



## **SAVC DAY 1 SKILLS FOR THE VETERINARY NURSE**

This document is relevant to the following animal species: canine, feline, equine, bovine, ovine and exotics (avian).

### **A. Legal, professional, ethical and safety practice**

- Uphold correct conduct with regards to professional, legal and ethical responsibilities in relation to the profession and the Code of Conduct.
- Demonstrate knowledge of and comply with relevant legislation, including occupational health and safety legislation.
- Uphold professional confidentiality.
- Apply principles of bio-security to minimise the risk of contamination, cross infection and accumulation of pathogens at the veterinary premises and in the field. This includes the correct handling and disposal of biological/medical waste and contaminated materials in an appropriate manner and that appropriate protective clothing is worn.
- Inform clients about disease prevention and care of healthy animals and promote primary health care activities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of personnel vaccination requirements (e.g. rabies, tetanus).
- Demonstrate knowledge of zoonotic and notifiable diseases and hazardous behaviour by animals.
- Ensure that animals are correctly restrained, housed and handled to prevent injury to self, colleagues or animal owners.

### **B. General nursing care**

- Assist the veterinarian with the implementation of basic preventive and prophylactic programs to promote health, welfare, productivity and performance (immunisation, feeding, housing, management, training, parasite control, treatment)
- Manage the housing, hygiene, feeding and disease prevention of animals, in both a clinic and client-owned situation correctly.
- Obtain a basic history of the individual animal/group of animals including relevant aspects related to the immediate environment of the animal(s).
- Maintain general animal wellbeing. This includes oral and dental care and grooming procedures.
- Apply animal behaviour, ethology and animal handling principles.
- Apply the appropriate principles pertaining to reproduction and obstetrics. This includes that animals are supervised while giving birth and that newborn animals are cared for.
- Administer medicines to patients in the prescribed manner.
- Store, administer and dispense appropriate pharmacological agents including medicine and vaccines correctly and responsibly.

### **C. Sampling and diagnostic support**

- Ensure correct collection, preservation, identification, handling and dispatch of samples. This include techniques required for cytology, haematology and blood chemistry analysis, basic skin diagnostic procedures such as skin scrapings and hair plucks, urine, faecal and rumen fluid and post mortem sampling.
- Follow safety procedures for the collection and handling of samples.
- Ensure that any diagnostic equipment and instrumentation are used safely and maintained in accordance with current regulations, with appropriate quality control.
- Prepare patients correctly for diagnostic or diagnostic sampling procedures.
- Identify, record and report abnormal findings immediately.

### **D. Clinical procedures**

- Perform a basic clinical examination, observe and monitor patients and distinguish between normal and abnormal clinical parameters.
- Recognise and attend to animals in an emergency. This includes that “triage” is understood and applied, the clinical signs of common toxicities are recognized and the symptoms of shock, seizures and dyspnoea are recognised and treated.
- Assist the veterinarian in all therapeutic or other interventions.
- Apply catheter placement and care, including intra-venous, nasal, urinary and naso-oesophageal catheters, correctly.
- Administer intra-dermal, subcutaneous, intra-muscular and intra-venous injections for diagnosis and treatment correctly.
- Assist the veterinarian to assess pain, implement chemical methods of restraint, safely induce, maintain and monitor analgesia, sedation and general anaesthesia, and ensure safe and humane recovery from anaesthesia.
- Set up, administer and monitor fluid and blood infusions correctly.
- Assist the veterinarian with common surgical procedures using appropriate techniques and procedures before, during and after surgery, including correct application of the principles of sterilisation of surgical equipment and aseptic technique.
- Carry out minor surgical procedures, including lancing an abscess and suturing a superficial wound.
- Manage a wound correctly; including correct bandaging and wound drain management.
- Apply bandages correctly, including a modified Robert Jones bandage.
- Perform physical rehabilitation on animals at a level appropriate to veterinary nursing.
- Apply different types of diagnostic imaging modalities.
- Apply appropriate instrument and equipment care and safety precautions associated with radiation.
- Prepare and position patients correctly for diagnostic imaging modalities, including radiography and ultrasonography.

