

# Instructional

# Terminology VETERINARY ASSISTING

01.8301.00

**Absorbable** - The ability of an item to dissolve inside the body without removal. Most commonly used to describe a type of surgical suture

**Activated charcoal** - A black liquid substance given to animals that have ingested a hazardous substance

**Adult** - A fully grown animal

**Aggression** - An outward display of fear or anger, usually stemming from fear of being harmed, protecting owners, or possession of food or toys

**Anesthesia circuit** - The components needed to deliver anesthesia or oxygen to a patient, including but not limited to the anesthesia machine, scavenger, sodasorb and oxygen tanks

**Anesthesia machine** - A machine used to administer an inhalant anesthetic to a patient that needs a procedure, most commonly a surgical procedure, to be completed while they are unconscious

**Anesthesia** - An injectable or inhalant substance that makes an animal unconscious; allows the veterinary team to perform procedures that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to complete

**Anesthetic gas level** - The amount of inhalant anesthetic being delivered to an unconscious patient; unit of measurement is percent (%)



**Ano-genital** - The area of an animal where the anus, vagina, penis or cloaca can be found; area primarily used to determine if the animal is a male or female

**Anorexic** - A medical condition where the animal does not feel well enough, or have the desire to eat; often animals that are anorexic are very skinny

**Antibiotics** - A medication given to kill bacteria

**Aseptic** - A method or technique of conducting oneself in order to prevent the introduction of bacteria into an area

**Assessment** - Determined by the veterinarian, the assessment combines/ summarizes all physical exam findings, if available blood work and radiograph results, in order to help in patient diagnosis

**Automatic radiography** - A method of producing an x-ray image using a mechanical processor which exposes the radiograph film to the developer and fixer chemical without the assistance of a person

## B

**Barium series** - Multiple radiographs, taken at specific times, after the administration of barium to determine gastrointestinal health and abnormalities such as foreign bodies, intussusception or perforation

**Barium** - A white liquid administered to an animal in order to make the gastrointestinal system illuminate on a radiograph; assists in determining the presence of an abnormality

**BCS (Body Condition Score)** - a chart used to determine if an animal is of a healthy weight by giving them a score from 1 to 9, 1 being extremely anorexic and 9 being extremely obese

**Braided** - A type of surgical suture that combines multiple strands/ threads of suture rolled/ braided together to form a thicker strand; has a higher instance of infection than monofilament suture

**Burette** - A plastic instrument that holds intravenous fluids for administration; allows for a smaller quantity to be given, or a medication/ supplement to be added to the fluids in small amounts; most commonly used on smaller animals

**Burnout** - The physical and mental exhaustion experienced by veterinary and medical professionals as a result of the stressful work environment and can lead to the individual seeking employment at another medical facility or leaving the profession altogether

## **C**

**Canine** - Referring to a dog, or to the largest single rooted tooth in a mammals mouth, most commonly found in carnivorous species

**Capsules** - A form of medication that is coated in an absorbable material that must be swallowed whole; once in the stomach the coating dissolves and the medication is dissolved

**Catheter** - A plastic medical device that creates or maintains an opening from the inside of the body to the outside of the body; most commonly used in a vein or the urethra

**Cephalic vein** - The vein found in the forelimb of an animal

**Certificate** - A document with a signature and/ or medical information, that verifies a procedure or medical treatment has been completed; ex: Rabies, Sterilization, or Heath certificates

**Chart** - The term used to describe a folder containing a specific animal's medical history; also called a medical record or record

**Chemical restraint** - used when physical and verbal restraint is not effective or will be detrimental to the animal's overall health; involves the use of a medication that has sedative properties; see also restraint

**Circulatory system** - The part of an animal's body that facilitates the movement of blood in order to provide oxygen and other nutrients to the cells; major components include heart, arteries, veins, and capillaries

**Clarity** - The ability to look through a liquid substance, most commonly used to evaluate a urine sample

**Client complaint** - The main reason or concern an owner has in regards to their pets' health; awareness allows staff to properly schedule an appointment and begin collecting a patient history upon arrival

**Client** - the owner of an animal that is brought into the animal hospital

**Cold sterilization** - The submersion of a medical instrument into a liquid substance, in order to remove all microorganisms from the instrument's surface

**Compassion fatigue** - The mental exhaustion felt by medical professionals, most commonly veterinary professionals, as a result of the profession and the constant care provided to patients and clients that are suffering

**Compounding pharmacy** - A pharmacy that makes medications specifically for an animal based on their weight

**Concentrations** - The amount of a specific medication found in a particular unit (ex: capsule, liquid, tablet)

**Confidentiality** - The requirement that medical professionals keep personal and medical information about an owner and/ or patient to themselves, unless discussing the case with a co-worker or other medical professional to provide care to the patient

**Contagious** - A disease/ sickness caused by an agent that can spread from one animal to another, sometimes across species; depending on species this can occur with or without contact to the animal that is sick

**Contraindications** - When the use of a medication or treatment will cause other health related issues to arise or become worse, and is not medically recommended

