

Covid-19 FAQ: Essential Services, Client Records, and Rabies Vaccines

Essential Services:

Veterinarians are reminded that under the recommended COVID-19 “shelter in place” protocols, visits should be limited only to those patients requiring frequent follow-up care, and sick or emergency patients. **It is up to the DVM in charge of the case to determine if treatment and services are essential for that animal.** Non-essential visits (those that can be reasonably postponed given the health of the patient) and elective procedures should be delayed.

Boarding: This service is generally considered as non-essential. However, if a health provider needs their pet boarded/day care to allow for them to work it would be considered essential.

Grooming: This service is considered as non-essential. This is consistent with the closure of barbers, hair salons, etc. across the State.

Your responsibility as a DVM and a health care provider:

The “shelter in place” and “stay at home” decrees were put into place for a very important reason. It is important for all DVMs to realize that being deemed as an essential business comes with an important responsibility. Please do your part to help mitigate and control this deadly virus.

Don't forget that the services that you include as essential will potentially place the following people (and their families) at risk: the client, your employees, and yourself.

If you opt to close your practice or limit hours during the Corona Crisis:

You need to post emergency information on your clinic's door and include it on your answering message to ensure that owners can obtain care for their pet. Additionally, you must consider the availability of patient records if you plan to close your facility for a period of time.

Questions about Rabies Vaccines:

Rabies rules and regulations are under the control of the NC Department of Public Health. Information regarding their rules is available at: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/rabies/control.html>

If you have additional questions please contact them at (919) 733-3419 (main number; 24 hours)