

# **Model Regulations: Standards of Practice and Facility**

*As recommended by the AAVSB Regulatory Policy Committee in  
September 2026*

# PAM Recommended Changes

## Section 104. Proposed New and Updated Definitions

**Antiseptic Surgery** means the techniques used to avoid bacterial contamination but the precautions are not as thorough and extensive as in Aseptic Surgery.

**Aseptic Surgery** means the techniques used to ensure everything that comes in contact with the surgical site is sterile throughout the procedure.

**Veterinarian Manager** is a Veterinarian who registers to assume responsibility for the Veterinary Facility registration, management, and operation of a Veterinary Facility and maintains a current, active and unrestricted license.

**Standard of Care:** The reasonable degree of skill, care, and diligence exercised by colleagues practicing under the same or similar circumstances.

**Standards of Practice:** Required methods, procedures, or criteria to be used or implemented by Veterinary Facilities and Licensees as determined by the Board.

### Commentary: Section 104. Proposed New and Updated Definitions

#### Section 104. Definitions.

The terms Standard of Care and Standards of Practice are often used interchangeably but mean different things. In this regulatory system, the Standard of Practice denotes a minimum requirement in order to comply with the law. The Standard of Care refers to a level or type of care that an individual of similar skill and expertise would provide in similar circumstances and may very well rise above the minimum Standard of Practice should the circumstances warrant. Standards of Practice are what is required at a minimum while the Standard of Care is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## Section 213. Powers and Responsibilities.

(a) Under active Jurisdiction oversight and supervision, the Board shall be responsible for the control and regulation of the practices of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology in this Jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the following:

- (11) The investigation of any Person, remote workplace used solely for Telemedicine, or Veterinary Facility, including Veterinary Facility inspection, during customary business hours for the purpose of determining if any provisions of the Act governing the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology are being violated. The Board, its officers, inspectors, employees, and representatives shall cooperate with all agencies charged with the enforcement of applicable laws relating to the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology.

### Commentary: Section 213. Powers and Responsibilities.

#### Section 213 (a) (11). Powers and Responsibilities.

The addition of “remote workplaces used solely for Telemedicine” allows the Board to inspect remote workplaces, to ensure adequate data security, recordkeeping, and adequate technology to provide services as required in Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities Model Regulation.

## Section 309. Registration of Veterinary Facilities.

Any building, place, or Mobile Unit from which the practice of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology is conducted must register, through the Veterinary Facility Registrant, with the Board.

~~(a)~~ To ~~register a facility to be a~~obtain a Veterinary Facility registration, a Veterinary Facility Registrant ~~the Applicant for registration~~ shall bear the burden of substantiating to the Board that the following criteria have been met:

- ~~(a)~~
- (1) Submission of a completed application in a form approved by the Board;
  - (2) Payment of applicable registration fees as determined by the Board; and

70 (3) ~~Notation of the type of business entity seeking the Veterinary Facility~~  
71 ~~Registration~~Identification of the designated Veterinary Manager whose  
72 responsibilities and qualifications are determined by the Board.;  
73

74 ~~(b) Identity of the governance structure of the entity seeking Veterinary Facility~~  
75 ~~Registration and its responsible party or Board of Directors;~~

76 ~~(c) Identities of Licensees employed by or affiliated with the Veterinary Facility; and~~

77 ~~(d) Identity of the designated Veterinary Manager who, at all times when acting as a~~  
78 ~~Veterinary Manager, must:~~

79 ~~(e) hold a license in good standing;~~

80 ~~(f) be responsible for the operation and management of the Veterinary Facility; and~~

81 ~~(g) notify the Board in writing immediately when no longer serving as the Veterinary~~  
82 ~~Manager~~

83 ~~(h)~~(b) Mobile Units that do not operate under the registration of a Veterinary Facility must  
84 independently register with the Board.

