



Introductory Course for Commercial Dealers of Guinea Pigs, Hamsters or Rabbits

Part 4: Program of Veterinary
Care





Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

1. Describe the role of the attending veterinarian
2. Describe which written records need to be maintained and available for inspection
3. List the main components of a Program of Veterinary Care
4. Complete the APHIS Plan of Veterinary Care form

Program of Veterinary Care: Purpose

- Program of Veterinary Care helps ensure:
 - The facility has an attending veterinarian
 - Measures are in place for disease and injury prevention
 - Appropriate and timely treatment of diseases and injuries
 - Proper storage and use of medications and vaccines
 - Euthanasia is conducted appropriately
 - The facility has a plan for medical emergencies



Compliance with the Animal Welfare Act

- Attending veterinarian
- Written Program of Veterinary Care
 - when veterinarian is part-time
- Sufficient facilities
- Trained personnel
- Program updated with changes in operations

The Attending Veterinarian



Attending Veterinarian

- Graduate of an accredited veterinary school, or equivalent
- Training/experience in the care and management of species
- Direct or delegated authority for activities involving animals at the facility

Formal Arrangements

- Formal arrangements:
 - Either full-time employee or part-time consultant
 - Formal agreement
 - Written program of veterinary care
 - Regularly scheduled visits to facility
 - Given authority to provide adequate care to animals



Role of the Attending Veterinarian

- Regularly scheduled visits to the facility
- Written records of veterinarian visits include comments or recommendations of the attending veterinarian or other veterinarians

Role of the Attending Veterinarian

Licensee's Role

- Consult with the attending veterinarian on issues including:
 - Develop and review a veterinary care program
 - Determine the method(s) of euthanasia for animals
 - Change in care of the animals

Veterinarian's Role

- Provide guidance concerning issues such as:
 - Animal handling
 - Medication dosages/frequencies
 - Immobilization/anesthesia
 - Analgesia/tranquilization
 - Pre- and post-procedural care

The Program of Veterinary Care



Main Components

- Program documented in writing must provide:
 - Daily observation of animals
 - Direct and frequent communication with attending veterinarian
 - Appropriate methods of preventing, treating and controlling diseases and injuries
 - Appropriate facilities, personnel, training, equipment and services to carry out programs
 - Plans for providing animal care on weekends, holidays and in emergencies

Documentation

Documentation

- APHIS Form 7002
- Not required
 - Contains all required information

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control numbers for these information collections are 0579-0026, 0579-0028, and 0579-0022. The time required to complete these information collections is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

OMB Approved
0579-0026
0579-0028
0579-0022

The Animal Welfare Regulations, Title 9, Subchapter A, Part 1, Subpart C, Section 2.33 and Subpart D, Section 2.40 require a Program of Veterinary Care.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

OFFICE USE ONLY
DATE RECEIVED: _____

ANIMAL CARE
(Program of Veterinary Care for Research Facilities or Exhibitors/Dealers)

SECTION I. A PROGRAM OF VETERINARY CARE (PVC) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN:

A. LICENSEE/REGISTRANT		B. VETERINARIAN	
1. NAME:	_____	1. NAME:	_____
2. BUSINESS NAME:	_____	2. CLINIC NAME:	_____
3. USDA LICENSE/REGISTRATION NUMBER:	_____	3. STATE LICENSE NUMBER:	_____
4. MAILING ADDRESS:	_____	4. BUSINESS ADDRESS:	_____
5. CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE:	_____	5. CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE:	_____
6. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Home):	_____	6. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Business):	_____
TELEPHONE NUMBER (Business):	_____	TELEPHONE NUMBER (Business):	_____

This is a form that may be used for the Program of Veterinary Care. Also, this form may be used as a guideline for the written Program of Veterinary Care, as required.

The attending veterinarian shall establish, maintain, and supervise programs of disease control and prevention, pest and parasite control, pre-procedural and post-procedural care, nutrition, euthanasia, and adequate veterinary care for all animals on the premises of the licensee/registrant. A written program of adequate veterinary care between the licensee/registrant and the doctor of veterinary medicine shall be established and reviewed on an annual basis. By law, such programs must include regularly scheduled visits to the premises by the veterinarian. Scheduled visits are required to monitor animal health and husbandry.

