
**VETERINARY
CARE**

A dealer must establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care. [2.40, 3.110, Policy #3, Policy #22]

**Adequate
Veterinary Care**

An adequate program of veterinary care must include, but not be limited to:

- availability of appropriate:
 - ▶ facilities [2.40(b)(1)]
 - ▶ personnel [2.40(b)(1)]
 - ▶ equipment [2.40(b)(1)]
 - ▶ emergency, weekend, and holiday care [2.40(b)(2)]
- use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries [2.40(b)(2)]
- daily observation of the animals to assess their health by the dealer, employee or attending veterinarian [2.40(b)(3)]
- a mechanism for direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian on problems of animal health, well-being and behavior [2.40(b)(3)]
- pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with established veterinary medical and nursing procedures [2.40(b)(5)]
- a preventive medical program, if necessary, for
 - ▶ zoonotic disease
 - ▶ dietary considerations
- a treatment/management plan for conditions requiring long term care, such as:
 - ▶ arthritis or lameness
 - ▶ stereotypic behaviors
 - ▶ under or over weight animals
 - ▶ foot care for elephants

- a method of euthanasia consistent with the current *Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia*
- proper storage of drugs, biologicals, fluids, and other medical supplies and equipment
- necropsy guidelines should include, at a minimum, documentation that necropsies will be performed: [Policy #22]
 - ▶ on all marine mammals [3.110(d)]
 - ▶ on all elephants
 - ▶ at the discretion of the attending veterinarian when a high death loss is occurring
 - ▶ when a significant number of unexplained deaths is occurring
 - ▶ when a strong chance exists that an undiagnosed infectious disease is present (with or without potential zoonoses)
 - ▶ when the circumstances around a death indicate that a violation of the AWA may have contributed to the death

NOTE: You (the inspector), in consultation with your Supervisory Animal Care Specialist, may request a dealer to conduct necropsies on selected regulated animals.

The necropsy should be performed by or under the supervision of a veterinarian experienced with the species and include, but not be limited to:

- a systemic gross pathology examination (internal and external)
- appropriate microbiological cultures and histopathology of lesions
- other indicated tests

Attending Veterinarian's Responsibilities

A dealer must:

- employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements [2.40 (a)(1)]

- assure the attending veterinarian has the appropriate authority to:
 - ▶ ensure adequate veterinary care [2.40(a)(2)]
 - ▶ oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal husbandry [2.40(a)(2)]
- communicate to the veterinarian timely and accurate information on the animal's health, well-being and behavior [2.40(b)(3)]

The dealer **must** consult with his/her attending veterinarian to:

- determine the program of veterinary care
- develop a schedule of regular visits to the premises
- approve any modification in the frequency of providing drinking water
- obtain guidance for personnel on:
 - ▶ handling
 - ▶ immobilization
 - ▶ anesthesia
 - ▶ analgesia
 - ▶ tranquilization
 - ▶ euthanasia
 - ▶ pre- and post-procedural care, such as:
 - R wound care
 - R drugs/dosages
 - R activity level
- determine the method(s) of euthanasia for the animals which must be consistent with the current *Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia*

NOTE: Gunshot is **not** considered an acceptable method of *routine* euthanasia but may be used in emergency or field situations where other more acceptable methods of euthanasia are not feasible.

The dealer **should** consult with his/her attending veterinarian to:

- determine adequacy of routine animal husbandry practices, such as:
 - ▶ hoof/foot care
 - ▶ grooming
 - ▶ cleaning and sanitation
 - ▶ dental care
- design the facility's surgical facilities
- determine the facility's procedure for surgeries on regulated animals which must require that:
 - ▶ survival surgeries be performed using aseptic technique
 - ▶ major operative procedures for non-rodents be performed only in dedicated surgical facilities
 - ▶ short non-survival surgeries be performed:
 - R aseptically, or
 - R in a dedicated surgical facility, or
 - R in a clean area, free of clutter, and using acceptable veterinary practices
 - ▶ long non-survival surgeries where the animal may show evidence of infection be performed:
 - R aseptically, and/or
 - R in a dedicated surgical facility
 - ▶ no eating, drinking or smoking be allowed in the surgery areas
 - ▶ food handling areas not be used for surgeries
- determine the facility's use of drugs, fluids and other medical supplies or equipment
- determine the facility's policy on the use of expired drugs, fluids and other medical material which must include **either**
 - ▶ disposing of outdated drugs, fluids, and medical supplies **or**
 - ▶ appropriately labeling and separating outdated drugs, fluids and medical supplies from non-

expired medical materials to be used in the following situations:

- R for non-regulated animals
- R for non-regulated activities
- R for acute terminal procedures on regulated animals with the **exception** of drugs to relieve pain or distress and emergency drugs

The attending veterinarian's approval and signature is required on the facility's:

- program of veterinary care
- environmental enhancement plan for nonhuman primates
- exercise plan for dogs
- acclimation statement for animals housed at the facility

A veterinarian's signature is required on:

- acclimation certificates for transport
- health certificates

NOTE: A dealer may use more than one veterinarian, if necessary to provide adequate veterinary care for all the species housed at the facility.

