

**ADEQUATE  
VETERINARY  
CARE**

A research facility must establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care. [2.33, 3.110, Policy #3 and Policy #22]

**Criteria**

An adequate program of veterinary care must include, but not be limited to:

- availability of appropriate:
  - ▶ facilities [2.33(b)(1)]
  - ▶ personnel [2.33(b)(1)]
  - ▶ equipment [2.33(b)(1)]
  - ▶ emergency, weekend, and holiday care [2.33(b)(2)]
- use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries [2.33(b)(2)]
- daily observation of the animals to assess their health by the attending veterinarian or other research facility personnel [2.33(b)(3)]
- a mechanism for direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian on problems of animal health, well-being and behavior [2.33(b)(3)]
- pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with established veterinary medical and nursing procedures, such as: [2.33(b)(5)]
  - ▶ wound care
  - ▶ drugs/dosages
  - ▶ activity level
- guidance for principal investigators and other personnel on: [2.33(b)(4)]
  - ▶ handling
  - ▶ immobilization
  - ▶ anesthesia
  - ▶ analgesia
  - ▶ tranquilization
  - ▶ euthanasia

- a preventive medical program, if necessary, for
    - ▶ zoonotic disease prevention
    - ▶ dietary considerations
  - a treatment/management plan for conditions requiring long term care, such as:
    - ▶ arthritis or lameness
    - ▶ stereotypic behaviors
    - ▶ under or over weight animals
    - ▶ foot care for elephants
  - a method of euthanasia consistent with the current *Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia*
  - proper storage of drugs, biologicals, fluids, and other medical supplies and equipment
  - guidelines for performing necropsies which should include, but not be limited to:
    - ▶ all marine mammals
    - ▶ all elephants
    - ▶ at the discretion of the attending veterinarian
    - ▶ when a high death loss is occurring
    - ▶ when a significant number of unexplained deaths is occurring
    - ▶ when a strong chance exists that an undiagnosed infectious disease is present (with or without potential zoonoses)
    - ▶ when the circumstances around a death indicate that a violation of the AWA may have contributed to the death
- Note: If circumstances warrant, you (the inspector), in consultation with your Supervisory Animal Care Specialist, may request a research facility to conduct necropsies on selected regulated animals.

**Species Specific**

**Marine Mammals [3.110]**

*Isolation*

Newly acquired marine mammals must be isolated from the

resident marine mammals, using the following requirements:

[3.110(a)]

- animals with a **known** medical history must be isolated *unless or until* they can be reasonably determined by the attending veterinarian to be in good health
- animals with an **unknown** medical history must be isolated *until* they can be reasonably determined by the attending veterinarian to be in good health
- animals with **communicable diseases** must be treated and the disease remedied before they can be placed with the resident marine mammals. NOTE: The attending veterinarian may exempt an animal from this requirement if the potential benefits of a resident animal as a companion to the newly acquired animal outweigh the risks to the resident animal.

#### *Holding Facilities*

Holding facilities must be in place and available to meet the needs of marine mammals for: [3.110(b)]

- isolation
- separation
- medical treatment
- medical training

Marine mammals isolated or separated for nonmedical purposes must be held in enclosures that meet the minimum space requirements as outlined in Section 3.104 of the standards. (See Section 11.4 - Space Requirements) [3.110(b)]

Marine mammals isolated or separated for medical purposes may be held in enclosures that do **not** meet the minimum space requirements. [3.110(b)]

If an animal is to be held for medical purposes in an enclosure that does not meet the minimum space requirement for longer than 2 weeks, there must be: [3.110(b)]

- a notation in the animal's medical record
- a justification by the attending veterinarian in the medical record

After 2 weeks, if an animal is held for medical purposes in an enclosure that does not meet the minimum space requirement, there must be a justification: [3.110(b)]

- in writing
- written by the attending veterinarian
- renewed weekly

In natural lagoon or coastal enclosures where isolation cannot be accomplished, separation of newly acquired animals must be accomplished using separate enclosures that are situated within the facility to: [3.110(b)]

- prevent direct contact with resident animals
- minimize the risk of potential airborne and water cross-contamination between newly acquired and resident animals

A medical holding facility used for a marine mammal with an infectious or contagious disease must be: [3.110(c)]

- cleaned and sanitized as prescribed by the attending veterinarian
- cleaned and sanitized prior to use for a healthy animal

A marine mammal exposed to a contagious animal must be: [3.110(c)]

- evaluated by the attending veterinarian, and
- monitored and/or
- isolated for an appropriate time as determined by the attending veterinarian

All marine mammals must be: [3.110(f)]

- visually examined:
  - ▶ by the attending veterinarian
  - ▶ at least semiannually
- physically examined:
  - ▶ under the supervision of the attending veterinarian
  - ▶ when determined to be necessary by the attending veterinarian

All cetaceans and sirenians must be physically examined:

[3.110(f)]

- by the attending veterinarian
- at least annually

NOTE: The facility may request an exemption to this requirement from APHIS-AC based on considerations related to the health and safety of the animal.

The physical examination of the cetaceans and sirenians must include, but is not limited to: [3.110(f)]

- hands-on physical examination
- hematology and blood chemistry
- other diagnostic tests as determined by the attending veterinarian

A complete necropsy must: [3.110(f)]

- be performed on all marine mammals that die in captivity
- be conducted by or under the supervision of the attending veterinarian
- include, but not be limited to:
  - ▶ histopathology sample
  - ▶ microbiological cultures
  - ▶ other tests as appropriate

Individual marine mammal health records and necropsy reports must be kept and maintained at the facility. (see Section 14.3 - Health Records)