85  
86 ~~(i) be identified with the Veterinary Facility registration but are exempt from~~  
87 ~~independent registration with the Board. Mobile Units that do not operate under the~~  
88 ~~registration of a Veterinary Facility must independently register with the Board under~~  
89 ~~conditions set forth by the Board in rule. The Board may refuse to issue or renew, or~~  
90 ~~may suspend, revoke, censure, reprimand, restrict, or limit the registration of a~~  
91 ~~Veterinary Facility or the license of the Veterinary Manager, or assess fines or costs~~  
92 ~~against the same, upon the grounds as determined by the Board, and:~~

93 (c)

94  
95 (1) Any of the grounds set forth in Article IV, Section 401 of this Act;

96  
97 (2) Denying the Board or its agents access to a Veterinary Facility or otherwise  
98 impeding an inspection or investigation;

99  
100 (3) A Veterinary Facility Registrant is exercising control over, interfering with, or  
101 attempting to influence the professional judgement of a Licensee in any  
102 manner, including, but not limited to, through coercion, extortion, inducement,  
103 collusion, or intimidation;

104  
105 (4) Failure to pay prescribed fees or monetary penalties required by the Board; or

106  
107 (5) Failure to identify a Veterinary Manager in the application. A Veterinary Facility  
108 Registrant and its Veterinary Manager are responsible for the following:  
109



- 110 a. ~~Compliance with the Act and all rules promulgated by the Board;~~
- 111 b. ~~Prohibiting non-veterinary or unlicensed persons to control or intervene~~
- 112 ~~in the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology;~~
- 113 c. ~~Written notification to the Board within \_\_\_ days of:~~
- 114 i. ~~Change in the designation of Veterinarian Manager;~~
- 115 ii. ~~Permanent closing of the Veterinary Facility;~~
- 116 iii. ~~Change of ownership, management, name, or location of the Veterinary~~
- 117 ~~Facility;~~
- 118 iv. ~~Changes in the identities of Licensees employed by or affiliated with the~~
- 119 ~~Veterinary Facility; and~~
- 120 v. ~~Any knowledge of a Conviction of any Licensee employed by, operating~~
- 121 ~~within, affiliated with, or other person within the control group of a Veterinary~~
- 122 ~~Facility Registrant.~~

123 (d) The Board shall promulgate rules including, but not limited to, the following:

- 124 ~~(j)~~
- 125 (1) Identifying categories for types of Veterinary Facilities;
- 126
- 127 (2) Setting minimum standards for Veterinary Facilities;
- 128
- 129 (3) ~~Determining parameters of inspections; Identifying responsibilities and~~
- 130 ~~qualifications of a Veterinary Manager and Veterinary Facility Registrant;~~
- 131
- 132 (4) ~~Determining parameters on inspections;~~
- 133
- 134 (5) Preventing interference by non-veterinary ~~Licensee Veterinary Facility~~
- 135 ~~R~~registrants or unlicensed persons in the practice of Veterinary Medicine or
- 136 Veterinary Technology within the Veterinary Facility; and
- 137
- 138 ~~(6) Setting forth~~ Developing ~~h~~ an appeals process for denial of registration.
- 139 ~~The Board is authorized to enforce this Act by taking any action it deems~~
- 140 ~~appropriate against a Registrant or Veterinarian Manager, including ordering~~
- 141 ~~closure of the Veterinary Facility, on any of the following grounds:~~
- 142 ~~Any of the grounds set forth in Article IV, Section 401 of this Act;~~
- 143 ~~The Board or its agents are denied access to a Veterinary Facility in order to conduct an~~
- 144 ~~inspection or investigation, or;~~
- 145 ~~Registrants are exercising control over, interfering with, or attempting to influence the~~
- 146 ~~professional judgement of a Licensee in any manner, including through coercion, extortion,~~
- 147 ~~inducement, collusion, or intimidation; or~~
- 148 ~~The holder of a registration does not pay any and all prescribed fees or monetary penalties; or~~
- 149 ~~There is no Veterinarian Manager identified.~~





150 ~~An application for renewal shall be made every X years.~~  
151 ~~(6)~~

152

153 **Section 401. Grounds, Penalties, and Reinstatement.**

154

155 (a) The Board may refuse to issue or renew, or take any action deemed appropriate  
156 including suspend, revoke, reprimand, restrict or limit the license or registration of or  
157 assess costs or fine any Person or Veterinary Facility, whether or not licensed, pursuant  
158 to the Administrative Procedures Act or the procedures set forth in Section 402 herein  
159 below, upon one or more of the following grounds:

