SAVC DAY 1 SKILLS FOR THE VETERINARY NURSE

A. Legal, professional and ethical practice

- Uphold proper 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 practice and in the field. This includes the correct handling and disposal of biological/medical waste and contaminated materials in an appropriate manner and ensuring that appropriate protective clothing is worn when appropriate.
- Educate clients about disease prevention and care of healthy animals and promote primary health care activities.
- Promote Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC).
- Demonstrate knowledge of zoonotic and notifiable diseases and harmful behaviour by animals.
- Awareness of WHO requirements regarding the prevention of zoonotic diseases, i.e. managing the risk of zoonotic disease and other pathogens in practice.
- 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 programmes to promote health, welfare, productivity and performance for the patient.
- Manage the housing, hygiene, feeding and methodologies of disease prevention of animals, in a registered facility.
- Advise about the housing, hygiene, feeding and disease prevention of animals in the field.
- Obtain a basic history of the individual animal/group of animals including relevant aspects related to the husbandry of the animal(s).
- Maintain general animal wellbeing. This includes oral and dental care, their comfort and pain management, nutrition, as well as acceptable grooming procedures and techniques.
- Have knowledge and apply the principles of animal behaviour, ethology and animal handling.
- Have knowledge and apply the principles of reproduction and obstetrics, including supervision of animals giving birth and caring for newborns.
- Administer medicines to patients in the prescribed manner.
- Apply pharmacological principles and calculate dosages of medicines according to instructions.
- Store, administer and dispense appropriate pharmacological agents including medicines and vaccines according to relevant legislation.

C. Sampling and diagnostic support

- Ensure safe and correct preparation, collection, preservation, identification, handling, packaging and dispatch of samples.
• Ensure that any diagnostic equipment and instrumentation is used safely and maintained in accordance with current regulations, with appropriate quality control and calibration.
• Record and report findings.

D. Clinical procedures

• Perform a basic clinical examination, observe and monitor patients, distinguish between normal and abnormal clinical parameters and assess pain.
• Recognise and attend to animals in an emergency and apply the principles of “triage”.
• Assist the veterinarian in all therapeutic or other interventions.
• Placement, maintenance and removal of catheters.
• Administer intra-dermal, intra-peritoneal, subcutaneous, intra-muscular and intra-venous injections correctly.
• Implement chemical methods of restraint in accordance with the rules.
• Safely pre-medicate, induce, maintain and monitor analgesia, sedation and general anaesthesia.
• Facilitate safe recovery from anaesthesia.
• Set up, administer and monitor infusions.
• Collect blood and administer a blood transfusion.
• Assist the veterinarian or authorised person [a person authorised by Council in terms of section 23(1)(c)] with surgical procedures using appropriate techniques before, during and after surgery, including correct implementation of aseptic technique.
• Ensure appropriate cleaning, maintenance, sterilisation and storing of surgical equipment.
• Carry out minor surgical procedures in accordance with the rules.
• Perform dental prophylactic treatment and simple extractions.
• Wound management.
• Perform acute phase physical rehabilitation of in-hospital patients.
• Perform radiography and assist with other diagnostic imaging modalities.

• Implement appropriate instrument and equipment care and safety precautions associated with radiation.
• Perform euthanasia safely and humanely where required, ensuring that appropriate consent is recorded.

E. Veterinary business management, information technology and communication principles

• Maintain accurate and detailed medical, financial and inventory records, electronically or otherwise.
• Ensure recording of scheduled medicines in accordance with legislation.
• Practice relevant human resource management.
• Perform front desk, client liaison and administrative duties.
• Understand and use veterinary terminology correctly.
• Communicate effectively and professionally, both verbally and non-verbally, with clients, colleagues, and responsible authorities.
LIST OF PRACTICAL PROCEDURES
VETERINARY NURSES - 2021

[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

- Apply a surgical head cover for staff
- Apply shoe covers
- Apply a face mask
- Aseptically gown
- Aseptically glove
- Hand hygiene
- Position patients in dorsal recumbency
- Position patients in sternal recumbency
- Position patients in lateral recumbency
- Demonstrate appropriate draping techniques.
- Maintain a sterile surgical field
- Open a wrapped sterile pack
- Open sterile Aseptor packets
- Open sterile peel back packets
- Organise an instrument trolley
- Maintain an orderly 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 and monitor a tourniquet to control diffuse bleeding during surgery of extremities
• Dispose of surgical waste
• Prepare items for, and perform appropriate type of sterilisation
• Demonstrate the use, maintenance and care of equipment used to maintain body temperature
• Demonstrate the operation, maintenance and care for a suction apparatus
• Demonstrate the operation, maintenance and care for equipment for haemostasis
• 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 types of wound closure materials and its suitability for different applications
• Select appropriate size and type of wound closure material
• Handle wound closure material correctly
• Demonstrate the correct knotting technique to place simple interrupted and simple continuous sutures
• Remove skin sutures and staples
• Identify the different suture patterns
• Demonstrate inspection of all equipment before use

SURGICAL NURSING

• Wound lavage
• Maintenance of drains and dressings
• Apply bandages
• Pre-operative preparation of the surgical patient
• Prepare a patient for periodontal therapy
• Perform a basic dental prophylaxis (scale and polish)
• Perform a basic oral examination on a horse
• Perform a dental radiographic study

MEDICAL NURSING

Perform the following:
• Blood smear
• Perform 2% Fluorescein stain
• Perform Schirmer tear test
• Take conjunctival swabs
• Prepare a cytological sample of the eye
• Ear smear
• Hair pluck
• Skin scrape
• Woods lamp examination
• Faecal flotation
• Faecal smear
• Wet prep
• Collection of urine
• Urinalysis
• Demonstrate the use of a glucometer
• Cardiac auscultation - normal heart sounds
• Set up and monitor an ECG
• ECG trouble shoot
• Place an over the needle (Jelco or Bardicath) catheter
• Pass a stomach tube
• Place a naso-oesophageal or naso-gastric tube
• Set up and monitor infusions
• Demonstrate the collection of blood for transfusion
• Demonstrate principles of physical rehabilitation (coupage, passive range of motion and massage)
• Set up a nebuliser
• Examine rumen motility
• Rumen fluid examination
• CMT (California mastitis test)
• Demonstrate restraint of animals

**RADIOGRAPHY**

• Perform a routine radiographic procedure.

• Evaluate radiographic images by applying an effective critique method and make appropriate adjustments to improve image quality.

**ANAESTHESIA**

• Set up the appropriate anaesthetic machine
• Intubation and extubation
• Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
REPRODUCTIVE NURSING

- Goates and sheep: Remove a progestagen sponge
- Thaw frozen semen straws and load an AI pistolette
- Manage a nitrogen flask
- Sheath wash bull
- Prepare vaginal smears of a bitch
- Identify and demonstrate use of simple obstetric instruments
- Correct simple abnormal foetal posture in a ewe with dystocia
- Correct simple abnormal foetal posture in a cow with dystocia

GENERAL NURSING

- Evaluate body temperature
- Evaluate pulse
- Evaluate respiration
- Examine mucous membranes
- Venus blood collection, appropriate to the species
- Subcutaneous, intra-muscular and intravenous injections
- Apply topical creams and ointments
- Apply eye and ear medication
- Administer oxygen appropriate to the situation and species

[Council approved: 31 July 2019]
[VC/EDUC/DAY 1 SKILLS/version 3]
[VC/6/2/EXAMS/Doc H – VET NURSES: MAR 2021]