

**Veterinary Medical Board**  
**Minimum Standards of Practice**  
**Sections 2030-2032.5 of the California Code of Regulations**

**2030. Minimum Standards - Fixed Veterinary Premises**

All fixed premises where veterinary medicine and its various branches are being practiced, and all instruments, apparatus and apparel used in connection with those practices, shall be kept clean and sanitary at all times and shall conform to or possess the following minimum standards:

(a) Indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examining and surgical rooms shall be adequate for their intended purpose

(b) A reception room and office, or a combination of the two.

(c) An examination room separate from other areas of the facility and of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient and client.

(d) If animals are housed or retained for treatment, the following shall be provided:

(1) Compartments for animals which are maintained in a comfortable and sanitary manner.

(2) Effective separation of known or suspected contagious animals.

(3) If there are to be no personnel on the premises during any time an animal is left at the veterinary facility, prior written notice of this fact shall be given to the client. ~~For purposes of this paragraph,~~ Prior written notice may be ~~accomplished~~ accompanied by posting a sign ~~in a place and manner conspicuous to the clients at the entrance~~ of the premises, stating that there may be times when there are no personnel on the premises.

(e) When a veterinary premises is closed, a sign shall be posted at the entrance with a telephone number and location where ~~pre-arranged veterinary~~ after hours emergency care is available. An answering machine or service shall be used to notify the public when the veterinary premises will be re-opened and where ~~pre-arranged veterinary~~ after hours emergency care is available. ~~If no after hours emergency care is available, full disclosure shall be provided to the public prior to rendering services.~~

(f) The veterinary premises shall meet the following standards:

(1) Fire precautions shall meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes.

(2) The facility, its temperature, and ventilation shall be maintained so as to assure the comfort of all patients.

(3) The disposal of waste material shall comply with all applicable state, federal, and local laws and regulations.

(4) The veterinary premises shall have the capacity to render diagnostic radiological services, either on the premises or through other commercial facilities. Radiological procedures shall be conducted in accordance with Health and Safety Code standards.

(5) Clinical pathology and histopathology diagnostic laboratory services shall be available within the veterinary premises or through outside services.

(6) All drugs and biologicals shall be maintained, administered, dispensed and prescribed in compliance with state and federal laws.

(7) Sanitary methods for the disposal of deceased animals shall be provided and maintained.

(8) Veterinary medical equipment used to perform aseptic procedures shall be sterilized and maintained in a sterile condition.

(9) Current veterinary reference materials shall be readily available on the premises.

(10) Anesthetic equipment in accordance with the procedures performed shall be maintained in proper working condition and available at all times.

(11) The veterinary premises shall have equipment to deliver oxygen in emergency situations.

(12) Appropriate drugs and equipment shall be readily available to treat an animal emergency.

(g) A veterinary premises which provides aseptic surgical services shall comply with the following:

A room, separate and distinct from all other rooms shall be reserved for aseptic surgical procedures which require aseptic preparation. ~~Storage in the surgery room shall be limited to items and equipment normally related to surgery and surgical procedures.~~ A veterinarian may perform emergency aseptic surgical procedures in another room when the room designated for aseptic surgery is occupied or temporarily unavailable.

(1) Storage in the surgery room shall be limited to items and equipment normally related to aseptic surgery and surgical procedures. Equipment not normally related to surgery and surgical procedures includes, but

is not limited to equipment used for dental prophylaxis, autoclaves, non-surgical radiographic equipment, etc.

(2) Shelving in the surgical room shall not be open shelving.

(3) The surgery room shall not contain a sink.

(4) The doors into the surgery room must be able to be fully closed, fill the entire door space, be made of non-porous material and not provide access from outside the hospital.

~~——(A) A veterinary premises which is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate room reserved for aseptic surgical procedures because it was registered with the board prior to January 1, 1981, shall obtain compliance with this subdivision on or before January 1, 2004.~~

~~(B)~~ (A) The board may exempt a veterinary premises which is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate aseptic surgery room, where it determines that it would be a hardship for the veterinary premises to comply with the provisions of subsection (g)(1).

In determining whether a hardship exists, the board shall give due consideration to the following factors:

1. Zoning limitations.
2. Whether the premises constitutes a historical building.
3. Whether compliance with this requirement would compel the veterinary practice to relocate to a new location.

(2) The surgery room shall be well-lighted, shall have ~~an operational viewing box for reviewing equipment for viewing radiographs~~ and shall have effective emergency lighting with a viable power source.

