
Overview

This standard is about assisting the veterinary surgeon as a scrubbed nurse to perform surgical procedures on veterinary patients. It covers the roles of providing assistance while in theatre when scrubbed up and also the handling of equipment and materials in a sterile manner during surgical procedures.

This standard is suitable for registered veterinary nurses.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks to the health and safety to yourself and colleagues when acting as a scrubbed nurse during veterinary surgical procedures on veterinary patients
2. wear the required clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) when providing assistance as a scrubbed nurse during veterinary surgical procedures on veterinary patients
3. select and implement the required veterinary practice infection control procedures relevant to the area of the veterinary practice you are working in
4. use the required hand hygiene techniques when acting as a scrubbed nurse
5. follow the required techniques when scrubbing up, to meet the needs of the veterinary surgical procedure
6. follow the correct gloving techniques
7. keep veterinary surgical equipment and materials sterile for performing veterinary surgical procedures
8. count all surgical equipment and materials to track their use before, during and after veterinary surgery procedure
9. position surgical instruments in the correct orientation for immediate use by the veterinary surgeon
10. maintain the sterility of unused surgical equipment and materials during the veterinary surgical procedures
11. assist with veterinary surgical procedures promptly and correctly according to the requirements of the veterinary surgeon and the condition of the veterinary patient
12. handle the veterinary patient's anatomy according to the requirements of the veterinary surgeon
13. apply veterinary surgical materials at the required location according to veterinary practice protocols
14. attach veterinary surgical equipment to the veterinary patient at the correct location and with minimal effect on the veterinary patient's tissue
15. operate veterinary surgical equipment and apply it at the required time
16. remove and disconnect surgical equipment and materials not required for the recovery of the veterinary patient on completion of the veterinary surgical procedure
17. comply with relevant animal health and welfare legislation and

- codes of practice
18. carry out your work in accordance with the relevant environmental and health and safety legislations, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to assess the risks to the health and safety of yourself and colleagues when acting as a scrubbed nurse during veterinary surgical procedures on animals
2. the required clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) for working in a veterinary surgical theatre
3. the required veterinary practice infection control procedures and hand hygiene techniques relevant to the area of the veterinary practice you are working in
4. the different roles involved in providing assistance to veterinary surgeons during surgical procedures
5. the requirements of a scrubbed nurse when working in the veterinary surgical theatre
6. the reasons why you must be fully scrubbed up for certain procedures and the importance of following the required gloving technique
7. the requirements of veterinary surgeons during surgical procedures and how the veterinary patient's condition affects these
8. why it is important to identify and provide the required veterinary surgery equipment and to provide extra equipment when requested by the veterinary surgeon
9. why it is important to count the veterinary surgery equipment and materials before, during and after veterinary surgery
10. how to position different types of veterinary surgical instruments for ease of access and use
11. how to maintain the sterility of veterinary surgery equipment and materials and why this is important
12. the required handling techniques for different parts of a veterinary patient's anatomy during veterinary surgery
13. the required locations for the application of veterinary surgical materials
14. the medical principles of surgical site irrigation
15. the medical principles of topical applications of medication during veterinary surgery
16. how and where to connect different types of veterinary surgical equipment during surgical procedures
17. the principles of using suction equipment and when it may be

- required
18. how to remove veterinary patients from veterinary surgical equipment and the correct times for doing so
 19. your responsibilities for the health and welfare of animals under the relevant legislation and codes of practice
 20. your professional responsibilities as a registered veterinary nurse
 21. your responsibility under the relevant environmental and health and safety legislations, codes of practice and business policies

Scope/range

A. perform the following gloving techniques as a scrubbed nurse during a veterinary surgical procedure:

1. closed gloving
2. open gloving

B. assist a veterinary surgeon as a scrubbed nurse during the following veterinary surgical procedures:

1. elective
2. abdominal
3. head and neck
4. orthopaedics

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Assist the veterinary surgeon as a scrubbed nurse to perform surgical procedures on veterinary patients



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