160

161 (15) Failing to conform to currently accepted ~~S~~standards of ~~practice~~Care;

162

163

164



# Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities

165

## Model Regulation.

166

167 Pursuant to the authority granted in Article III, Section 309 of the Veterinary Medicine and  
168 Veterinary Technology Practice Act Model (Act), the Board hereby promulgates the following:

169

### **Commentary: Introductory Comment to Model Regulation.**

170

#### **Introductory Comment.**

171

172 Some Boards may use these regulations for disciplinary cases, while other Boards may adopt  
173 them as recommendations only. They may be particularly useful as inspection guidelines for  
174 Jurisdictions that issue Veterinary Facility licenses or permits. They may also be useful for  
175 Jurisdictions that allow non-veterinary (corporate) ownership of practices by providing a  
176 means for disciplinary action to be taken against non-Licensees for facility rather than medical  
177 issues.

177

178 It is important to note that while veterinary Standard of Care may vary from region to region  
179 within a Jurisdiction, facility standards adopted as regulations apply to all Veterinary Facilities  
180 within the Jurisdiction. In addition to the Board's facility regulations, all Veterinary Facilities  
181 must adhere to all applicable laws (federal, provincial, state and local) that pertain to the  
182 Veterinary Facility and the practice of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology.

182

## Section 1. Veterinary Facility Registrant and Veterinary Manager Responsibilities

- (a) The Veterinary Facility Registrant and Veterinary Manager shall:
- (1) Comply with all federal, Jurisdictional, and local laws, the Act, and all rules promulgated by the Board, including but not limited to Section 2, Minimum Standards of Veterinary Facilities;
  - (2) Prohibit non-veterinary or unlicensed persons from controlling or intervening in the practice of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technology;
  - (3) Provide written notification to the Board within X days of:
    - (i) Change in the designation of Veterinary Manager;
    - (ii) Permanent closing of the Veterinary Facility;
    - (iii) Change of ownership, management, name, or location of the Veterinary Facility;
    - (iv) Any knowledge of a Conviction of any Licensee employed by, operating within, or affiliated with the Veterinary Facility.
- (b) The Veterinary Facility Registrant shall:
- (1) Substantiate to the Board that the following criteria are met when applying for a Veterinary Facility Registration:
    - (i) Identification of the type and governance structure of the business entity seeking the registration;
    - (ii) Identification of the business entity's responsible party or its Board of Directors; and
    - (iii) Identification and obtainment of the Veterinary Manager's acknowledgement of responsibilities.
  - (2) Renew the Veterinary Facility registration every X years in a form provided by and payment of fees set by the Board; and
  - (3) Inform the Board of any Mobile Units that operate under the registration of the Veterinary Facility.

- 222 (c) The Veterinary Manager shall maintain a current list of Licensees employed by,  
223 volunteering in, or otherwise affiliated with the Veterinary Facility  
224

**Commentary: Section 1. Veterinary Facility Registrant & Veterinary Manager Responsibilities.**

225 **Section 1(a)(3). Veterinary Facility Registrant Responsibilities.**

226 The AAVSB refrains from providing specific time frames, allowing each Board to determine the  
227 best time frame for their citizens. In this instance, a reasonable amount of time for  
228 consideration may be 14 days.

229 **Section 1(c). Veterinary Facility Registrant Responsibilities.**

230 The PAM allows for the practice of Veterinary Medicine only within a Veterinary Facility or by a  
231 Licensee employed by or affiliated with a Veterinary Facility. Because some Licensees may  
232 wish to practice solely by telehealth means, there is a lack of oversight of such practices. Such  
233 Licensees must maintain a relationship with a licensed Veterinary Facility and as required  
234 here, the Veterinary Manager is responsible for documenting those affiliations.

235

236 **Section 2. Minimum Standards of Veterinary Facilities**

- 237 (a) Stationary Veterinary Facilities.