NOTE: If you (the inspector) have a concern with the instructions or guidance the dealer has received from the attending veterinarian, you should contact the Regional Office and discuss the concern with a Supervisory Animal Care Specialist.

Species Specific

Dogs and Cats

The dealer must have the attending veterinarian's approval for:

- the exercise plan for dogs
- the outdoor housing for dogs/cats in temperatures below 50° F
- the relative humidity level in the indoor housing facility

Nonhuman Primates

The dealer must have the attending veterinarian's approval for:

- the acclimation status of nonhuman primates housed outdoors
- the environmental enhancement plan
- the temperature range for nonhuman primates' housing facility
- the relative humidity level for nonhuman primates' housing facility
- the sanitation schedule of enclosure surfaces for scent-marking species

Marine Mammals

RESERVED-Pending approval of negotiated rules

Health Records

All facilities must have a system of health records. [Policy #3]

Requirements

Health records must be:

- current
- legible
- sufficiently comprehensive to demonstrate the delivery of adequate veterinary care
- consistent with professional standards

NOTE: A system of health records should be described in the written Program of Veterinary Care for those facilities not employing a full time veterinarian.

Contents

Health records should include, but not be limited to:

- the identity of the animal
- a description of any:
 - ▶ illness
 - ▶ injury
 - ▶ distress
 - ▶ behavioral abnormality

- resolution of any noted problem(s)
- dates, details, and results (if appropriate) of all medically-related:
 - ▶ observations
 - ▶ examinations
 - ▶ tests
 - ▶ procedures, such as:
 - R vaccinations
 - R fecal examinations
 - R radiographs
 - R surgeries
 - R necropsies
- treatment plans which should include:
 - ▶ diagnosis
 - ▶ prognosis, when appropriate
 - ▶ type of treatment
 - ▶ frequency of treatment
 - ▶ duration of treatment
 - ▶ criteria and/or schedule for re-evaluation by the attending veterinarian
 - ▶ allowable activity level for the animal
 - ▶ restriction, if any, for the animal
- treatment history which should include:
 - ▶ dates of all treatment
 - ▶ names of drugs or other medications given
 - ▶ dose & route
 - ▶ frequency
 - ▶ duration of treatment

Record-keeping

Records may be kept in any format the facility chooses as long as all required information is readily available.

Group health records:

Routine husbandry and preventive medical procedures performed on a group of animals may be recorded on herd-health type records.

	<p>Individual health records: Treatment of an individual animal must be on an entry specific for that animal.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Availability</i> Health records must be readily available.</p> <p>Health records at a facility may be held by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the licensee or other designated employee(s)• the attending veterinarian <p>If health records are divided between personnel, the records must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• appropriately cross-referenced• readily available• complete with all required information <p>Health records must be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• for at least 1 year after the animal's disposition or death• longer than 1 year as required by other applicable laws or policies <p>A copy of an animal's health records must accompany the animal when it is transferred to another dealer, research facility, person or location.</p> <p>The transferred health record should contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the animals' medical history• information on any ongoing or chronic problems• the most current preventive medical procedures, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ vaccinations▶ deworming
<p>Written Program of Veterinary Care</p>	<p>If the dealer does not employ a full time attending veterinarian, THEN the Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be written on the Animal Care Program of Veterinary Care for Research Facilities or Exhibitors/Dealers form

(APHIS Form 7002 - see page 12.10.10) or an equivalent format [2.40(a)(1)]

- include the frequency of regularly scheduled visits to the premises
- be reviewed annually
- be updated as needed for situations such as:
 - ▶ the addition of a new species of animal
 - ▶ a new attending veterinarian
 - ▶ a change in the preventive medical program
- be initialed and dated by the dealer:
 - ▶ whenever it is changed, or
 - ▶ reviewed without change (at least annually)
- be initialed and dated by the attending veterinarian
 - ▶ whenever it is changed, or
 - ▶ reviewed without change (at least annually)

It is recommended that the PVC contain an explanation of the health records system. [Policy #3]