**Controlled Substance** - A medication used to treat a disorder that has addictive properties and must be documented and monitored by the facility and the DEA

**Core** - A vaccine given to an animal regardless of age, lifestyle or specific breed, as it prevents a highly contagious or zoonotic disease

**CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)** - the chest compressions and breathing assistance provided to a patient when their heart stops

beating

**Credentialed** - A description used to identify an individual that has completed the required schooling and/or training needed to pass an industry exam; credentialed individuals often have initials or post nominal letters after their name to help identify their career specialty

**CRT (Capillary Refill Time)** - the amount of time, recorded in seconds, that it takes the blood found in the capillaries of the mucous membrane tissue to leave and return; usually less than 2 seconds in a normal healthy animal; a delay or quickening of the time indicates a health concern or issue

**Cutting needle** - Most commonly found on suture, this needle type has the cutting edge on the inner curve of the needle; used on tough tissue such as skin

**CVT (Certified Veterinary Technician)** - the professional title and corresponding post nominal letters for a veterinary technician that has completed state and national exams; used in several states including Arizona

**Cystocentesis** - A method of collecting a urine sample from an animal by inserting a needle directly into the bladder

## **D**

**DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration)** - a government agency that monitors the use of legal and illegal drugs including controlled substances used in veterinary practices for medical reasons

**Dental** - Pertaining to the teeth, oftentimes the term is used to describe a dental prophylaxis

**Developer** - A chemical used to produce a radiographic image in automatic and manual radiograph processing

**Diagnosis** - Performed by a doctor, the identification of an animal's illness/ disease/ disorder by combining the results of a physical exam, and if available, additional diagnostics

**Diagnostics** - Tests used to assist in the diagnosis of a patient; ex. blood work, urinalysis, ultrasound, and radiograph

**Diff quick** - A set of three liquids used to stain microscope slides in order to identify different cells of the body, including but not limited to blood, yeast, bacteria and malignant cells

**Digital radiography** - A method of capturing an x-ray image using a computer system

**Direct admit** - AKA "Drop-off," a type of appointment where the animal is left at the hospital for a duration of time and the doctor performs the exam and any needed testing in between already scheduled appointments; normally reserved for urgent situations or as a convenience for clients

**Direct** - the transmission of a disease or illness, passing from one patient to another from close proximity or physical contact; can also mean an order from a veterinarian given while in the same room or in close proximity

**Discharge Instruction** - A written document that summarizes the care an owner needs to provide their pet after leaving the animal hospital; could include feeding instructions, activity restrictions, follow up appointments and medication administration directions

**Disinfection** - The process of killing bacteria, oftentimes using a

chemical substance or cleaner

**DNR (Do Not Resuscitate)** - an owner approved directive, used primarily in critical cases or procedures that have a potential risk factor; the owner elects to have their pet pass away, without medical intervention or the performance of CPR, should their heart stop beating during a veterinary visit

**Dorsal** - A directional term used to identify/ describe the back of an animal, the area closest to the spine

**Dosimetry badge** - A clip-on badge used to determine the amount of radiation an employee is exposed to, during a certain duration of time, while taking radiographs

**Drop-off**- see Direct admit

**Dropper** - A modified syringe used to administer liquid medications to a patient; most commonly marked with ml/ cc units and has a suction bulb at the top

**Drug schedules** - The organization of legal and illegal drugs and medications based on their addictive properties monitored by the DEA; the higher the schedule number the lower the addictive properties

**Dry matter** - Used to describe the composition of animal feed, refers to the amount of food or edible ingredients left after all the water is removed

**DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine)** - post nominal abbreviations for an individual that completed all the required schooling and passed all the certification exams in order to practice veterinary medicine in a specific state or country

## **E**

**Electronic communication** - the interaction between individuals (veterinary team members, client, industry partners) using electronic devices or methods, examples include email, text, or social media

**Electronic paper records** - Computer software that allows for veterinary team members to record all procedures and interactions that pertain to an animal's health and wellbeing in a paperless form; commonly used software includes Cornerstone, Avimark, and Impromed

**Endocrine system** - The internal system that regulates all the hormones of the body and the reactions it generates in order to maintain homeostasis; major components include the hypothalamus, pituitary gland, adrenal glands, kidneys, testicles and ovaries

**Equine** - Referring to a horse

**Estimate** - A breakdown of the procedures, medications and/or treatments recommended by the veterinarian and their associated costs; commonly requires an owner's signature of approval prior to moving forward with the components of the estimate

**Ethics** - The view of society or individuals other than oneself, on what is acceptable to do and what is unacceptable to do, may be in line with or against an individual person's morals

**Euthanasia** - The act of ending an animal's life to alleviate pain and suffering; most common method involves overdosing an animal on a sedative given by injection

**Exhalation** - Another term for breathing out, or releasing all the

oxygen and carbon dioxide from the lungs

## **F**

**FDA (Food and Drug Administration)** - a government agency that regulates the use of medications, and other health related items for animal and human consumption or use