238 The Veterinary Facility Registrant and Veterinary Manager shall ensure compliance with  
239 Jurisdictional and federal requirements and:

- 240 (1) Maintain the following requirements for the exterior grounds and building  
241 structures:
- 242
- 243 (i) Maintain accessibility to the Premises, parking areas, walkways,  
244 stairways, and ramps in a manner free of hazards;
- 245 (ii) Display exterior signage to identify the business. Signage must be  
246 accurate, visible, legible, and include the following:
- 247 (1) Identification as a Veterinary Facility;
- 248 (2) Hours of operation;
- 249 (3) Phone number; and
- 250 (4) Name and contact information for Emergency Care
- 251 (iii) Display interior signage conspicuously in public areas where veterinary  
252 services are being provided and include:
- 253 (1) Inspection certificate;
- 254 (2) All licenses and registrations issued by the Board to the Facility  
255 and its Staff; and

- 256 (3) Signage indicating the use of recording equipment within the
- 257 Facility, if applicable.
- 258 (iv) Maintain the Veterinary Facility to limit accidental Animal escape and
- 259 injury;
- 260 (v) Provide individual Patient enclosures that are:
- 261 (1) safe and structurally sound with secure latches or closing
- 262 devices;
- 263 (2) species-appropriate;
- 264 (3) of sufficient size and space to allow room for normal behavioral
- 265 and postural adjustments; and
- 266 (4) allow the Patient to remain clean and dry.
- 267 (vi) Provide reasonable measures to prevent theft and unlawful entry;
- 268 (vii) Provide hot and cold running water;
- 269 (viii) Maintain a written emergency evacuation plan for Animals that does not
- 270 supersede the safety of the Staff and public;
- 271 (ix) Provide air quality and ventilation measures to ensure sanitation,
- 272 health, safety, and comfort;
- 273 (x) Provide sufficient lighting for the safety of Staff and the intended use of
- 274 the area, including emergency lighting;
- 275 (xi) Maintain functional drains that can be sanitized and kept clear of
- 276 obstructions; and
- 277 (xii) Provide appropriate isolation areas designed to prevent transmission of
- 278 communicable diseases;
- 279
- 280 (2) Ensure a clean, safe, and sanitary environment with adequate biohazard waste
- 281 management and general waste disposal practices, including:
- 282
- 283 (i) Exterior waste storage and collection sites are maintained to prevent
- 284 Animal infestation and noxious odors;
- 285 (ii) Waste material is properly handled and lawfully disposed of;
- 286 (iii) Safe and hygienic procedures for disposal of contaminated materials
- 287 are outlined;
- 288 (iv) Personal protective equipment (PPE) aligns with best practices for
- 289 specific pathogens and relevant regulations; and
- 290 (v) Infectious waste is segregated from general waste and lawfully
- 291 disposed of.
- 292
- 293 (3) Ensure the following biosafety program and standards are implemented:
- 294
- 295 (i) Eyewash station and other appropriate decontamination methods;

- 296 (ii) A written biosafety program including but not limited to:
  - 297 (1) potential risks within the Veterinary Facility,
  - 298 (2) chemical and drug safe handling protocols,
  - 299 (3) Personal protective equipment requirements,
  - 300 (4) biosafety incident reporting and
  - 301 (5) emergency response procedures;
- 302 (iii) An ongoing training program for all Staff on biosafety program and
- 303 standards; and
- 304 (iv) Records of Staff training and biosafety program updates.
- 305
- 306 (4) Maintain adequate temperature, ventilation, security, and safety appropriate
- 307 for the materials stored, including food, biologics, chemicals, drugs, and
- 308 medications;
- 309
- 310 (i) When refrigeration is required, maintain the following:
  - 311 (1) An interior temperature between 36°F and 46°F / 2°C and 7°C;
  - 312 and
  - 313 (2) An interior thermometer or other means of monitoring
  - 314 temperature;
- 315 (ii) When room temperature is required, maintain a temperature between
- 316 59°F and 86°F / 15°C and 30°C;
- 317 (iii) When freezing is required, maintain an interior temperature below 32°F
- 318 / 0°C;
- 319 (iv) Store pharmaceutical, laboratory, or biological products in a separate,
- 320 dedicated refrigerated container;
- 321 (v) Store drugs and biologics in accordance with manufacturer’s
- 322 recommendations;
- 323 (vi) Store Controlled Substances in a secured and locked container at
- 324 temperatures in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations;
  - 325 (1) Refrigerated Controlled Substances shall be stored in a locked
  - 326 refrigerator or a locked container secured to the refrigerator; and
  - 327 (2) Maintain appropriate drug logs for all Controlled Substances;
- 328 (vii) Store food intended for human consumption separately from Animal
- 329 food and other veterinary supplies; and
- 330 (viii) Identify and maintain a method of refrigeration or freezing for the sole
- 331 purpose of storing Animal remains or tissues until proper disposal;
- 332
- 333 (5) Maintain the following standards for examination areas:
- 334

