



Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners

Best Practices for Veterinarians During COVID-19, 11/12/20

This document is to serve as guidance for Alaska veterinary practitioners once Health Mandate 15 is rescinded. This guidance is not enforceable by law, but the Board of Veterinary Examiners (Board) encourages practitioners to make judgments based on the health and safety of their employees and community at large during this global health crisis.

The Board makes the following recommendations:

- Veterinarians and facilities should make every effort to minimize physical contact with clients (a minimum of a six-foot distance) by continuing curbside pickup of patients, utilizing telehealth, phone consultations, and physical barriers between staff and clients whenever possible.
- All veterinarians/ veterinary facilities should deploy universal masking procedures with a minimum of a cloth face covering worn at all times.
- All commonly touched surfaces should be sanitized regularly.
- Veterinarians or staff must not come to work when ill.
- Employers should consider conducting pre-shift screening and maintaining a staff screening log.
- Facilities should maintain a plan to prioritize types of surgeries / procedures necessary to meet emergent / urgent community needs in the event of a surge of COVID-19 cases resulting in increased demand on medical supplies (such as masks, gloves, etc.) thereby limiting supplies available for non-urgent surgeries / procedures.
- Facilities should maintain a plan to discontinue or limit operation in the event of known positive or exposure to known positive COVID-19 case, and plan to work cooperatively with the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS).
- Facilities should maintain adequate PPE supplies on hand, such as masks and gloves.
- Facilities should maintain easily accessible sources of alcohol-based hand sanitizer to encourage frequent use.
- All clients admitted to facilities should be screened for symptoms of COVID-19, recent travel, fever, or recent exposure to COVID-19, be required to wear a mask and encouraged to maintain 6-foot social distancing whenever possible.
- Follow State of Alaska COVID-19 testing guidance when applicable: <http://www.dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/testing.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact boardofveterinaryexaminers@alaska.gov.