Pages or blocks which do not apply to the facility should be marked N/A. If the space provided is not adequate for a specific topic, additional sheets may be added. Please indicate Section and Item Number.

I have read and completed this Program of Veterinary Care, and understand my responsibilities.

Regularly scheduled visits by the veterinarian will occur at the following frequency:

(minimum annual).

C. SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE/REGISTRANT:	_____	DATE:	_____
D. SIGNATURE OF VETERINARIAN:	_____	DATE:	_____

APHIS 7002
JUN 2011

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Attending Veterinarian Documentation Sheet

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN DOCUMENTATION SHEET FOR APHIS FORM 7002

This sheet may be used as a means to document your attending veterinarian's visit to your facility. If you choose to use it for that purpose, have your attending veterinarian sign and date this sheet during each visit to your facility. Your attending veterinarian must visit your facility at least one each year. This sheet should be kept with your PVC.

The enclosed Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) should be completed and signed by your attending veterinarian and must be signed by you.

Keep your properly completed PVC as part of your records that will be reviewed by your USDA inspector.

DO NOT send the completed PVC form to the Animal Care Regional Office.

A new PVC form is needed only if you have changed your attending veterinarian.

Update your PVC form and have it re-signed by your attending veterinarian any time you add a new species of animal to your facility or make any other change in the veterinary care you are providing.

(Veterinarian Signature)

Date

Daily Observation of Animals



Daily Observation of Animals

- Observe all animals, every day for health or behavioral problems
- Observations can be made by:
 - Attending veterinarian
 - Other personnel if there is a procedure for direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian



Means of Communication

- Direct and frequent communication with attending veterinarian to address problems
 - Phone calls
 - Log books
 - Medical records
- Accurate and timely
- Record veterinarian's comments or recommendations in writing



Animal Health Records



Animal Health Records

- Written health records help demonstrate that animals have received adequate medical care
- Written health records can document:
 - Preventative health care
 - Identification and treatment of illnesses/injuries
 - Surgeries and other procedures

Animal Health Records: What's in Them?

- Dates, details and results of:
 - Physical exams
 - Medical tests
- Diagnosis – by veterinarian
 - Official name of illness or injury
- Prognosis – by veterinarian
 - Predicted outcome
 - A prognosis may not always be available, depending upon type of injury or illness





Animal Health Records: What's in Them?

- Treatment plan:
 - Names of medications
 - Dosage
 - Route of administration of medications, such as:
 - Oral (pills, some liquids)
 - Topical (on the skin)
 - Injection
 - Other (intranasal, intraocular)
 - Frequency of administration (how many times a day?)
 - Duration of treatment (how many days?)
 - Date the problem was resolved



Animal _____

Date of illness/injury: ___/___/___

Symptoms: _____

Diagnosis: _____

Made by: _____

Date	Medication	Route	Amount Given	AM	PM	Other

Date problem resolved: _____



Preventative Health Care

- Periodic Herd Health Checks
- Periodic Checks by Attending Veterinarian for
 - Teeth
 - Enclosures
 - Diet
 - Other areas as needed
- Parasite Control Measures



Records of Preventative Health Care

- Records of preventative care:
 - Individual animal records
 - Must include individual animal identification
 - Group animal records
 - Should include description of group of animals



Keeping Records

- Health records may be held by:
 - The licensee
 - The attending veterinarian
- Must be available at all times for inspection
- Any health or animal records generated should be kept for at least one year after final disposition of the animals

Keeping Records (cont'd)

- Records required under the AWA Regulations and Standards:
 - Must be kept for at least this period of time
 - Must be kept available for inspection
- If animal is sold/transferred:
 - Copy of medical records should accompany the animal



Treatment, Diagnosis and Prevention of Illness and Injuries: Best Practices

Pest Control

- Treat for ectoparasites:
 - Mites
 - Lice
 - Fleas
- Prevent pest infestations:
 - Rodents
 - Birds
 - Other disease carrying animals
- Monitor for internal parasites and treat as necessary



Nutrition

- Proper nutrition is essential for:
 - Preventing illnesses
 - Supporting the immune system
 - Successful reproduction:
 - Gestation, lactation
 - Growth of litters
 - Dental health for:
 - Guinea pigs, hamsters and rabbits
- Develop plan with the attending veterinarian

