
Overview

This standard is about administering emergency and critical nursing care to veterinary patients. It also covers administering emergency animal first aid, fluid therapy and monitoring the condition of a critical care veterinary patient at the required intervals.

This standard is suitable for registered veterinary nurse.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks to the health and safety of yourself and colleagues when administering emergency and critical nursing care to veterinary patients
2. select and implement the required veterinary practice infection control procedures for the area of the veterinary practice that you work in
3. carry out a full examination of the veterinary patient to make an assessment of its condition and confirm that the vital systems are functioning
4. administer emergency animal first aid where necessary
5. carry out resuscitation on the veterinary patient, to maintain life if required
6. prioritise emergency actions to stabilise the veterinary patient to prevent further physical and medical complications
7. obtain any necessary information on the veterinary patient where possible (e.g. relevant conditions or, recent history of veterinary care)
8. formulate a critical veterinary nursing care plan in consultation with the veterinary surgeon
9. administer critical nursing care to meet the needs of the veterinary patient, its condition and treatment requirements
10. determine the required fluid therapy, in accordance with the requirements of the critical care veterinary patient
11. calculate the fluid requirements for the critical care veterinary patient including the flow-rate
12. ensure the critical care veterinary patient is positioned and restrained using the required restraining methods and equipment
13. cannulate a vein on the veterinary patient, using aseptic techniques
14. administer the required fluid therapy according to the calculated fluid requirements of the critical care veterinary patient's condition
15. monitor the critical care veterinary patient during and after the administration of the fluid therapy
16. monitor and record the critical care veterinary patient's condition at required intervals following veterinary practice policy and alert the veterinary surgeon of any concerns
17. inform the client of the actions being taken as required
18. evaluate the emergency and critical nursing care provided and

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- review the critical veterinary nursing plan accordingly
19. dispose of surplus and waste materials in accordance with relevant legislation and veterinary practice procedures
 20. comply with the relevant animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
 21. carry out your work in accordance with the relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to assess the risks involved in the administration of emergency and critical care to veterinary patients
2. the medical principles and veterinary practice protocols that apply to animal first aid and critical care
3. the required veterinary practice infection control procedures when administering emergency and critical nursing care to veterinary patients
4. the clinical signs conditions in veterinary patients which required animal first aid
5. how to administer different types of first aid to veterinary patients
6. the threat to the veterinary patient's life posed by first aid situations
7. why it is important to confirm the condition of the veterinary patient and its requirements for treatment and critical nursing care with the veterinary surgeon
8. the types of emergency and critical nursing care required by veterinary patients and how to administer this
9. how to stabilise veterinary patients with different conditions and how to prioritise emergency and critical treatment
10. how to formulate a critical nursing care plan for a veterinary patient, in consultation with the veterinary surgeon
11. how to determine and calculate the required fluid therapy in accordance with the requirements of the veterinary patient and the instructions of the veterinary surgeon
12. how to position and restrain different species of veterinary patients for different types of critical nursing care
13. how to cannulate a vein in a veterinary patient, using aseptic techniques
14. how to administer the required fluid therapy according to the calculated fluid requirement for the veterinary patient's condition
15. why it is important to monitor and record the critical care veterinary patient's condition at required intervals and alert the veterinary surgeon of any concerns
16. why it is important to keep the client informed of the actions being taken where necessary
17. the indications that the emergency and critical nursing care treatment is working

18. how to assess the animal welfare needs of the veterinary patient and how they may be addressed or affected while in your care
19. the importance of including physical therapy within the veterinary patients critical care plan
20. how to dispose of surplus and waste materials in accordance with the relevant legislation and veterinary practice procedures
21. your professional responsibilities as a registered veterinary nurse
22. your responsibility under the relevant animal health and welfare legislation, environmental and health and safety legislations, codes of practice and business policies

Scope/range

- A. administer emergency and critical care veterinary nursing and treatments to the following veterinary patients:
1. cats, dogs and exotics OR
 2. equine
- B. administer the following critical veterinary nursing care:
1. hygiene
 2. assisted feeding and fluid therapy and use of special dietary regimes
 3. mobility
 4. care of pressure areas/physiotherapy
 5. bowel and urinary management (to include enemata and urinary catheterisation)
 6. administration of medication
 7. wound management
 8. contact and mental stimulation where appropriate
- C. administer the following types of fluids for therapy:
1. blood/ blood products
 2. colloids
 3. crystalloids
 4. electrolyte solutions for oral rehydration
- D. administer fluid therapy in the treatment of:
1. dehydration
 2. metabolic disturbance
 3. shock
 4. blood loss
- E. monitor the veterinary patient's:
1. vital signs
 2. body temperature
 3. circulation
 4. respiratory function

5. neurological function
6. nutritional status
7. fluid balance
8. faeces and urine output
9. behaviour
10. pain and distress

F. use the following equipment and materials when administering emergency and critical care:

1. medications
2. sterile supplies
3. consumables

G. demonstrate the following infection control procedures:

1. hand hygiene
2. handling and disposal of materials
3. isolation nursing

Glossary

Critical veterinary nursing care plan; providing emergency first aid, fluid therapy, monitoring veterinary patients with life threatening conditions, monitoring veterinary patients struggling to breath, monitoring heart rhythm, monitoring veterinary patients in shock.

Animal Welfare Needs:

- for a suitable environment (place to live)
- for a suitable diet.
- to exhibit normal behaviour patterns.
- to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (if applicable)
- to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

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Administer emergency and critical nursing care to veterinary patients



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