

HEALTH RECORDS	<p>Research facilities must maintain specific health records for marine mammals and should maintain health records for all regulated animals. [3.110, Policy #3, Policy #21]</p>
Requirement	<p>Health records are not specifically required by the AWA regulations, except for marine mammals. Therefore, a lack of health records or inadequacy of the health records may not be cited as a stand-alone violation, except for marine mammals.</p> <p>The citation of inadequate veterinary care for a sick animal may include a reference to the lack or inadequacy of health records, if appropriate.</p> <p>Health records, if maintained, should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current • legible • sufficiently comprehensive to demonstrate the delivery of adequate veterinary care • consistent with professional standards <p>The system of health records may be described in the written Program of Veterinary Care for those research facilities not employing a full time veterinarian.</p>
Contents	<p>Health records should include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identity of the animal • description of any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ illness ▶ injury ▶ distress ▶ behavioral abnormality • dates, details, and results (if appropriate) of all medically-related: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ observations ▶ examinations ▶ tests

- ▶ procedures, such as:
 - vaccinations
 - fecal examinations
 - radiographs
 - surgeries
 - necropsies
- treatment plans which should include:
 - ▶ diagnosis
 - ▶ prognosis, when appropriate
 - ▶ type of treatment
 - ▶ frequency of treatment
 - ▶ duration of treatment
 - ▶ criteria and/or schedule for re-evaluation by the attending veterinarian
 - ▶ allowable activity level for the animal
 - ▶ restriction, if any, for the animal
- treatment history which should include:
 - ▶ dates of all treatment
 - ▶ names of drugs or other medications given
 - ▶ dose & route
 - ▶ frequency
 - ▶ duration of treatment
- resolution of any noted problem(s)

Record-keeping

Health records may be kept in any format that the research facility chooses as long as all required information is readily available.

Group health records

Routine husbandry and preventive medical procedures performed on a group of animals may be recorded on herd-health type records.

Individual health records

Treatment of an individual animal should be on an entry specific for that animal.

Availability

Health records should be readily available for review.

Health records at a research facility may be held by:

- the attending veterinarian
- investigator(s)
- other designated employee(s)

NOTE: Health records must be readily available.

If health records are divided between personnel, the records should be:

- appropriately cross-referenced
- complete

Health records should be held:

- for at least 1 year after the animal's disposition or death
- longer than 1 year as required by other applicable laws or policies

A copy of an animal's health records should accompany the animal when it is transferred to another research facility, person or location.

The transferred health record should contain:

- the animals' medical history
- information on any ongoing or chronic problems
- most current preventive medical procedures, such as:
 - vaccinations
 - deworming

Species Specific

Marine Mammals [3.110]

Individual marine mammal medical/health records **must** be kept and include the following information, at a minimum:

- animal identification/name [3.110(d)(1)]
- a physical description, such as: [3.110(d)(1)]
 - identifying markings
 - scars
- age [3.110(d)(1)]
- sex [3.110(d)(1)]

- physical examination information, including, but not limited to: [3.110(d)(2)]
 - ▶ length
 - ▶ weight
 - ▶ physical examination results by body system
 - ▶ identification of all medical and physical problems
 - ▶ all diagnostic test results
 - ▶ proposed plan of action for medical/physical problems
 - ▶ documentation of treatment
- visual examination information

Individual animal medical/health records must be: [3.110(d)]

- kept at the facility where the marine mammal is housed
- available for APHIS inspection

A copy of the individual marine mammal's medical/health record must accompany the animal if it is transferred to another facility, including contract and satellite facilities. [3.110(e)]

Necropsy Reports [3.110(g)]

The preliminary necropsy report must: [3.110(g)(1)]

- be prepared by the veterinarian conducting the necropsy
- list all pathological lesions observed

The final necropsy report must include: [3.110(g)(1)]

- all gross findings
- all histopathology findings
- results of all laboratory tests performed
- a pathological diagnosis

Necropsy reports must be: [3.110(g)(2)]

- maintained at the marine mammal's home facility
- maintained at the facility where the marine mammal died, if different than the home facility
- kept for 3 years
- available for APHIS inspection