Enrichment

- Include in environment:
 - Safe chewing objects to prevent overgrowth of incisors
 - Items that allow natural activities
 - Extra bedding
 - PVC pipe lengths for burrowing and hiding
 - Toys to encourage stretching and play to alleviate boredom
 - Suspended plastic chains
 - Exercise wheels



Socialization

- Guinea pigs, hamsters and rabbits are social animals
 - They should be housed with at least one of their species
- Appropriate handling is recommended for animals that will become pets



Individual Animal Hygiene

- Individual animal hygiene as needed, especially for rabbits:
 - Nail trims
 - Ear cleaning
 - Dental exams
- Hygiene care programs should be developed with the attending veterinarian



Dental Care

- Dental care is important to good health for these species:
 - Teeth grow throughout their lifetime
 - Filing of teeth may be necessary when they grow too long
- Discuss with attending veterinarian:
 - How to monitor animals for potential dental problems
 - (Most often malocclusion or misalignment of teeth)
 - Inspect both front and cheek teeth
 - Veterinarian will recommend appropriate treatment



Facilities, Equipment, Personnel and Training



Veterinarian Facilities

- Clean areas for administering medications, treatments and vaccinations
- Clean, quiet housing for surgical recovery
- Appropriate storage of medications and vaccines
 - Store vaccines and medications as directed by manufacturer, some of which require refrigeration
 - (e.g. insulin)
 - Prevent medications and vaccines from freezing



Veterinarian Facilities (cont'd)

- Make provisions for:
 - Isolating sick animals
 - Quarantining new animals
 - Animals in isolation or under quarantine must receive adequate husbandry and medical care
- Keep facility visitors to a minimum
- Consult attending veterinarian to develop plans



Trained Personnel

- People working with the animals must consult the attending veterinarian to learn to properly:
 - Handle animals
 - Administer medications
 - Administer vaccinations and parasite preventatives
 - Euthanize animals
 - Take care of wounds
 - Care for animals recovering from surgery



Euthanasia

- A Veterinarian must be consulted to ensure:
 - Properly performed in a legal and humane manner
 - Properly trained personnel conduct euthanasia
- Licensees and registrants, in consultation with their attending veterinarians, can use methods of euthanasia that meet the definition of euthanasia in the Animal Welfare regulations, which allows for the use of humane methods that either:
 - Produce rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress, or
 - Utilize anesthesia produced by an agent that causes painless loss of consciousness and subsequent death

Euthanasia (cont'd)

- Include in Program of Veterinary Care:
 - Methods of euthanasia to be used at the facility
 - Names of personnel who have been adequately trained and authorized to perform euthanasia

Pre- and Post-Procedural Care

- Care should be in accordance with established veterinary and nursing practices, which may include:
 - Biosecurity precautions including:
 - Brand new needles and syringes for each animal
 - Provisions for quarantine and isolation of sick animals





Prescription Drug Labels

- Name, address and phone number of prescribing veterinarian
- Owner's name
- Identification of animals treated
- Date prescription filled
- Name and active ingredient of medication
- Medication strength
 - (i.e. mg, units)
- Number of pills/amount of liquid/cream dispensed
- Dosage and duration
 - (How much, when, and for how long)
- Route of administration
 - (Oral/topical/injection)
- Number of refills
- Cautions
 - (e.g., give with food)
- Medication expiration date



Medications

- Extra label use of medications:
 - Use of medications in ways other than written on the original label is illegal, unless approved by a veterinarian
- Laws regulate how and when a drug may be used extra label
- Always discuss the use of any medications with your veterinarian to be sure you are using them properly and legally



Cleaning and Sanitization

- Physically remove (scoop or scrape) as much solid waste as possible
- Apply appropriate detergent
- Scrub
- Rinse well until all detergent gone
- Allow area to dry completely
- Apply appropriate disinfectant
- Rinse well until all disinfectant gone
- Dry surface well (squeegee)

Provisions for Veterinary Care

- All animals in your facility must receive daily care
- Make provisions for:
 - Emergency
 - Holiday
 - Weekend
 - After-hours veterinary care



APHIS Form 7002



APHIS Form 7002

- Must have a written Program of Veterinary Care
- Use of Form 7002 is not required
- Using Form 7002 has advantages:
 - Convenient
 - Standardized

APHIS Form 7002: Program of Veterinary Care

- Use of this form is not required
- All required information is included

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to USDA, OIRM, Clearance Officer, Room 404-W, Washington, DC 20250. When replying refer to the OMB Number and Form Number in your letter.