- Carry out euthanasia safely and humanely where required, with due consideration of the client's consent and the feelings of owners and others.

**E. Veterinary business management, information technology and communication principles**

- Keep medical, financial and inventory records, electronically or otherwise.
- Record scheduled drugs in accordance with legislation.
- Demonstrate human resource management and conflict resolution.
- Perform receptionist and administrative duties.
- Understand and use veterinary terminology correctly.
- Communicate effectively and professionally, both verbally and in writing, with clients, colleagues and responsible authorities. Listen to, understand and respond empathetically and use language in a manner appropriate to the audience and the context.

<p><b>LIST OF PRACTICAL PROCEDURES VETERINARY NURSES - 2019</b></p>
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*[NOTE: This is not a complete list of common procedures. It is a list of procedures designed to test the candidate's competence. Candidates must be able to complete / explain / demonstrate **any one or more** of the following procedures / actions.]*

**THEATRE PRACTICE**

**Small animals, production animals and horses unless specified**

- Apply a surgical head cover for staff
- Apply shoe covers
- Apply a face mask
- Aseptically gown
- Aseptically glove
- Surgical scrub
- Position small animals in dorsal recumbency
- Position small animals in sternal recumbency
- Position small animal in lateral recumbency
- Place a fenestrated drape
- Use four corner draping
- Drape a patient for ovariohysterectomy
- Drape a production animal for a rumenotomy
- Maintain a sterile surgical field
- Maintain an orderly trolley
- Open a wrapped sterile pack
- Open sterile aseptic packets
- Open sterile peel back packets
- Organise an instrument trolley

- Perform an instrument count
- Perform a swab count
- Pass instruments in the correct manner
- Swab an operation field
- Cut sutures during suturing process
- Apply surgical haemostasis
- Apply topical haemostatic agents
- Apply a tourniquet to control diffuse bleeding during surgery of extremities
- Dispose of surgical waste
- Prepare items for steam sterilisation
- Use, maintain and care for circulating water blankets and electric blankets
- Operate, maintain and care for suction apparatus
- Operate, maintain and care for Diathermy and/or Hyfreccators
- Identify surgical instruments and know their functions
- Care for and handle surgical instruments in a correct manner
- Store surgical instruments
- Inspect and test surgical instruments
- Thread suture material through a needle
- Identify needles according to shape, size, and type of point
- Care for surgical needles
- Identify suture material according to colour coding
- Identify size of suture material according to suture diameter
- Select appropriate size suture material for different tissue types
- Handle suture material correctly
- Place simple interrupted sutures with the correct knotting technique
- Remove skin sutures
- Identify the different suture patterns
- Place a ground plate for an electro-surgical unit
- Inspect all electrical equipment before use
- Select the disinfectant of choice for different types of materials

## **SURGICAL NURSING**

### **Small animals, production animals and horses unless specified**

- Wound lavage and management
- Physiotherapy
- Apply bandages
- Place an endotracheal tube (small animals)
- Pre-operative preparation of the surgical patient
- Position a patient correctly for surgery
- Post-operative patient care of all surgical patients
- Pre-operative nursing of fracture cases
- Post-operative nursing of fracture cases
- Perform 2% Fluorescein stain
- Perform Schirmer tear test

- Prepare a cytological sample of the eye
- Take conjunctival swabs
- Administer eye medication
- Prepare a patient for periodontal therapy (small animals)
- Perform a basic dental prophylaxis (scale and polish) (small animals)
- Perform a basic oral examination on a horse
- Develop a dental radiograph
- Position a patient correctly for the different radiographic views of the skull and mandible

