

6. Summary

Recommendations for hygiene management in small animal practices

Hygiene measures represent an important part of quality management in a veterinary practice. Following obedience of hygiene regulations and recommendations shall prevent the incidence of nosocomial infections but also ensure safety and health of employees. The recommendations given in the human and veterinary medical literature often vary and sometimes are even contradictory. Furthermore there are great differences concerning the equipment, the structural and functional conditions and the used hygiene measures in existing small animal practices. An approach to the hygiene standards of human medical hospitals is desirable.

The aim of this dissertation is to collect the knowledge in human and veterinary medical literature and to work out recommendations for the hygiene management in small animal practices. With this a contribution is supposed to be made to concrete and implement the codex “Good Veterinary Practice (GVP)”.

To compare the recommendations especially given in literature on human sanitary in hospitals with the conditions in small animal practices, hygienic relevant areas are defined and the processes of a veterinary practice are structured into single work steps. According to the most important ways of communications and regarding the fact that nosocomial infections mostly concern surgical patients, the surgical field including its preparations and postprocessings constitute a main focus.

Focussing the employment in small animal practices the recommendations and demands of the hygienic relevant areas and processes given in literature on human medical and veterinary medical are compared with each other and discussed in detail. Besides, attention is paid to actual legal regulations.

The description of each single area and process takes account especially the following aspects:

- The chapter about structural and functional requirements treats floor and wall covering of waiting, treatment and operating room. The necessity of hand washing facilities, zoning and air condition systems as well as of septic and aseptic operation units is discussed.
- For cleaning and disinfection of rooms and surfaces different procedures with their used tools are described. The required intervals of cleaning and disinfection are presented.

- For preparation of medical products the way of contaminated instruments is followed from collection over cleaning and disinfection to wrapping and sterilisation. It is given attention to the different common methods used in practices.
- The chapter about cleaning and disinfection of hands points out the proceeding of hand washing, sanitary and surgical hand disinfection and the indications for each single procedure. Also the use of safety gloves is discussed.
- Preoperative hygiene measures of patients aim to prepare an aseptic operation area. So removal of hair, cleaning and disinfection of skin as well as draping of the operation area are presented in detail.
- The preparation of the surgical team focuses on surgical attire, masks, hair coverings, gowning and gloving.
- Further hygienic aspects during an operation are debated, above all rules of conduct for the surgical team and the exchange of contaminated instruments and attire.
- For perioperative prophylactic use of antibiotics indications and selection as well as form and time of application are discussed.
- For diagnostic and therapeutic treatments hygiene measures are described for injections and punctures as well as for handling of infusion systems, venous catheters, urinary catheters and injection fluids.
- At last attention is given to the waste disposal.

In the end recommendations and hygiene plans for the employees of small animal practices are worked out.