(3) The floors, table tops, and counter tops of the surgery room shall be of a non-porous material suitable for regular disinfecting, and cleaning, and shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

(4) Surgical instruments and equipment shall be:

(A) Adequate for the type of surgical service provided.

(B) Sterilized by a method acceptable for the type of surgery for which they will be used.

(5) In any sterile procedure, a separate sterile pack shall be used for each animal.

(6) All instruments, packs and equipment that have been sterilized shall have an indicator that reacts to and verifies sterilization.

(7) The following attire shall be required for aseptic surgery:

(A) Each member of the surgical team shall put on an appropriate sanitary cap and sanitary mask which covers his or her hair and mouth, nose and any facial hair, except for eyebrows or eyelashes. All members of the surgical team who will be handling the instruments or touching the surgical site shall wear sterilized surgical gowns with long sleeves and sterilized gloves.

(B) Ancillary personnel in the surgery room shall wear clean clothing and footwear. Sanitary cap and mask shall be required of personnel in the ~~immediate proximity of the sterile field surgery room~~ during surgery.

(h) When performing clean surgery, the instruments used to perform such surgery shall have been sterilized and the surgeon(s) and ancillary personnel shall wear clean clothing and footwear when appropriate.

For purposes of this section, “clean surgery” shall mean the performance of a surgical operation for the treatment of a condition and under circumstances which, consistent with the standards of good veterinary medicine, do not warrant the use of aseptic surgical procedures.

(i) Each veterinary premise shall have a licensee manager present at least 50% of the time who is to act for and on behalf of the licensed premises. Licensee managers of veterinary premises shall be limited to managing no more than three (one, two or?) veterinary premises.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4854, 4883 Business and Professions Code.

### **2030.1. Small Animal Fixed Premises Minimum Standards.**

For purposes of these rules and regulations, a “small animal fixed premises” shall mean a fixed veterinary premises which concentrates in providing veterinary services to common domestic household pets.

In addition to the requirements in section 2030, small animal fixed premises shall provide:

(a) Where animals are kept on the veterinary premises for 24 hours or more, the animals shall be provided with an opportunity for proper exercise. Compliance with this section may be achieved by the use of exercise runs or by providing the animal with the opportunity for outdoor walks. Where a premises has exercise runs, they shall be clean and sanitary and provide for effective separation of animals and their waste products.

(b) When the client has not given the veterinarian authorization to dispose of his or her deceased animal, the veterinarian shall be required to retain the carcass in a freezer for at least 14 days prior to disposal.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4854, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4854 and 4883, Business and Professions Code.

### **2030.2. Small Animal Mobile Clinic.**

For purposes of these regulations, a “small animal mobile clinic” shall mean a trailer or mobile facility established to function as a veterinary premises which concentrates in providing veterinary services to common domestic household pets and is required by section 4853 of the code to be registered with the board.

(a) A small animal mobile clinic shall have:

- (1) Hot and cold water.
- (2) a 110-volt power source for diagnostic equipment.
- (3) A collection tank for disposal of waste material.
- (4) Lighting adequate for the procedures to be performed in the mobile clinic.
- (5) Table tops and counter tops, such as Formica or stainless steel, which can be cleaned and disinfected.
- (6) Floor coverings which can be cleaned and disinfected.
- (7) Compartments to transport or hold animals, if applicable.

(b) A small animal mobile clinic shall also have:

(1) indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examining and surgical rooms, which shall be adequate for its intended purpose.

(2) an examination room separate from other areas of the facility, which shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient and client.

(3) fire precautions that meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes,

(4) temperature and ventilation controls adequate to assure the comfort of all patients.

(5) a room, separate and distinct from other rooms, which shall be reserved for aseptic surgical procedures. Storage in the surgery room shall be limited to items and equipment normally related to surgery and surgical procedures. A veterinarian may perform emergency aseptic surgical procedures in another room when the room designated for aseptic surgery is occupied or temporarily unavailable. A small animal mobile clinic that is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate room reserved for aseptic surgical procedures, shall provide the board with the vehicle identification number of the mobile clinic and obtain compliance with this subdivision on or before January 1, 2004.

(c) A small animal mobile clinic shall have the ability and equipment to provide immediate emergency care at a level commensurate with the specific veterinary medical services it is providing.

(d) A small animal mobile clinic shall provide either after hours emergency services to its patients or, if no after hours emergency care is available, full disclosure to the public prior to rendering services.

(e) When the client has not given the veterinarian authorization to dispose of his or her deceased animal, the veterinarian shall be required to retain the carcass in a freezer for at least 14 days prior to disposal.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4804, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4853 and 4854, Business and Professions Code.

