

COVID-19 VETERINARY CHAMPIONS

We know how essential veterinary professionals are to the well being of our pets and livestock. The services that the veterinary profession provides during this public health crisis is of the utmost importance to keep our family members and food supply safe and healthy.

Due to the nature of the COVID-19 virus and the importance of practicing social distancing, it has changed how we need to practice and deliver veterinary medicine in order to keep our teams and clients safe.

Below are some tips and suggestions from ABVTA members on how their practices have followed the current public health orders while continuing to help animals and maintain the health of their teams

1 LOCKED DOOR POLICY

Front door of the practice is locked, only allowing a limited amount of staff and pets within the confines of the practice, with the exception of euthanasias

2 CURB SIDE DROP-OFF

Pet-food and medications are placed outside the practice for owners to pickup to maintain social distancing. Team members to bring pets inside the hospital

3 TELEMEDICINE

RVTs and Veterinarians taking a thorough history over the phone before the pet enters the practice. Recheck appointments being scheduled through video-messaging apps or video-conference software (Zoom/Skype)

4 COVID RISK ASSESSMENT

Prior to visiting practice, ask all clients a series of questions to gauge COVID risk, again prior to retrieving animal from vehicle for assessment. The assessment will determine the level of PPE required for interaction with the pet

5 ENHANCED DISINFECTION

Routine and timed disinfection of hard and common surfaces throughout the day. No leashes, collars or personal blankets allowed in the practice. Use clinic owned slip leads which can be washed regularly. Wipe down carriers prior to coming into the practice. Disinfect payment terminals after each use

6 THE TEAM APPROACH

Consider implementing teams (A/B) within your practice. The same people will remain on the same team and will continue to work together. Teams will work staggered shifts or opposite days - the less overlap the better. If one team is exposed, it leaves the other team available to continue on with the practice

7 PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Ensure staff are wearing proper PPE during interactions with clients. Ensure physical distancing between staff by limiting staff in the practice at one time

8 ESSENTIAL VS. ELECTIVE

Animal welfare is imperative to veterinary professionals. Continue to offer essential procedures which are necessary to alleviate pain and suffering of patients or matters pertaining to public health. Consider supply availability, PPE requirements and the ability to practice safe physical distancing when determining if a procedure is elective or essential