- 335 (i) The examination areas shall be clean and readily accessible to the
- 336 Client, Patient, and Staff;
- 337 (ii) Examination areas shall be of sufficient size to safely and comfortably
- 338 accommodate the Veterinarian, necessary Staff, Patient, and Client;
- 339 (iii) Examination areas shall be designed to prevent Animal escape;
- 340 (iv) A sink with hot and cold running water, soap, and single-use towels shall
- 341 be readily available to the examination area;
- 342 (v) The examination area shall permit effective disinfection between
- 343 Patient visits;
- 344 (vi) Examination tables should be sturdy, of sufficient size to accommodate
- 345 Patients, and constructed of impervious material to facilitate
- 346 disinfection;
- 347 (vii) Examination areas shall be properly equipped for the procedures being
- 348 performed; and
- 349 (viii) Lighting in the examination area shall be sufficient for procedures being
- 350 performed.
- 351
- 352 (6) Maintain the following for laboratory services:
- 353
- 354 (i) Provide laboratory services of diagnostic quality, commensurate with
- 355 the services provided, either onsite or through a reference laboratory;
- 356 and
- 357 (ii) Maintain the following standards for onsite laboratories:
- 358 (1) The laboratory working area shall have an impervious surface
- 359 capable of disinfection, adequate lighting and ventilation, and
- 360 any other safety devices required by law or reasonably necessary
- 361 for the safe handling of infectious or toxic samples and drugs;
- 362 (2) The laboratory must have:
- 363 (a) Appropriate personal protective equipment;
- 364 (b) Means of safe waste disposal;
- 365 (c) Equipment sufficient to properly process biological
- 366 samples for submission to a veterinary reference
- 367 laboratory; and
- 368 (3) Testing equipment shall be maintained and periodically
- 369 calibrated for accuracy according to the manufacturer's
- 370 instructions.
- 371
- 372 (7) If radiographic imaging is available onsite, provide:
- 373
- 374 (i) appropriate and operational personal protective equipment; and

- 375 (ii) monitoring devices.  
376  
377 (8) Maintain all instruments and equipment used in connection with the Practice  
378 of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology in a clean and sanitary  
379 condition;  
380  
381 (9) If surgical procedures are performed, provide:  
382  
383 (i) A dedicated surgical suite with walls and closing doors made of material  
384 that can be sanitized, and which only contains items used for surgery;  
385 (ii) An impervious Surgery table or surface;  
386 (iii) Concentrated light source and emergency lighting;  
387 (iv) Medical grade oxygen supply;  
388 (v) Waste disposal container which is easily disinfected;  
389 (vi) Emergency drugs and equipment readily accessible to the surgical suite;  
390 (vii) Sterile suture, instruments, gowns, gloves, caps, towels, and drapes;  
391 and  
392 (viii) Appropriate method of sterilization and sterilization indicators; and  
393  
394 (10) When inhalant anesthesia is used, provide:  
395  
396 (i) Inhalant anesthesia machines maintained according to manufacturer  
397 specifications; and  
398 (ii) Scavenging systems used for anesthetic waste gases.  
399  
400 (b) Mobile Units  
401  
402 The Veterinary Facility Registrant and Veterinary Manager shall ensure compliance with  
403 Jurisdictional and federal requirements, and that:  
404  
405 (1) The Mobile Unit meets all requirements of a stationary Veterinary Facility  
406 appropriate for the services provided; and  
407  
408 (2) All licenses and registrations are carried in the vehicles.  
409  
410 (c) Remote workplaces used solely for Telemedicine may be inspected by the Board and  
411 shall comply with Jurisdictional and federal requirements and the following:  
412  
413 (1) The Licensee must demonstrate proof of employment by or affiliation with a  
414 Veterinary Facility;