### **2032. Minimum Standards of Practice.**

The delivery of veterinary care shall be provided in a competent and humane manner. All aspects of veterinary medicine shall be performed in a manner consistent with current veterinary medical practice in this state.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4883, Business and Professions Code.

#### **2032.1. Veterinary Client-Patient Relationship.**

(a) Except where the patient is a wild animal or its owner is unknown, it shall constitute unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian to administer or prescribe a drug, medicine, appliance, or application or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture or bodily injury or disease of an animal without having first established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with the animal patient or patients and the client. It shall also

constitute unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian to prescribe, dispense, or furnish either a veterinary drug, as defined by Section 1747.1, Title 16, California Code of Regulations, or a dangerous drug, as defined by Section 4022 of the code, without having first established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with the animal patient or patients and the client.

(b) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall exist when all of the following occur:

(1) The veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, has discussed with the client a course of treatment and if applicable has instructed the client as to the appropriate directions for administering the drugs or treatments.

(2) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the care of the animal(s) by virtue of an hands-on examination of the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept, and

(c) A dangerous drug or a veterinary drug shall not be prescribed for a duration which is inconsistent with the animal patient's medical condition or type of drug prescribed which in no event shall exceed more than one year from the date that the veterinarian has examined the animal patient and prescribed such drug, unless the veterinarian has conducted a subsequent examination of the patient to determine the patient's continued need for the prescribed drug.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4883, Business and Professions Code.

### **2032.2. Written Prescriptions.**

(a) A written order, by a veterinarian, for dangerous drugs, as defined by Section 1747.1, Title 16, California Code of Regulations, shall include the following information:

(1) The name, signature, address and telephone number of the prescribing veterinarian.

(2) The veterinarian's license number and his or her federal registry number if a controlled substance is prescribed.

(3) The name and address of the client.

(4) The species and name, number or other identifying information for the animal.

(5) The name, strength, and quantity of the drug(s).

(6) Directions for use, including, if applicable, withdrawal time.

(7) Date of issue.

(8) The number of refills.

(b) All drugs dispensed shall be labeled with the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone number of the facility.

(2) Client's name.

(3) The species and name, number, or other identifying information for the animal.

(4) Date dispensed.

(5) Directions for use, including, if applicable, withdrawal time.

(6) The manufacturer's trade name of the drug or the generic names, strength (if more than one dosage form exists), and quantity of drug, and the expiration date when established by the manufacturer.

(7) Name of prescribing veterinarian.

(c) Pursuant to Business and Professions Code, Section 4170(a)(6-7), Board of Pharmacy, veterinarians must notify clients that they have a choice to obtain the medication or a written prescription and that they shall not be charged for the script.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4883, Business and Professions Code.

### **2032.3. Record Keeping; Records; Contents; Transfer.**

(a) Every veterinarian performing any act requiring a license pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 11, Division 2, of the code, upon any animal or group of animals shall prepare a legible, written or computer generated record concerning the animal or animals which shall contain the following information:

- (1) Name or initials of the veterinarian responsible for entries.
- (2) Name, address and phone number of the client.
- (3) Name or identity of the animal, herd or flock.
- (4) Except for herds or flocks, age, sex, breed, species, and color of the animal.
- (5) Dates (beginning and ending) of custody of the animal, if applicable.
- (6) A history or pertinent information as it pertains to each animal, herd, or flock's medical status.
- (7) Data, including that obtained by instrumentation, from the physical examination.
- (8) Treatment and intended treatment plan, including medications, dosages and frequency of use.
- (9) Records for surgical procedures shall include a description of the procedure, the name of the surgeon, the type of sedative/anesthetic agents used, their route of administration, and their strength if available in more than one strength.
- (10) Diagnosis or ~~tentative diagnosis~~ assessment at the beginning of custody of animal.
- (11) If relevant, a prognosis of the animal's condition.
- (12) All medications and treatments prescribed and dispensed, including strength, dosage, quantity, and frequency.
- (13) Daily progress, if relevant, and disposition of the case.

(b) Records shall be maintained for a minimum of 3 years after the animal's last visit. A summary of an animal's medical records shall be made available to the client within five (5) days or sooner, depending on the condition of the animal, upon his or her request. The summary shall include:

- (1) Name and address of client and animal.
- (2) Age, sex, breed, species, and color of the animal.
- (3) A history or pertinent information as it pertains to each animal's medical status.
- (4) Data, including that obtained by instrumentation, from the physical examination.
- (5) Treatment and intended treatment plan, including medications, their dosage and frequency of use.
- (6) All medications and treatments prescribed and dispensed, including strength, dosage, quantity, and frequency.
- (7) Daily progress, if relevant, and disposition of the case.

