



# Veterinary Health Center

MANHATTAN, KANSAS

## OFFICIAL PROTOCOL

### GENERAL AND ADVANCED DENTISTRY

Clinicians: Dr. Marjory Artzer, Dr. Sarah Kaufman, Dr. Doug Winter

Nurses: Karen Watson, Sara Kessler

#### **General Dentistry Goals:**

Our goal for this rotation is for the student to learn basic general dentistry skills important to small animal primary care practice. The student should have the following basic knowledge and skills by the end of the rotation.

1. Obtain patient history
2. Perform complete physical exams
3. Basic knowledge base of common small animal dentistry pathologies
4. Form a list of abnormalities and a diagnostic plan
5. Basic knowledge of treatment options for dental pathologies
6. Perform a proper awake and anesthetized oral examination
7. Proper use of dental instrumentation
8. Understand dental charting
9. Perform proper dental probing
10. Obtain dental radiographs
11. Understanding of how to evaluate dental radiographs
12. Perform proper scaling and polishing
13. Perform closed and/or open extractions on a cadaver
14. Perform dental regional nerve blocks

#### **Advanced Dentistry Goals:**

To learn about treatment and procedures available for disease affecting the oral cavity outside those routinely performed in general practice.

**ATTIRE:** For appointments, be dressed in professional attire. Please bring scrubs for procedures and the cadaver lab. Carry a pen, stethoscope, thermometer, bandage, scissors, and leash. Lab coats are required and should be neat and clean. Please wear your name badge at all times.

#### **Prior to Rotation:**

Review the notes from lecture. We will expect you to know dental formulas, normal and abnormal oral findings, identification of instrumentation and treatment options for abnormalities found. If you do not have a copy of the notes from class, please email ([martz@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:martz@vet.k-state.edu), [sarahkaufman@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:sarahkaufman@vet.k-state.edu), [kookuan@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:kookuan@vet.k-state.edu) or [vettechsara517@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:vettechsara517@vet.k-state.edu)) and we will provide a copy for you.

### **Schedule**

- Appointments for pre-operative evaluation and rechecks usually occur on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- Procedures usually occur on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
- Topic rounds and cadaver lab for radiographs, regional nerve blocks and extractions occur on Friday.

### **Appointments:**

- Obtain a patient history and perform a physical exam
- Bring the patient to either the dentistry room or Ward 2. Please get an accurate weight recorded at this time. If the client does not wish for the patient to leave them, come discuss the case with the clinician.
- The student and the clinician will discuss the case; make decisions on recommendations, and then take the patient back to the owners.
- The student and the clinician will then discuss treatment recommendations with clients.
- During times when direct client interaction is not possible; students should call clients to obtain a history. The student should perform a physical exam, then the findings discussed with the clinician. The student and the clinician will discuss the case and make decisions regarding treatment recommendations. The student or the clinician will then discuss treatment recommendations with clients.

### **Procedures:**

- You will need to be available to receive your patients at the discharge desk between 7-7:30am. Make sure you have a phone number where the owner can be reached ALL day.
- You and the anesthesia student should perform a brief physical exam. Please assist the anesthesia student in assessing the patient. Please complete the physical exam sheet.
- Hospital ID collars should be placed on the patients.
- Charts should be brought into the dental room, and prepare a binder for the procedure day visit.
- Kennels/runs should be prepared with water bowls and litter boxes for cats. Place all dogs in bottom kennels or runs. Find a quiet ward (1 or 3) for cats.
- The clinician will call the owners during the dental procedure to discuss findings, treatment recommendations and an updated cost estimate. It is IMPERATIVE that the owners are available ALL DAY by phone to discuss treatment recommendations. Make sure you have phone numbers to reach the client the day of the procedure available in the dental suite.
- A recovery kennel should be prepared before the patients' arrival in the recovery room.
- Follow the recovery room protocol posted in recovery. The IV catheter should be removed. Dogs should be taken outside to urinate/defecate and returned to their kennel/run. Cats should be transported to their kennel in a roll cage or carrier. Please remove all bandage materials from the IV catheter sites before returning to the wards.
- Clean the recovery kennel and return roll cages to the dirty cage room.
- Call the owners to notify them that their pet is out of the recovery room. Client communication should be documented.
- We will re-evaluate recovering animals around 3:45 or 4:00 pm to determine if they will go home the same day of surgery. Please do not tell owners that they will go home unless you have discussed it with the clinician.
- All attempts and communications with clients should be documented.

