

# DeZavala-Shavano Veterinary Clinic

## Job Hazard Assessment

The following is a list of tasks staff members in different job positions are anticipated to perform on a regular basis. Because this list is not exhaustive, staff members are expected to use this information as a guideline for similar situations.

### All Staff Members

#### Weigh pets

- Exposure: Bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Take and retrieve pets to/from kennel area

- Exposures: Bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Assist clients or other staff members with holding animals

- Exposure: Bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Refill bottles and dispensers

- Exposure: Chemicals
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves. Keep flammable substances such as alcohol away from heat sources. Don't mix chemicals. Label secondary container using OSHA label.

#### Clean counters and other areas around clinic

- Exposure: Chemicals
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves for general cleaning. For extensive cleaning, also wear particulate face mask. Use chemicals as directed on container. Do not use Methanol if pregnant.

#### Clean up animal excrement

- Exposure: Bacteria, viruses, and intestinal parasites possibly present. Chemicals.
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves. Use chemicals as directed on container. Wash hands thoroughly after clean-up. When cleaning cages or using pressure sprayer, wear particulate face mask, safety glasses and latex gloves.

#### Wet or Mopped floors

- Exposure: Slips or falls
- Protective measures: Use minimal water by wringing out mop. Place Wet Floor sign out to warn others of wet condition.

#### Pick up trash around clinic

- Exposure: Sharps
- Protective measures: Don't stick hand down into trash or compress trash in any manner.

Stock and carry food to clients' car

- Exposure: Back injury
- Protective measures: Do not exceed established weight limit. Observe proper carrying techniques. Seek assistance when needed.

## **Client Relations**

Maintain computers

- Exposure: Electricity
- Protective measures: Turn off and unplug computers before service.

## **Animal Caretaker**

Transfer pets to backyard and another cage

- Exposure: Bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

Clean kennel cages

- Exposure: Bacteria, viruses and intestinal parasites possibly present. Chemicals.
- Protective measures: Wear particulate face mask, safety glasses and latex gloves. Use chemicals as directed on container. Wash hands thoroughly after clean-up.

Bathe animals, including mitaban dips

- Exposure: Chemicals, bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves, plastic apron and face shield (or safety glasses with particulate face mask in lieu of face shield). Use chemicals as directed on container. Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

Operate cage dryers

- Exposure: Electricity
- Protective measures: Inspect for damaged wires prior to operation. Keep away from water sources.

Administer injections (i.e. insulin) and other medicines

- Exposure: Needle stick and bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Keep needle capped until time of administration. Use one-hand technique to recap needle and dispose in sharps container after use. Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

General work in kennel area

- Exposure: Hearing loss
- Protective measures: Wear hearing protection when noise level too loud to speak at normal volume.

## **Veterinary Nurses and Doctors**

Clean teeth

- Exposure: Bacterial and viral particulates
- Protective measures: Wear particulate face mask, safety glasses and latex gloves.

#### Perform physical exam on pets

- Exposure: Bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Use proper restraint technique and observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Restrain animals

- Exposure: Bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Use proper restraint technique and observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Maintain and operate autoclave

- Exposure: Heat, electricity, chemicals
- Protective measures: Allow autoclave to cool after cycle is complete. Make sure electrical connections are secure. Wear latex gloves when cleaning.

#### Maintain and operate laboratory equipment

- Exposure: Chemicals, electricity
- Protective measures: Make sure electrical connections are secure. Wear latex gloves when cleaning.

#### Maintain and operate x-ray equipment

- Exposure: Radiation, electricity
- Protective measures: Wear x-ray apron with name-specific x-ray monitoring badge. Make sure electrical connections are secure. Do not operate x-ray equipment if pregnant.

NOTE: Lights in reception and treatment area will be turned off to warn others that x-ray equipment is in use. Do not enter x-ray area until lights are turned back on.

#### Maintain and operate x-ray processor

- Exposure: Chemicals, electricity
- Protective measures: Wear particulate face mask, safety glasses, and latex gloves when mixing and cleaning chemicals. Make sure electrical connections are secure.

#### Operate anesthetic machine and induction chamber

- Exposure: Gas exposure, flammable source exposure
- Protective measures: Make sure oxygen tanks are securely tightened on machine. Make sure carbon filter is attached on exhaust hose. Keep heat sources away from equipment.

#### Maintain and operate oxygen tank(s)

- Exposure: Flammable/explosive exposure
- Protective measures: Wash hands prior to handling tank. Keep heat sources away from tank(s).

#### Operate other equipment around clinic such as heating pad, electrocardiography, IV pump, pulse oximeter, etc.

- Exposure: Electricity, heat
- Protective measures: Make sure electrical connections are secure and keep away from flammable chemicals and materials.

#### Clean instruments

- Exposure: Chemicals, sharps
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves when exposed to cleaning chemicals. Remove disposable sharps prior to placing any instruments into cleaning solutions. For non-disposable sharps such as scissors and towel clamps, use caution and gently retrieve from cleaning solution.

#### Bathe animals, including mitaban dips

- Exposure: Chemicals, bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves, plastic apron & face shield (or safety glasses with particulate face mask in lieu of face shield). Use chemicals as directed on container. Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Transfer lab specimens to sample cups

- Exposure: Chemicals
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves prior to handling formaldehyde sample cups. Place sample cup on secure surface when opening and closing. Use forceps to place or remove specimen from sample cup.

#### Draw blood or other bodily materials (fecal matter, urine, aspirates)

- Exposure: Needle stick, bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves. Keep needle capped until time of administration. Use one-hand technique to recap needle and dispose in sharps container after use. Wash hands thoroughly afterwards. Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Place catheter

- Exposure: Needle stick, bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Keep needle capped until time of administration. Use one-hand technique to recap needle and dispose in sharps container after use. Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Administer injections or medicines

- Exposure: Needle stick, bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Keep needle capped until time of administration. Use one-hand technique to recap needle and dispose in sharps container after use. Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.

#### Administer chemotherapy agents

- Exposure: Chemicals, needle stick, bites/scratches
- Protective measures: Wear latex gloves prior to handling chemotherapy agent. Do not handle chemotherapy agents if pregnant or immune-suppressed. Keep needle capped until time of administration. Use one-hand technique to recap needle and dispose in sharps container after use. Observe animal for warning signals. Seek assistance or use restraint devices such as Kevlar gloves, muzzle, or rabies catch pole if animal exhibits warning signals.