

## APPOMATTOX ANIMAL SHELTER

### PROTOCOL A) DETERMINING IF AN ILL, INJURED, OR OTHERWISE COMPROMISED ANIMAL REQUIRES VETERINARY TREATMENT

**OVERVIEW:** *The animal shelter shall provide adequate veterinary care for each animal as required by VA Code §3.2-6503. This protocol is required by 2 VAC 5-111-30 Provision of veterinary treatment. “A. Each facility shall engage a licensed veterinarian to develop or ratify a protocol for determining if an ill, injured, or otherwise compromised animal requires treatment by a licensed veterinarian. Each facility shall adhere to the protocol and provide veterinary treatment when needed.”*

#### 1. FACILITY PREPAREDNESS

Animal Control Officer Willis Voisine is the Designated Animal Health Coordinator in charge of supervising that the provision of adequate veterinary care is properly trained and educated in basic animal care and the basic assessment of animal wellness. This Designated Animal Health Coordinator will ensure that all staff members and caretakers are properly instructed in the requirements of this protocol, and that the reasonable resources remain in place in advance (including animal transportation and veterinary provider payment arrangements) for events requiring veterinary care. This Designated Animal Health Coordinator will secure an alternate for absences from duty when they cannot be contacted for guidance regarding an animal wellness concern.

The following resources will be maintained in the shelter at all times in a conspicuous, readily accessible manner for use by all staff members and caretakers:

- A contact list that includes: the Designated Animal Health Coordinator's name and telephone number; the names, numbers, and addresses of the local veterinary establishments; and the name, address, and telephone number of the nearest veterinary emergency facility.
- Species-specific charts depicting normal vital values and gestation periods, age and life-phase determination, body condition scoring, and breed determination.
- A copy of this protocol.
- Animal first aid supply kit containing vet wrap, gauze, bandage tape, thermometer, lubricant, and stethoscope.

#### 2. ANIMAL INTAKE EVALUATION

Upon taking custody of each animal, an intake exam will be performed and observations will be recorded on the “Animal Evaluation Form.” Observations will be noted as either “Appears Normal” or a description of the abnormality or compromising condition observed. Use the following guide as an aid for describing abnormal or compromising conditions:

- General Attitude: Depressed, Agitated, Lethargic, Disoriented
- General Condition: Geriatric, Neonatal, Dehydrated, Obese, Emaciated
- Eyes: Cloudy, Swollen, Crusty, Red, Discharge, Pus, Mucous, Ulcer, Poor Vision/Blindness, Squinting
- Ears: Red, Inflamed, Moist, Odor, Discharge, Pus, Waxy, Poor Hearing/Deafness
- Nose: Discharge, Crusty, Inflamed, Wound, Ulcer
- Mouth: Inflamed gums, Missing teeth, Severe tartar, Wound, Ulcer, Pale gums, Tacky/Dry gums
- Skin: Hair loss, Red, Inflamed, Crusty, Wound, Parasites, Sores, Mass

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- Abdomen: Swollen, Firm/Tight, Lumpy, Mass
- Urogenital/Reproductive: Discharge, Swollen, Bloody, Pregnant, Cryptorchid (retained testicle), Prolapse
- Limbs/Mobility: Wound, Swollen, Limping/Not using limb, Difficulty standing
- Neurological: Circling, Wobbly, Twitching, Seizures

### 3. INITIAL CONFINEMENT HOUSING

Each animal will be confined individually (unless neonatal with nursing mother and/or littermates, or already acclimated and accustomed to cohabitation with another specific animal) for a minimum of the first five days. Following the initial five days, an animal may be commingled with other compatible animals as appropriate and conducive to animal safety, well-being, and adequate care, and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

### 4. ANIMAL MONITORING

Each animal will be monitored daily, and the observations will be recorded on the "Animal Monitoring Log." This log will be maintained on (or in close proximity) the animal's enclosure. Observations will be recorded as "Appears Normal" or a description of the abnormality or compromising condition observed. For describing abnormalities or compromising conditions, use the guide included above in item 2, as well as the following:

- Appetite: Poor, Difficulty swallowing, Difficulty chewing
- Stools: Soft, Bloody, Watery, Profuse, Parasites/Worms, No stool, Hard/Dry
- Urine: Discolored, Excessive, Bloody, Straining
- Other: Vomiting, Vocalizing, Excessive panting, Coughing, Injury Description, etc.

