VETERINARY CARE RECORDS

The research facility must maintain records relating to the veterinary care of the animals at the facility.

Required Records

A research facility must maintain the following veterinary care records for all regulated animals, when applicable:

- written Program of Veterinary Care for part-time or consulting attending veterinarian [2.33(a)(1)]
- attending veterinarian or IACUC approved exceptions/exemptions to the regulations/standards
- acclimation statements for transportation

Species Specific

Dogs & Cats

In addition to the required records listed above, the following veterinary care records are required for dogs and cats, when applicable:

- exercise plan for dogs [3.8]
- outdoor housing approval [3.4(a)]
- health certificate for transport [2.38(h)]

Nonhuman Primates

In addition to the required records listed above, the following veterinary care records are required for nonhuman primates, when applicable:

- environmental enhancement plan [3.81]
- outdoor housing approval [3.78(a)]
- health certificates for transport [2.38(h)]

Marine Mammals

In addition to the required records listed above, the following veterinary care records are required for marine mammals, when applicable:

- water quality records [3.106]
- individual marine mammal health records [3.110(d)]
- necropsy records [3.110(g)]
- health certificates for transport [3.112(a)]

Recommended Records

A research facility should maintain the following records as a part of good animal husbandry practices:

- health records [Policy #3]
- surgery records [2.33(b)(2)]
- necropsy records [2.33(b)(2), Policy 21 & Policy 22]
- large felids non-commercial diet approval by attending veterinarian [Policy #25]

NOTE: These records are not specifically required by the AWA regulations and standards, except for marine mammals. Therefore, a lack of any of these records or inadequacy of these records may not be cited as a stand-alone violation, except for marine mammals.

The citation of inadequate veterinary care for a sick animal may include a reference to the lack or inadequacy of veterinary care records, if appropriate.

Additional non-required records which may be helpful in assessing veterinary care include, but are not limited to:

- animal logs
- cage wash validation sheets
- medical records related to protocols
- room maintenance logs
- standards operating procedures, if available
- surgical records related to protocols
- record of attending veterinarian's visits (see sample signature sheet on page 15.6.6)