

## Protocol for Surgery Biosafety

This protocol should be followed in the event you are performing a surgical procedure on an animal with contagious disease or that was/is being housed in the isolation ward.

1. The animal should be premedicated in its own isolation cage/kennel/stall if the infectious disease is contagious.
2. Transport to anesthesia preparation room should occur just prior to induction. A gurney or transport cage/carrier should be used to minimize hospital contamination. When possible the animal should be induced on the gurney for immediate transport into surgery.
  - a. Barrier precautions should be instituted.
  - b. If the animal has diarrhea, wrap the tail in a plastic rectal sleeve.
3. A remote induction and prep table should be used if the transport gurney itself does not suffice.
  - a. If the animal must be walked to surgery from isolation (e.g. adult horse), one person should lead the animal and another follow with a garbage bag to catch fecal material (if safe to do so) and then immediately clean with detergent solution and disinfect with disinfectant such as 1:16 Peroxigard or 1% Virkon the area.
4. Every attempt shall be made to gather all items necessary for the surgery ahead of time and a circulating nurse should remain outside the theatre to obtain unplanned for items.
5. Shoe covers should be worn and removed at the door.
6. Barriers soaked in disinfectant should be placed at the door. All contaminated linen, scrubs should be treated as Isolation laundry according to that protocol.
7. If possible, all infectious animals should be operated on as the **LAST** case of the day.
8. All items used in a contaminated surgery shall be sorted as to whether they are reusable or disposable, use disposable items if at all possible.
9. Instruments, linens, and waste are to be handled according to biohazard protocols. Reusable items that cannot be sterilized must be thoroughly cleaned with (disinfectant and strength) before leaving the surgical suite, and should remain out of circulation for 24 hours.
10. **Scrubs and linens** should be changed immediately following the surgery
  - o Place in a water soluble laundry bag (ideally), then in another bag, sealed and labelled biohazard bag, then handled as Isolation laundry.

- o Wrap very wet linens in the middle of dry ones, then place in a labelled, sealed biohazard bag.
  - o Disposable gowns, caps, masks, and boot covers should be worn during the procedure and disposed of as waste in the biohazard containers which are then immediately sealed and removed from the area.
11. The surgery suite shall be thoroughly cleaned with           (disinfectant and strength)          , and then left vacant the remainder of the day.
- o The room is cleaned and disinfected and left with a **“contaminated case - special cleaning”** sign with potential pathogen clearly marked on the sign.
  - o The room is closed until permission is obtained from the surgery nurse and/or attending DVM
  - o Room should be re-cleaned in the morning, before another case, using routine surgery room sanitation protocol
12. Patients with contagious infectious diseases should all recover from anesthesia in Isolation or designated area when possible.
13. All of the above procedures should also apply to animals with infectious diseases that require endoscopy.