The Designated Animal Health Coordinator will review all Animal Monitoring Logs daily. The Designated Animal Health Coordinator will assign this duty to a properly qualified staff member for any day that the Designated Animal Health Coordinator is not on site at the shelter.

**The chart on page 4 will be used in determining whether abnormal findings are mild, significant, or emergency in nature.**

### 5. FINDINGS OF MILD ILLNESS, INJURY, ABNORMALITY, OR COMPROMISE

- If during the intake evaluation or at any time thereafter, signs of mild, illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise are observed (see associated chart) the following steps will be taken:
- Make a notation on the "Animal Intake Evaluation" form or "Animal Monitoring Log" (whichever form is appropriate based on the time the signs were noticed) and provide initials and the date/time of the observation.
- Move animal to individual confinement if not already individually confined.
- Perform another evaluation of the animal using the "Animal Intake Evaluation" form if the finding occurs during routine monitoring.
- Discuss the findings with management as necessary.
- Take general care measures as appropriate to alleviate discomfort and protect the animal (loose bandaging, bathing, clipping, external parasite removal, administration of commercially available product, etc.) as well as modifications to feed, bedding, and/or enclosure environment/climate.
- Increase monitoring frequency to three times a day, and if the signs worsen at any time do not subside after three days, regard the animal as having a potentially significant condition.
- If the condition resolves, return the animal the general confinement and care.
- Record all activities on the "Animal Monitoring Log."

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**6. FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANT ILLNESS, INJURY, ABNORMALITY, OR COMPROMISE**

If during the intake evaluation or at any time thereafter, signs of significant illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise are observed (see associated chart), the following steps will be taken:

- 1) Make a notation on the "Animal Intake Evaluation" form or "Animal Monitoring Log" (whichever form is appropriate based on the time the signs were noticed) and provide initials and the date/time of the observation.
- 2) Move animal to individual confinement if not already individually confined.
- 3) Make modifications to feed, bedding, and/or enclosure environment/climate as appropriate/directed.
- 4) Promptly notify the Designated Animal Health Coordinator.
- 5) Contact a veterinary establishment for advice and make an appointment according to the recommendation of the veterinary establishment. In the meantime, and as advised by the veterinary staff, take first aid measures as appropriate to protect the animal and alleviate pain and distress.
- 6) Transport the animal to the veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment.
- 7) The Designated Animal Health Coordinator will inform the veterinarian of the status of the animal's confinement in the shelter (reason for custody, holding period, etc.) and that a course of treatment is authorized that stabilizes the animal, prevents progression of the condition, alleviates pain and suffering, and is geared toward resolving the condition within a reasonable timeframe.

**7. FINDINGS OF EMERGENCY ILLNESS, INJURY, ABNORMALITY, OR COMPROMISE**

If during the intake evaluation or at any time thereafter, signs of emergency illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise are observed (see associated chart), the following steps will be taken:

- 1) Immediately contact a veterinary establishment for advice and transport the animal directly to the veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment. As advised by the veterinary staff, take first aid measures as appropriate to protect the animal and alleviate pain and distress in transit.
- 2) The Designated Animal Health Coordinator will inform the veterinarian of the status of the animal's confinement in the shelter (reason for custody, holding period, etc.) and that a course of treatment is authorized that stabilizes the animal, prevents progression of the condition, alleviates pain and suffering, and is geared toward resolving the condition within a reasonable timeframe.
- 3) Make a notation on the "Animal Intake Evaluation" form or "Animal Monitoring Log" (whichever form is appropriate based on the time the signs were noticed) and provide initials and the date/time of the observation.
- 4) Add a communication note to the "Other" section on the "Animal Monitoring Log" documenting when the veterinarian was contacted, their recommended next steps, and the actions the shelter took to resolve the emergency. The back of the log may be used for additional space if needed.

**If at any point it is questionable if a shelter animal is experiencing an emergency, a veterinarian's office will be called immediately.**

**8. \*\*\*POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS/CONTAGIOUS DISEASE\*\*\***

At anytime, if an animal is showing signs of a contagious or infectious disease, the "*Protocol for the Control of Infectious or Contagious Disease*" will be followed in addition to this protocol as stated above.

