

## 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.
  - (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 and enhanced lighting in the surgery area with emergency lighting available (i.e. battery operated lighting).
  - (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) Outside housing for small animals, i.e. runs, with 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 records for each patient, accurately documented in a timely manner.
  - (2) Readily accessible and organized to facilitate prompt retrieval of information.
  - (3) Available for a minimum of three years following the last office visit or discharge of the animal from the veterinary facility.
  - (4) Patient condition and problem specifically stated.
  - (5) Filed in an adequate filing system.
  - (6) Exception: Herd or flock records may be kept on a client rather than an individual animal.
- (c) Examination Facilities:
  - (1) Table constructed of impervious and smooth material which can be 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) Pharmacy:
  - (1) Maintained and operated ethically and in compliance with both state and federal laws, including storage and safekeeping of controlled substances.
  - (2) Labels on all dispensed drugs (with the exception of pre-labeled manufactured drugs with proper instructions) 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.
    - vi. Name and strength of drugs.

- vii. THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS
    - a. Veterinary Use Only!
    - b. Keep Away from Children!
  - (3) Patient records which document controlled substances administered or dispensed.
  - (4) Documentation of receipt, distribution, storage and administration of controlled drugs. Child safe containers should be used as required by state and federal laws.
  - (5) Access to blood storage and blood donors.
- (e) 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. Refrigeration.
    - ii. Urinalysis (minimum of dipstick and capability of determining specific gravity).
    - iii. Capability of determining of anemia.
    - iv. Flotation tests for internal parasite ova.
    - v. Exams for circulating microfilaria and exams for determining presence of antigen.
- (f) Radiology:
  - (1) Access to functioning radiographic equipment adequate to produce diagnostic radiographs.
  - (2) Compliance with all State Health Department regulations, including utilization of lead gloves and aprons.
  - (3) Film which is legibly and permanently identified with the name of the owner and the patient and date.
- (g) Surgery:
  - (1) Performed in a manner compatible with current veterinary medical practice with regard to anesthesia, asepsis, life support, 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 only for those instruments which cannot be autoclaved. Cold sterilization is only acceptable under field conditions.
  - (4) Instruments and equipment appropriate for the type of surgical services provided.
  - (5) Emergency drugs readily available to the surgical area.
  - (6) A surgery table constructed of impervious and smooth material.
- (h) 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.

- (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.
- (i) Maintenance:
  - (1) A safe, functional, clean and pleasant environment for clients, patients, and staff.
  - (2) Fire protection equipment within easy access.
- (j) Library: provide current, basic textbooks and periodicals.
- (k) Implementation:

#### Phase I

The first evaluation of offices, clinics, hospitals, bases of operation and mobile facilities will be a self evaluation by the owner, manager or responsible veterinarian. Copies of Minimum Standards will be mailed to licensed veterinarians in Mississippi. Responsible parties will be asked to review the minimum standards, evaluate their facilities and correct deficiencies.

#### Phase II

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 or levy a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00.
- (o) New premises must pass evaluation prior to operation.
- (p) Premises must pass evaluation 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) Legible, accurate and timely on each patient.
  - (2) Accessible and available for prompt retrieval.
  - (3) Maintained for a minimum of three years following the last visit or discharge of the patient.
  - (4) Patients condition and problem specifically stated.
  - (5) Exception: Herd or flock records may be kept on a client rather than an individual animal and may be maintained at the base of operations.
- (c) Equipment:
  - (1) Sterile syringes and needles.
  - (2) Safe and secure storage of medications.
  - (3) Aseptic intravenous equipment.
  - (4) Laboratory and diagnostic equipment should be compatible with accepted practices in the area.
  - (6) Refrigeration (i.e., cooler with cold pack, etc.).
- (d) Pharmacy:
  - (1) Storage, safekeeping and preparation of drugs in accordance with all state and federal laws.
  - (2) Labels on all dispensed drugs (with the exception of pre-labeled manufactured drugs with proper instructions) which include:
    - i. Name, address, and telephone number of the prescribing and dispensing facility.
    - viii. Name of client.
    - ix. Name of animal.
    - x. Date dispensed.
    - xi. Directions for administration.
    - xii. Name and strength of drugs.
    - xiii. **THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS**
      - a. **Veterinary Use Only!**
      - b. **Keep Away from Children!**
  - (3) Records of all drugs administered or dispensed shall be kept on the client's records (if for a companion animal, such record shall be on the individual patient's record).
  - (4) Documentation of receipt, distribution, storage and administration of controlled drugs. Child safe containers should be used as required by state and federal laws.
- (e) 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.

- (f) Radiology:
- (1) Large Animal (Food Animal & Equine)  
(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. Access to functioning radiographic equipment adequate to produce diagnostic radiographs which are appropriate to conventional practice needs.
    - ii. Compliance with all State Health Department regulations including the posting of safety regulations and the use of leaded aprons and gloves.
    - iii. Film which is legibly and permanently identified with the name of the owner and patient and date.
  - (2) Small animal (any animal not defined as large animal above)
    - i. Access to functioning radiographic equipment adequate to produce diagnostic radiographs which are appropriate to conventional practice needs.
    - ii. Compliance with all State Health Department regulations including the posting of safety regulations and the use of leaded aprons and gloves.
    - iii. Film which is legibly and permanently identified with the name of the owner and patient and date.
    - iv. If radiological service is not available, referrals may be a suitable means of access to radiological service.
- (g) Surgery:
- (1) Large Animal (Food Animal & Equine)
    - i. Sterile surgical instruments.
    - ii. Access to a means of sterilization. (Cold sterilization is acceptable in field conditions.)
    - iii. Suture material.
    - iv. Aseptic intravenous equipment.
    - v. Anesthesia appropriate for current veterinary practice.
    - vi. Readily available emergency drugs, adequate to the type of practice.
  - (2) Small Animal (any animal not defined as large animal above)
    - i. Sterile surgical instruments.
    - ii. Access to a means of sterilization (cold sterilization is acceptable in field conditions.)
    - iii. Suture material.
    - iv. Aseptic intravenous equipment.
    - v. Anesthesia appropriate for current veterinary practice.
    - vi. Readily available emergency drugs, adequate to the type of practice.
- (h) 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 whether on the same or different premises.
- (i) New mobile premises must pass evaluation prior to operation.
- (j) Premises must pass evaluation after change of ownership