**Hospitalized cases:**

- Patients stay in ICU or the wards/runs.
- Patients need to have appropriate bedding, water bowls and litter boxes for cats.
- Cage cards and identification collar are needed for all patients.
- The current record is placed in the ward/ICU binder. The historical record is put in the designated areas for each ward or ICU. Items sent with the patient need clearly labeled and placed in the appropriate location the ward or ICU.
- Treatment sheets need formulated and approved by the clinician.
- If staying in the wards a treatment page will need filled out for the 11:00 PM treatment and placed on the Ward 1 door.
- Evaluation of patients is performed at 7:00 AM and PM. Clients will be called with updated information after the 7:00 treatments. Please talk to clinician prior to speaking with owners. Clients maybe called throughout day depending on the patients' needs.
- SOAP notes should be entered into the medical record after the 7:00 AM and PM treatments.

**Walking dogs and cat transportation:**

- Dogs should be on a slip leash at all times.
- Dogs need to be taken outside every 4 hours or as frequently as needed.
- Cats need transported in their carrier or in a roll cage.

**Discharge procedures:**

- Please have discharge instructions completed as soon as possible after the procedure is completed. They should be clearly written and concise. Have the clinician read and approve them prior to the client's arrival for pick up.
- Have medications available at the discharge desk.
- For hospitalized patients, a final audit of the chart is needed. Work with the Nurses to ensure all charges are entered. Then the medical record needs approved by an auditor prior to discharge.
- Clean up your patient prior to returning him/her to the client. This includes removal of blood from the skin and fur, brush the fur, and remove the ECG gel from the fur.
- Review discharge instructions and pictures with client in an exam room. Ask the clinician if they would like to visit with the client prior to the patient's departure. After discussing instructions, bring the patient to the owner.
- After the patient leaves the hospital remove bedding, water bowls and litter boxes from the kennel/run. Place name card in kennel/run so ward employees know the patient has left and cleaning can occur.
- Call your patient's owners the following day for an update.

**Cadaver Lab:**

- The cadaver lab is usually conducted on Fridays. During the cadaver lab, you will take and interpret dental radiographs, perform dental nerve blocks, and perform extractions.

**Grading**

- There are 6 One45 that are required to be completed during the dental rotation; three are associated with clinical patients and three are associated with the cadaver lab.
- There is a quiz on Friday covering information discussed in rounds, class lecture material, and contained in the binders. The questions are a mixture of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer. You must achieve a 70% to pass the rotation. You will be given a second quiz if you do

not achieve a 70% at a point in the future determined by your clinician and the student. If the second attempt is below a 70% the dental rotation will be repeated.

- Instructors will collaborate in assigning a single evaluation. Policies stated in the Senior Student Handbook are used.

**ABSENCES:**

- If you have a contagious illness, please stay home. Please contact the Clinical sciences office [dcs@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:dcs@vet.k-state.edu) as well as Drs. Artzer and Kaufman via email.
- Five days of dentistry is required. If you need to be absent, a plan for completion of the 5 days will be made on a case-by-case basis. Missed days may result in rescheduling of the entire rotation.

**Other:**

- If there are days that the clinician is absent, the dentistry nurse will review dental charting, probing, scaling with you and help you perform radiographs on cadaver heads.
- If the nurse is unavailable that day, you will go to Pet Health or to surgery to assist them for the day.
- If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. We have high expectations for your effort, knowledge base, patient care, and enthusiasm.