



Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices

For Small Animal Veterinary Clinics

Dear veterinary staff member,

We are conducting a brief online survey to understand your current infection control practices and your motivation for seeking out these guidelines. Participation in the survey is strictly voluntary. You may exit the survey at any time, and you may skip any questions you wish. All responses are anonymous

This survey should only take approximately 2-3 minutes to complete. We would greatly appreciate your feedback.

Click this link to start the survey:

https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6DbIPOk3dZnLbQ9

Surgical Safety Checklist

To be read aloud with the veterinarian and technician present at each stage.

1 Before induction of anesthesia

Patient Check

Patient information confirmed

- Identity _____
- Site and procedure _____
- Owner consent

Required clinical information

- Bloodwork YES N/A
- Imaging YES N/A
- Other YES N/A

Any known allergies YES NO

Required medications

- Analgesia
- Antibiotics YES N/A
- Other YES N/A

IV access and fluids ready YES N/A

Difficult airway / aspiration risk

- Yes, and assistance/equipment available
- No

Anticipated blood loss >5%

- Yes, and type-specific blood products available
- No

Patient ASA grade (circle): 1 2 3 4 5

Equipment Check

- Anesthesia equip. safety check completed
- Required monitoring equipment available
 - e.g. pulse ox, ECG, blood pressure, temperature
- Required special instruments/implants available YES N/A
- Intra-op imaging required/equipment available YES N/A
- Intra-op sampling required/equipment available YES N/A
- Suction working YES N/A

2 Before skin incision

- Expected length of surgery: _____
- Review critical / non-routine steps expected
- Sterility of surgical packs / kits confirmed
- Swab / sharps count complete
- If significant blood loss is expected, blood products available YES N/A
- Essential imaging displayed YES N/A
- Specific patient needs
 - Eye lube YES N/A
 - Empty bladder YES NO
 - Warming equipment YES N/A
 - Antibiotics with 1 hour of incision... YES N/A
 - Anticipated timing of additional antibiotic dose if required: _____
- “Does anyone have any other questions or concerns before proceeding?”

3 Before patient leaves operating room

- Swab / sharps / instrument count complete
- Specimen labeling complete (read labels aloud) YES N/A
- Any equipment problems to be addressed YES NO
- Review key concerns for recovery
 - e.g. oxygen, pain management, glucose / temperature, circulatory support
- Person to contact owner identified

Based on:

<https://lafeber.com/vet/wp-content/uploads/Vets-Now-Surgical-Safety-Checklist.pdf>

<https://www.who.int/patientsafety/safesurgery/checklist/en/>

Visit <https://oahn.ca/resources/ipc-best-practices> for the complete guidelines.