- 415  
416 (2) Maintenance of adequate technology to provide services offered; and  
417  
418 (3) Adequate security measures to protect Medical Records against theft or third-  
419 party disclosure.  
420  
421

## Commentary: Section 2. Minimum Standards of Veterinary Facilities.

### Section 2. Minimum Standards of Veterinary Facilities.

422 The onus is on the Veterinary Manager to research and ensure compliance with appropriate  
423 federal and Jurisdictional laws that apply to Veterinary Facility licenses such as the U.S.  
424 American with Disabilities Act or the Accessible Canada Act.  
425

### Section 2(a). Minimum Standards of Veterinary Facilities.

426 Boards may wish to deem the use of misleading signage to suggest a specialty when one does  
427 not exist as unprofessional conduct. The AAVSB suggests that if a Veterinary Facility focuses on  
428 one or more medical specialties, but does not employ a Veterinarian who is board-certified  
429 according to the American Board of Veterinary Specialties, this Veterinary Facility may post  
430 signage stating, "practice limited to \_\_\_\_."  
431

432 Boards may wish to recommend that having emergency and after-hours care information on  
433 the Veterinary Facility website / answering machine in addition to signage at the Veterinary  
434 Facility.

435 Boards may wish to consider whether to include Animals in their disaster and emergency  
436 evacuation plans. There may be Declared Emergencies that may allow several hours to  
437 evacuate, such as for an approaching hurricane, versus an immediate emergency where time  
438 may be very limited to quickly and safely evacuate the Veterinary Facility. In the case of the  
439 latter, human health and safety should not be compromised to adhere to regulations  
440 pertaining to Animal evacuation. It is recommended that emergency plans be developed in  
441 consultation with local emergency management agencies. All evacuation plans must be in  
442 compliance with Jurisdictional laws governing these situations.

443 The United States and Canada differ in their controlled substance scheduling. In Canada,  
444 Schedule I and IV must be locked; in the United States, schedule II-V drugs must be locked.

445 Boards may wish to consider additional requirements such as: "Written policies and  
446 procedures for the safe handling of all biological samples, processing materials, and  
447 equipment, and for accurate testing protocols" and "Written log of all biologic samples  
448 collected with the date of collection and the date and type of testing performed whether in the  
449 clinic or at the veterinary reference laboratory. "  
450



451 **Section 2(b). Minimum Standards of Veterinary Facilities.**  
452 The breadth of difference among Mobile Units makes providing specific recommendations for  
453 each form of Mobile Unit or vehicle difficult (e.g. vehicle used for house calls vs mobile surgical  
454 unit). AAVSB recommends that Boards assess each Mobile Unit according to the services  
455 provided from that unit.  
456



# Minimum Standards for Veterinary Practice

## Model Regulation.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Section 213 of the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology Practice Act Model (Act), the Board hereby promulgates the following:

(a) The minimum Standards of Practice for Surgery shall be:

(1) All Patients shall be properly prepared for Surgery as follows:

- (i) the surgical area shall be clipped and shaved, which, in the case of Aseptic Surgery, must be performed outside of the Surgery room;
- (ii) loose hair, debris, and dirt shall be removed from the surgical area and surgical site;
- (iii) the surgical area shall be disinfected; and
- (iv) the surgical area shall be draped
- (v) All Surgeries shall be performed in a manner compatible with current Standards of Care with regard to pre-operative evaluation, anesthesia, asepsis or antisepsis, life support and monitoring, analgesia, and recovery care.

