

# 14. SURGERY

**Objective:** Safety of patients and workers requires that surgery take place in a manner that is aseptic and reduces the risk of nosocomial infections in patients.

Major surgical procedures performed on companion animals may only be performed in a surgical suite in a hospital. An exception is a practice that is accredited to perform certain major surgical procedures (e.g., spays and neuters) on companion animals through a Surgical Mobile for Companion Animals. See C. Surgical Mobile for Companion Animals.

Certain major surgical procedures on large animals are performed at the location where the animal is kept. It is also recognized that certain major surgical procedures on large animals performed in a hospital may not always be performed in a surgical suite (e.g., bovine caesarian section or equine castration). B. Mobile for Large Animal Ambulatory Surgery applies.

It is recognized that barriers to access to veterinary care exist, including remote locations in the province and animal owners with low-income. Access to veterinary care in these circumstances is in the interest of animal welfare and public health.

A Surgical Mobile for Companion Animals has a base unit, a mobile unit, and a remote unit. The remote unit is a stationary element that is used for performing certain major surgical procedures with anesthesia (spay, neuter) on multiple companion animals in the same space and it can change locations to provide services in different communities in the province.

This ASPS recognizes the practical challenges for veterinarians carrying out aseptic surgical procedures (e.g., spay, neuter) for companion animals outside of the traditional in-facility surgical suite. Necessary steps must be taken to reduce the risk of infections. As appropriate and practical for the specific surgical procedure and conditions, the highest level of aseptic technique possible is performed for all surgical procedures.

## C. SURGICAL MOBILE FOR COMPANION ANIMALS Requirements

	YES	NO	N/A
1. If performing surgery on multiple animals in the same place, the member shall undertake to ensure that there are proper accommodations, such as adequate lighting, ventilation, heating/cooling, cleanliness and animal housing. Any building that is used for this purpose is accessible and the appropriate size for the number of animals and type of procedures performed. There should not be overcrowding of animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>C. SURGICAL MOBILE FOR COMPANION ANIMALS Requirements</b>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
2. The surgical area must be visibly identified and separated by enough distance from recovery, admission, surgical and instrument preparation area to avoid contamination.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equipment utilized in the surgical suite is properly cleaned, in good repair, and sufficient in number and variety to match the requirements of the species treated and the surgical case load.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. A surgery table or surface is provided and made of smooth nonporous material that can be readily sanitized. Wooden tables are not permitted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Surgical lighting suitable for the accurate illumination of surgical sites on the patient is available. A surgical light is intended to assist the veterinarian and team member during a surgical procedure by illumination of a local area or cavity of the patient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. A standard accepted procedure is used to prepare the patient for surgery. All team members involved in the pre-surgical preparation of patients understand the risk and sources of bacterial contamination.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Supplies to perform hand and arm scrub are present including an appropriate surgical scrub agent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. There is a range of suitable sterile surgical instruments, supplies, consumables and suture materials for the work undertaken.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Surgical instrumentation and reusable supplies must be properly cleaned, sterilized and in good repair. Cold sterile is not an acceptable sterilization method for surgical instruments to be used for major surgery.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Autoclaves and other sterilization equipment are maintained and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A steam sterilizer of sufficient size to sterilize the quantity of surgical packs necessary for the expected case load is present outside of the surgical suite.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Separate sterilized surgical packs are used for each major surgical procedure. A means to confirm sterilization is used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Proper surgical attire is worn during aseptic procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>C. SURGICAL MOBILE FOR COMPANION ANIMALS Requirements</b>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
13. Informed client consent for surgery is documented in the record.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Medical record-keeping systems are in place that include surgical treatment details and all team members involved in the surgery. Surgical Logs are maintained separately or in combination with Anesthetic Logs. The surgical log enables auditing of surgical outcomes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Notes Section: Explain or list the equipment and supplies at your facility and how the requirement is met. Describe any processes or procedures at your facility that are used to meet the requirement.</b>			