, mask, and protective clothing (including shoe covers if the spill is on the floor and may be stepped in) before beginning the clean-up. Pick up the material then seal in leak-proof plastic bags. Clean the area, and disinfect according to manufacturer's instructions. Keep clients, patients and employees away from the spill area until disinfection is completed.

Veterinary Medical Waste: *Insert here your local and state ordinances regulating disposal of animal waste, pathology waste, animal carcasses, bedding, sharps and biologics.*

Rodent and Vector Control: Keep the facility free of wild rodents and mosquitoes and other arthropods by sealing entry portals, eliminating clutter and sources of standing water, keeping animal food in closed metal or thick plastic containers, and disposing of food waste properly.

Other Environmental Controls: There are designated areas for eating, drinking, smoking, applying make-up and similar activities. These activities should never be done in animal care areas or in the laboratory area. Human food or drink should not be kept in the same refrigerator as animal food, biologics, or laboratory specimens. Dishes for human use should be cleaned and stored away from animal care and animal food preparation areas.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH

The following personnel are responsible for developing and maintaining the practice's infection control policies, keeping records, and managing workplace exposure and injury incidents.

Staff Responsible:

Employee Immunization Policies and Record Keeping:

Record Keeping: Current emergency contact information will be maintained for each employee. Records will be maintained on immunizations, rabies titers, and exposure and injury incidents. Report and record changes in health status (e.g. pregnancy) that may affect work duties.

Rabies Preexposure Vaccination: All staff with animal contact must be vaccinated against rabies, followed by periodic titer checks and rabies boosters, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC, 1999).

Tetanus Vaccination: Tetanus immunizations must be up to date. Report and record puncture wounds and other possible exposures to tetanus. Consult a health care provider regarding the need for a tetanus booster.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination: Unless contraindicated, veterinary personnel are encouraged to receive the current seasonal influenza vaccine. *Check with CDC for updated recommendations at www.cdc.gov.*

Staff Training and Education: Infection control training and education will be documented in the employee health record.

Documenting and Reporting Exposure Incidents: Report incidents that result in injury or potential exposure to an infectious agent to _____.

The following information will be collected for each exposure incident: date, time, location, person(s) injured or exposed, other persons present, description of the incident, the status of any animals involved (e.g., vaccination history, clinical condition, diagnostic

information), and plans for follow-up. If consultation with a health care provider is necessary, be sure to inform them of the exposure to the animal(s).

Pregnant and Immunocompromised Personnel: Pregnant and immunocompromised employees are at increased risk from zoonotic diseases. Inform _____ if you are concerned about your work responsibilities, so that accommodations may be made. Consultation between the supervising veterinarian and a health care provider may be needed.

The following information is attached to the Infection Control Plan:

- List of reportable/notifiable veterinary diseases and where to report
- State and local public health contacts for consultation on zoonotic diseases
- Public Health Laboratory services and contact information
 - Emergency services telephone numbers – fire, police, sheriff, animal control, poison control, etc
 - List of EPA-registered disinfectants
 - OSHA regulations
 - State Department of Agriculture or Board of Animal Health contact information and regulations
 - Local animal waste disposal and biohazard regulations
 - Local rabies regulations
 - Local animal control and exotic animal regulations
 - Useful resources