(c)(1) Radiographs are the property of the veterinary facility that originally ordered them to be prepared.

Radiographs shall be released to another veterinarian upon the request of another veterinarian who has the authorization of the client. Radiographs shall be returned to the veterinary facility which originally ordered them to be prepared within a reasonable time upon request. Radiographs originating at an emergency hospital shall become the property of the next attending veterinary facility upon receipt of said radiograph(s). Transfer of radiographs shall be documented in the medical record.

(2) All exposed radiographic films, except for intraoral radiographs, shall have a permanent identification legibly exposed in the ~~film emulsion~~, radiograph, which shall include the following:

- (A) The hospital or clinic name and/or the veterinarian's name,
- (B) Client identification,
- (C) Patient identification, and
- (D) The date the radiograph was taken.

(3) Intraoral radiographs shall be inserted into sleeve containers that contain all of the above information in subdivision (c)(2)(A-D).

(d) Laboratory data is the property of the veterinary facility which originally ordered it to be prepared, and a copy shall be released upon the request of the client.

(e) The client shall be provided with a legible copy of the medical record when the patient is released following emergency clinic service. The minimum information included in the medical record shall consist of the following:

- (1) Physical examination findings
- (2) Dosages and time of administration of medications
- (3) Copies of diagnostic data or procedures
- (4) All radiographs, for which the facility shall obtain a signed release when transferred
- (5) Surgical summary
- (6) Tentative diagnosis and prognosis, if known

(7) Any follow-up instructions.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4855 and 4856, Business and Professions Code.

#### **2032.4. Anesthesia.**

(a) General anesthesia is a condition caused by the administration of a drug or combination of drugs sufficient to produce a state of unconsciousness or dissociation and blocked response to a given pain or alarming stimulus.

(b) When administering general anesthesia, a veterinarian shall use appropriate and humane methods of anesthesia, analgesia and sedation to minimize pain and distress during any procedures and shall comply with the following standards:

(1) Within twelve (12) hours of surgery prior to the administration of an anesthetic, the animal patient shall be given a physical examination appropriate for the procedure to be conducted. The results of the physical examination shall be noted in the animal patient's medical records.

(2) An animal under general anesthesia shall be under observation for a length of time appropriate for its safe recovery appropriate to the species.

(3) Shall provide a method of continuous respiratory monitoring that may include observation of the animal's chest movements, observing the rebreathing bag, or respirometer.

(4) Shall provide A method of cardiac monitoring shall be provided and that may include the use of a stethoscope or electrocardiographic monitor.

(5) When administering general anesthesia in a hospital setting, a veterinarian shall have resuscitation bags of appropriate volumes for the animal patient and an assortment of endotracheal tubes readily available.

(6) Records for procedures involving general anesthesia shall include a description of the procedure, the name of the surgeon, the type of sedative/anesthetic agents used, their route of administration, and their strength if available in more than one strength.

(c) When administering general anesthesia, a veterinarian shall use appropriate and humane methods of anesthesia, analgesia and sedation to minimize pain and distress during and after any procedures.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4883, Business and Professions Code.

#### **2032.5. Emergency Hospitals.**

(a) Any veterinary premises that displays any sign, card, or device that indicates to the public that it is an emergency veterinary clinic or hospital shall comply with the following:

(1) Maintain a licensed veterinarian on the premises at all times during the posted hours of operation.

(2) Its advertisements shall clearly state:

(A) A licensed veterinarian is on the premises during the posted emergency hours.

(B) The hours the facility will provide emergency services.

(C) The address and telephone number of the premises.

(b) The phrase "veterinarian on call" shall mean that a veterinarian is not present at the hospital, but is able to respond within a reasonable time to requests for emergency veterinary services and has been designated by a daytime veterinary facility to do so after regular office hours. A veterinary premises which uses a veterinarian on call service shall not be considered to be or advertised as an emergency clinic or hospital.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4854, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4854 and 4883, Business and Professions Code.

#### **2037. Dental Operation, Defined**

The term "dental operation" as used in Business and Professions Code section 4826 means:

(1) the application or use of any instrument or device to any portion of the animals tooth, gum or any related tissue for the prevention, cure or relief of any wound, fracture, injury or disease of an animal's tooth, gum or related tissue; and

(2) (2) Preventive dental procedures including, but not limited to, the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque,

stains or the smoothing, filing or polishing of tooth surfaces.

- (3) (3) Nothing in this regulation shall prohibit, however, any person from utilizing cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes or similar items to clean an animal's teeth.