## **MEDICAL NURSING**

### **Small animals, production animals and horses unless specified**

- Skin scrape
- Hair pluck
- Woods lamp examination
- Blood smear
- Faecal float
- Faecal analysis
- Wet prep
- Faecal smear
- Collection of faecal material
- Collection of urine free flow method (small animals)
- Urinalysis
- Cardiac auscultation - normal heart sounds
- Set up and monitor an ECG
- ECG trouble shoot
- Run six lead ECG tracing
- Place an over the needle (Jelco or Bardicath) catheter
- Pass a stomach tube (small animals)
- Place naso-oesophageal tube (small animals)
- Work out tube feeding regimens
- Set up and monitor i/v infusions
- Work out drip rates
- Spike a drip
- Work out revised drip rates when spiked
- Physiotherapy (coupage, passive muscle movement, hydrotherapy)
- Examine rumen motility (production animals)
- Rumen fluid examination (production animals)
- CMT (California mastitis test) (production animals)
- Set up and monitor i/v fluid administration
- Restrain patients

## **RADIOGRAPHY**

- Assist with small animal and equine radiography sessions

- Have knowledge of routine equine and small animal radiographic techniques
- Have knowledge of routine equine radiographic positioning
- Perform routine radiographic procedures on small animal cases
- Observe and assist in exotic pet radiography cases
- Prepare patient for contrast study procedure
- Clean radiographic screens
- Identify films permanently in the emulsion by means other than the actinic marker system
  
- Process a latent image into a permanent visible image
- Produce a full set of radiographs of good quality from a presented case
- Evaluate radiographic images by applying an effective critique method
- Give instructions on positioning and handling of cases
- Evaluate the quality of X-ray images

## **ANAESTHESIA**

### **Small animals**

- Care of anaesthetic machine
- Induction of anaesthesia
- Intubation
- Inhalation maintenance
- Monitoring of anaesthesia
- Local anaesthetic blocks
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Post anaesthetic care
- Pre-operative care
- Administer analgesia
- Anaesthetic records

## **REPRODUCTIVE NURSING**

### **Small animals, production animals and horses unless specified**

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- Place a progestagen sponge in an ewe
- Remove a progestagen sponge from an ewe
- Monitor female animals during parturition
- Care of neonates
- Feeding of neonates
- Collect and store colostrum
- Thaw frozen semen straws and load the AI pistolette
- Manage a nitrogen flask
- Sheath wash bull
- Prepare vaginal smears of a bitch

- Evaluate vaginal smears of a bitch
- Vaginoscopic monitoring of the oestrous cycle in a bitch
- Identify and use obstetric instruments
- Correct simple abnormal posture with dystocia ewe
- Correct simple abnormal posture with dystocia cow

## **GENERAL NURSING**

- Evaluate temperature (small animals, production animals and horses)
- Evaluate pulse (small animals, production animals and horses)
- Evaluate respiration (small animals, production animals and horses)
- Examine ocular mucous membranes small animals, production animals and horses)
- Examine nasal mucous membranes
- Pass a stomach tube small animals
- Blood collection cephalic vein small animals
- Blood collection jugular vein horse
- Blood collection middle coccygeal vein cattle
- Blood collection cephalic vein small stock
- Blood collection jugular vein small stock
- Administer an enema small animals
- Tablets and capsules per os small animals
- Fluids per os small animals
- Subcutaneous injection small animals
- Subcutaneous injection horses
- Intra-muscular injection small animals
- Intra-muscular injection production animals
- Intra-muscular injection horses
- Intra-venous injection small animals
- Intra-venous injection production animals
- Intra-venous injection horses
- Apply topical creams and ointments
- Apply eye and ear medication
- Administer oxygen
- Bandage trunk small animals
- Bandage inguinal region small animals
- Bandage pendulous ear small animals
- Bandage erect ear small animals
- Bandage foot small animals
- Bandage neck small animals
- Bandage short tail small animals
- Bandage long tail small animals

**[Council approved: 26 – 27 July 2016]**