(2) For Antiseptic Surgery:

- (i) Uncomplicated minor surgical procedures shall be performed at a minimum of clean, antiseptic conditions;
- (ii) Chemical disinfection ("cold sterilization") shall only be used for field conditions or minor surgical procedures; and
- (iii) All Licensees performing Antiseptic Surgery must wear clean attire, masks, and sterile gloves.

(3) For Aseptic Surgery:

- (i) Procedures shall be performed in a room designated and reserved for Surgery;
- (ii) All surgical instruments shall be properly maintained and sterilized by a steam pressure sterilizer (autoclave) or a gas sterilizer;

- 493 (iii) Surgery packs shall contain a sterilization indicator, must include the
- 494 date of sterilization and be stored in a clean, dry location;
- 495 (iv) Equipment shall have been sterilized within X days of use;
- 496 (v) A separate sterile surgical pack shall be used for each animal;
- 497 (vi) Surgeons and surgical assistants shall use aseptic technique
- 498 throughout the entire surgical procedure;
- 499 (vii) Sterile draping and operative techniques shall be used; and
- 500 (viii) All Staff present during a surgical procedure must wear attire necessary
- 501 to maintain the sterility of the surgical field.

502

503 (b) The minimum Standards of Practice for Anesthesia shall be:

504

505 (1) Anesthetic equipment used is appropriate for the Patient and the type of

506 Surgery being performed;

507

508 (2) Emergency drugs are readily available to the Surgery area;

509

510 (3) A comprehensive physical examination and risk assessment of the Patient is

511 performed prior to the induction of anesthesia;

512

513 (4) Oxygen is administered when appropriate;

514

515 (5) Equipment for adequate ventilation is used;

516

517 (6) The Patient is monitored after receiving preoperative medication and through

518 to recovery. Monitoring shall include:

519

520 (i) body temperature;

521 (ii) heart rate;

522 (iii) respiration rate;

523 (iv) oxygenation; and

524 (v) depth of anesthesia or level of recovery; and

525

526 (7) Appropriate analgesia is provided for all surgical procedures and post-

527 operative periods.

528

529 (c) The minimum Standards of Practice for dental procedures shall be:

530

531 (1) Appropriate sedation or anesthesia, and peri-operative analgesia is provided;

532

- 533 (2) Anesthetized or sedated Patients while undergoing a dental procedure are  
534 monitored as set forth in (b);  
535
- 536 (3) Instruments are properly maintained, cleaned, and disinfected for each  
537 patient; and  
538
- 539 (4) Gloves, masks and safety glasses are worn during procedures.  
540
- 541 (d) Tests performed or prepared for shipment to an outside laboratory shall be conducted  
542 using currently accepted standards.  
543
- 544 (e) The minimum Standards of Practice for drug handling shall be:  
545
  - 546 (1) All drugs are stored, maintained, administered, dispensed, and prescribed in  
547 compliance with drug manufacturer requirements; and  
548
  - 549 (2) Drugs dispensed by a Veterinarian are labeled in compliance with the  
550 requirements set forth in Medical Recordkeeping Regulations Section 3.  
551
- 552 (f) The minimum Standards of Practice for client communications and Licensee  
553 professional responsibility shall be:  
554
  - 555 (1) Licensees shall be influenced only by the welfare of the Patient, the needs of  
556 the Client, the safety of the public, and the need to uphold the public trust  
557 vested in the veterinary profession;  
558
  - 559 (2) Veterinarians shall obtain Informed Consent prior to initiating treatment;  
560
  - 561 (3) If a Veterinarian does not have the expertise, or if the Veterinary Facility does  
562 not have the necessary Staff or equipment to adequately diagnose or treat a  
563 Patient, the Veterinarian shall provide a referral to another Veterinary Facility;  
564 if the Client declines a referral, it shall be noted in the Medical Records;  
565
  - 566 (4) Veterinarians shall review the prior medical history of the Patient, including  
567 verbal history and Medical Records of previous veterinarians;  
568
  - 569 (5) A Veterinarian shall only issue a certificate or statement of animal health after  
570 examination, appropriate testing, or confirmation of adequate knowledge of  
571 the Animal or group of Animal(s);  
572