Licensed Veterinarian Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**MILD**

**Mild illnesses, injuries abnormalities, or compromising conditions are those which:**

- 1) Present with a single finding without any other signs;
- 2) Do not interfere with healthy eating, drinking, breathing, mobility, elimination, or resting;
- 3) Do not cause pain or distress; and
- 4) Are not contagious or zoonotic (transmissible to other animals or humans)

**Signs of mild illness, injury, abnormalities, or compromise include (but are not limited to):**

- Pregnancy/Onset of giving birth
- Presence of fleas and/or ticks
- Intermittent scratching
- Slight limping
- Isolated/occasional vomiting of food without any other signs
- Isolated/occasional soft stool without any other signs
- Minor scrape or abrasion
- Sneezing with no other clinical signs
- Rare dry cough with no other clinical signs

**SIGNIFICANT**

**Significant illnesses, injuries, abnormalities, or compromising conditions are those which:**

- 1) Cannot be directly attributed to a specific cause of mild compromise;
- 2) Cause pain or distress;
- 3) Interfere with healthy eating, drinking, or elimination; or
- 4) Cause impaired mobility, breathing, or resting

**Signs of significant illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise include (but are not limited to):**

- Coughing regularly
- Diarrhea lasting more than 1 day
- Vomiting more than twice
- Urinating frequently
- Wounds
- Daily scratching
- Hair loss or red skin
- Not eating or drinking for more than a day
- Increased drinking
- Non-weight bearing on a leg
- Painful
- Red eyes or discharge from the eyes
- Exudate in the ears

**EMERGENCY**

**Emergency illnesses, injuries, abnormalities, or compromising conditions are those which:**

- 1) Place an animal in jeopardy;
- 2) Cause extreme pain or suffering;
- 3) Life-threatening; or
- 4) Without treatment could rapidly progress to become life-threatening

**Signs of emergency illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise include (but are not limited to):**

- Increased respiration rate or difficulty breathing
- Altered mental or neurological status
- Straining to eliminate
- Bloated abdomen with drooling or non-productive retching
- Pale gum
- Generalized weakness or severe lethargy
- Active bleeding (including blood in feces, urine, or vomit) or extensive bruising
- An open wound or deep wound
- Difficulty giving birth

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**ANIMAL INTAKE EVALUATION**

Animal ID \_\_\_\_\_  
Animal weight \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Spay/Neutered? \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Species \_\_\_\_\_ BCS \_\_\_\_\_

General Attitude:	General Condition:	Eyes:	Ears:
Nose:	Mouth:	Skin:	Abdomen:
Reproductive:	Anus/GI:	Limbs:	Mobility:

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Vaccines Provided**

DAPPV \_\_\_\_\_

Second Shot \_\_\_\_\_

Bordetella \_\_\_\_\_

FERCP \_\_\_\_\_

Dewormer \_\_\_\_\_

Flea/tick meds \_\_\_\_\_

Exam Performed By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- General Attitude: OK Depressed, Agitated, Lethargic, Disoriented
- General Condition: OK Geriatric, Neonatal, Dehydrated, Obese, Emaciated
- Eyes: OK Cloudy, Swollen, Crusty, Red, Discharge, Pus, Mucous, Ulcer, Poor Vision/Blindness, Squinting
- Ears: OK Red, Inflamed, Moist, Odor, Discharge, Pus, Waxy, Poor Hearing/Deafness
- Nose: OK Discharge, Crusty, Inflamed, Wound, Ulcer
- Mouth: OK Inflamed gums, Missing teeth, Severe tartar, Wound, Ulcer, Pale gums, Tacky/Dry gums
- Skin: OK Hair loss, Red, Inflamed, Crusty, Wound, Parasites, Sores, Mass
- Abdomen: OK Swollen, Firm/Tight, Lumpy, Mass
- Urogenital/Reproductive: OK Discharge, Swollen, Bloody, Pregnant, Cryptorchid (retained testicle), Prolapse
- Limbs/Mobility: OK Wound, Swollen, Limping/Not using limb, Difficulty standing
- Neurological: OK Circling, Wobbly, Twitching, Seizures

Licensed Veterinarian Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Licensed Veterinarian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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## ANIMAL MONITORING LOG

Animal Name \_\_\_\_\_