
Overview

This standard covers preparing veterinary patients for veterinary surgical procedures. This will be for minor or major procedures, carrying out the correct positioning and use of aseptic skin preparation.

This standard is suitable for registered veterinary nurses.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks to the health and safety of yourself and colleagues when preparing veterinary patients for veterinary surgical procedures
2. wear the required clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) for the preparation of veterinary patients for veterinary surgical procedures
3. use the correct hand hygiene technique for the preparation being undertaken
4. select and implement the required veterinary practice infection control procedures relevant to the area of the veterinary practice you are working in
5. confirm the veterinary patient's condition and the veterinary surgical procedure being undertaken against available information
6. position and restrain the veterinary patient using the required restraining equipment and methods
7. prepare veterinary patients for veterinary surgical procedures
8. provide pre-med to the veterinary patient under the direction of the veterinary surgeon
9. identify surgical sites and ensure the pre-surgical skin preparation procedures are undertaken
10. use equipment to maintain the veterinary patient's body temperature and prevent clinical deterioration
11. check the environmental conditions to meet the needs of the veterinary patient
12. comply with relevant animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
13. 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 when preparing veterinary patients for veterinary surgical procedures
2. the importance selecting the required clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) in the surgical environment
3. the different hand hygiene techniques for the preparation being undertaken
4. the required veterinary practice infection control procedures relevant to the area of the veterinary practice you are working in
5. the type of information that could be used to identify the veterinary patient's condition and the surgical procedures that are undertaken
6. how to position and restrain different types of veterinary patient for different types of veterinary surgical procedure
7. the types of pre-surgical procedures that should be undertaken for different veterinary surgical procedures
8. how the veterinary patient's condition may affect the preparation and handling requirements for veterinary surgical procedures
9. the equipment and methods available to maintain the veterinary patient's body temperature and minimise clinical deterioration
10. the adjustments to environmental conditions that are needed for different types of veterinary patients
11. your responsibilities for the health and welfare of animals under relevant legislation and codes of practice
12. your responsibility under the relevant environmental and health and safety legislations, codes of practice and business policies

Scope/range

A. prepare the following **veterinary patients for veterinary surgical procedures**:

1. cats, dogs and exotics OR
2. horses

B. prepare veterinary patients for the following **veterinary surgical procedures**:

1. minor
2. major

C. carry out the following **pre-surgical procedures**:

1. correct positioning
2. correct use of aseptic skin preparation

D. adjust the following **environmental conditions** according to species requirements:

1. light
2. temperature
3. noise

E. apply **infection-control procedures** in relation to:

1. equipment
2. work surfaces
3. environment
4. contact with humans

Glossary

Preparation methods could include: bathing, grooming, clipping or shaving fur, administering enemas.

Types of pre-surgical procedures could include: elective, abdominal, head and neck, orthopaedic.

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