The Animal Welfare Regulations, Title 9, Subchapter A, Part II, Subpart C, Section 2.33 and Subpart D, Section 2.40 requires a Program of Veterinary Care.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
ANIMAL CARE
(Program of Veterinary Care for Research Facilities or Exhibitors/Dealers)

FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 0579-0036
OFFICE USE ONLY
DATE RECEIVED

SECTION I. A PROGRAM OF VETERINARY CARE (PVC) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN:

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4. MAILING ADDRESS		4. BUSINESS ADDRESS	
5. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE		5. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE	
6. TELEPHONE NO. (home)	TELEPHONE NO. (business)	6. TELEPHONE NO. (business)	

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C. SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE/REGISTRANT _____ DATE _____

D. SIGNATURE OF VETERINARIAN _____ DATE _____

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Section I

Name, address, phone number, license information of licensee and attending veterinarian

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Section I

Signatures: licensee and attending veterinarian

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_____ (minimum annual).

C. SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE/REGISTRANT

DATE

D. SIGNATURE OF VETERINARIAN

DATE

Vaccinations

- Consult a veterinarian to determine vaccines needed at facility
- If applicable, report in the veterinary records

B. VACCINATIONS – LIST THE DISEASES FOR WHICH VACCINATIONS ARE PERFORMED AND THE FREQUENCY OF VACCINATIONS
(Enter NA if not applicable)

--

Parasite Control Programs

- As recommended by veterinarian
- Ectoparasites (fleas, ticks, mites, lice, flies)
- Internal parasites (helminths, coccidia, other)
- Record name of products, dose and frequency, description of animals
- Consult a veterinarian for guidance

C. PARASITE CONTROL PROGRAM – DESCRIBE THE FREQUENCY OF SAMPLING OR TREATMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING:
1. ECTOPARASITES (Fleas, Ticks, Mites, Lice, Flies):
2. INTERNAL PARASITES (Helminths, Coccidia, Other):

Emergency Care

D. EMERGENCY CARE – DESCRIBE PROVISIONS FOR EMERGENCY, WEEKEND, AND HOLIDAY CARE:

- Names and contact phone numbers:
 - Persons to provide care to animals on weekends, holidays or during emergencies, include duties
 - Veterinarians (in addition to attending veterinarian) who should be contacted in an emergency

Euthanasia

- Part 1:
 - Check the box(es) to indicate who will perform euthanasia
- Part 2:
 - Describe:
 - Method of euthanasia
 - Name of drug used and dosage
 - How you will know that an animal is dead

E. EUTHANASIA	
1. SICK, DISEASED, INJURED, OR LAME ANIMALS SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH VETERINARY CARE OR EUTHANIZED, EUTHANASIA WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AVMA RECOMMENDATIONS AND WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE FOLLOWING:	
<input type="checkbox"/> VETERINARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> LICENSEE/REGISTRANT
2. METHOD(S) OF EUTHANASIA:	

Additional Program Topics

F. ADDITIONAL PROGRAM TOPICS – THE FOLLOWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PROGRAM OF VETERINARY CARE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasteurellosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Species Separation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pododermatitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Malocclusion/Overgrown Incisors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cannibalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control and Product Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet Tail | <input type="checkbox"/> Handling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ | |



Conclusion

You should now be able to:

1. Describe the role of the attending veterinarian in your business
2. Describe what type of written records need to be maintained and available for inspection
3. List the main components of a Program of Veterinary Care
4. Accurately maintain records that are included in APHIS Form 7002: Plan of Veterinary Care

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of several overlapping, curved, light blue shapes that create a sense of depth and movement.

Questions?

Acknowledgments

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Health, Iowa State University through a
cooperative agreement with USDA
APHIS Animal Care