- 573 (6) According to the presenting complaint, Patient signalment, and Veterinarian’s  
574 professional judgement, an appropriate physical examination shall be  
575 performed; and  
576
- 577 (7) When appropriate or upon a Client’s request, for a comprehensive physical  
578 exam, the following conditions shall be evaluated and findings documented  
579 when applicable by species, even if such condition is normal:  
580
- 581 (i) Temperature, pulse rate, respiration rate;
  - 582 (ii) Current weight or weight estimate for large animals;
  - 583 (iii) Body condition score;
  - 584 (iv) Eyes, ears, nose and throat;
  - 585 (v) Oral cavity;
  - 586 (vi) Cardiovascular system;
  - 587 (vii) Respiratory system;
  - 588 (viii) Gastrointestinal system and abdominal palpation or auscultation;
  - 589 (ix) Lymph nodes;
  - 590 (x) Musculoskeletal system;
  - 591 (xi) Nervous system;
  - 592 (xii) Genito/urinary system;
  - 593 (xiii) Integumentary system; and
  - 594 (xiv) Pain score;
- 595
- 596 (g) Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emerging Technology (ET)  
597
- 598 (1) The Licensee is responsible for all decisions related to the use of AI and ET;  
599
  - 600 (2) For all uses, a Licensee shall:  
601
    - 602 (i) ensure that the use of AI or ET shall not be used as a substitute for, but  
603 only as an augmentation to the Licensee’s own knowledge,  
604 observations, and assessment of a Patient;
    - 605 (ii) obtain Informed Consent, appropriate to the level of risk of the AI or ET;
    - 606 (iii) ensure compliance with Jurisdictional data security and confidentiality  
607 laws; and
    - 608 (iv) document when AI or ET was used as part of Patient care, diagnostics,  
609 and the preparation of the Medical Record;
  - 610
  - 611 (3) When using AI or ET as a diagnostic tool, a Licensee shall weigh the AI and ET  
612 output against the following:

- 613
- 614 (i) the Licensee’s own assessment of the Patient’s condition;
- 615 (ii) known accuracy, risks, and limitations of the tool;
- 616 (iii) level of human involvement; and
- 617 (iv) device training and validation practices.
- 618

### Commentary: Minimum Standards of Practice.

#### 619 **Minimum Standards of Practice (a)(iii).**

620 Although the AAVSB opted not to explicitly provide a length of time for this requirement, it  
621 recommends no more than 90 days. Boards should also note that the acceptable range may be  
622 different for steam sterilization versus gas sterilization. Current scientific evidence should be  
623 consulted prior to adopting this regulation in practice.

#### 624 **Minimum Standards of Practice (b)(iii).**

625 Boards may wish to specify that a physical examination shall be performed on the Patient  
626 within 12 hours of anesthesia.

#### 627 **Minimum Standards of Practice(c).**

628 AAVSB considers all dental procedures, with the exception of common grooming techniques,  
629 to be the practice of veterinary medicine, recognizing that some Boards do not.

#### 630 **Minimum Standards of Practice(g).**

631 The Act provides following definition of Informed Consent:

632 **Informed Consent** means the Veterinarian has informed the Client or the Client’s  
633 authorized representative, in a manner understood by the Client or representative, of  
634 the diagnostics and treatment options, risk assessment, and prognosis, and the Client  
635 has consented to the recommended treatment.

636 This applies to the use of AI and ET no less than with any other treatment or diagnostic option.  
637 While it is difficult for regulations to keep pace with the rapid evolution of emergency  
638 technologies, the foundational requirements are the same. To obtain Informed Consent prior  
639 to the use of AI or any other emerging technology, the AAVSB believes that the Licensee should  
640 be able to explain risks and advantages of both using it and not using it. Furthermore, the  
641 Licensee should have a foundational understanding of how the technology arrived at the  
642 result, how the technology was trained and on what data, and should be able to interpret and  
643 understand how accurate the output may be. Finally, in the course of obtaining Informed  
644 Consent, the Licensee should always offer an option without the use of AI or other ET’s. More  
645 information can be found in the AAVSB’s paper: **Regulatory Considerations of the Use of**  
646 **Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine.**