**Fecal loop** - A plastic device that assists in collecting a fecal sample still in an animal's rectum

**Fecal score** - A chart used to identify the different levels of normal and abnormal stool; scores range from 1 to 7, 1 being high in water or other liquid content (diarrhea) and 7 being low in liquid content (very dry)

**Feline** - Referring to a cat

**Fixer** - A chemical used to produce a radiographic image in automatic and manual film processing

**Fluid pump** - A piece of medical equipment used to administer fluids to a patient at a certain quantity over time

**Fomites** - An inanimate, or non-living object that facilitates the spread of a contagious disease; ex. scrubs, stethoscopes, tables, and outdoor areas that have not been properly disinfected

**Foodborne transmission** - Animals that are commonly consumed as food by other animals and have the ability to spread various diseases among consumption

## G

**Gas autoclave** - Used to sterilize medical supplies and equipment that cannot be exposed to high heat, pressure and/ or steam; commonly found in specialty practices

**Gastrointestinal system** - AKA the digestive system or the alimentary canal; breaks down food ingested by an animal, via chemical or mechanical means, to a form that can be absorbed and distributed into the body via the bloodstream; major components include mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestines and accessory digestive organs

**Generic** - A product or medication that does not have a trademark or a brand name

**Geriatric** - A term to describe an animal that is older in age, large dogs reach a geriatric age faster than small dogs and cats

**Gestation** - The term used to describe the development of an animal inside a species that gives birth to live bearing young

**Gown** - A piece of PPE equipment most commonly used in surgery to prevent a break in asepsis or in the isolation room to prevent the spread of infectious organisms

**Gram stain** - A laboratory staining technique used to differentiate between bacteria

**Gross incompetence** - When an individual makes a mistake that has serious consequences, but does so unknowingly or on accident

## H

**Homeostasis** - The balance of the body, all systems including but not limited to the endocrine system, nervous system, respiratory and circulatory system; all systems help maintain a healthy balance in the body in order to prevent disease

**Hospital Policies** - Rules, procedures and/ or requirements put forth by an animal hospital to ensure the practice runs smoothly and that all staff members are held to the same professional standards

**Husbandry** - Providing basic care to animals, including but not limited to feeding, cleaning, providing physical and mental stimulation

**Hypothermic** - The status of a patient's internal body temperature being below the normal threshold; can be caused by prolonged inactivity, surgery and/ or illness

## I

**IM (Intramuscular)** - an injection of medication administered directly into the muscle

**Immune system** - The body system of an animal responsible for fighting off infections and keeping the animal healthy; vaccinations are used in conjunction with the immune system to prevent animals from getting contagious diseases

**In house lab** - The evaluation of blood, urine or fecal samples using the equipment available at the animal hospital; the types of tests a facility can complete are limited by their equipment

**In house refills** - Medications that are filled and distributed directly by the animal hospital rather than an outside pharmacy

**Incubation** - The term used to describe the development of young inside an animal that lays eggs

**Indirect** - the transmission of a disease or illness, passing from one patient to another via the environment or by fomites; can also mean an order from a veterinarian given in writing, over the phone or via a treatment plan, oftentimes the veterinarian is not in the same room or in close vicinity

**Inhalant** - Something that is brought into the body by breathing in; ex. medication, infectious organism, or anesthesia

**Inhalation** - breathing in, or pulling oxygen into the lungs

**Injectables** - A liquid form of medication that is most commonly given via a syringe SQ, IM or IV

**Input** - In regards to feeding, the amount of food an animal eats during a specific length of time; can also refer to water consumption or the amount of fluids given to an animal IV or SQ

**Integumentary system** - The body system that focuses on the growth, health and maintenance of hair, skin, nails, horns and hooves

**Intussusception** - An abnormal condition of the intestines where a section is pulled into another section, similar to how a telescope collapses onto itself

**Inventory** - Determining the physical count or quantity of an item used for daily business; quantity helps determine when the item should be replenished or reordered

**Isolation** - An area of the animal hospital where an animal that has a contagious infection is kept to prevent the spread of the infection to

other animals or the staff of the hospital; special protocols, PPE and equipment are used

**IV drip counter** - A part of the basic IV line administration tubing/ set; the counter allows for the quantity of fluids to be adjusted using the roller clamp, by counting the number of drips over a duration of time

**IV (Intravenous)** - an injection of medication administered directly into the vein

## **J**

**Jugular vein** - Two large veins located in the neck of an animal

## **K**

**Kcal (Kilocalories)** - used to determine the amount of energy a food source will provide

**Kgs (Kilograms)** - a unit of measurement to determine a patient's weight

## **L**

**Lateral** - A directional term used to identify/ describe the side of an animal; can refer to the right or the left side

**Lbs (Pounds)** - a unit of measurement to determine a patient's weight

**Liquid** - A form of a medication most commonly given PO using a

dropper

**LVT (Licensed Veterinary Technician)** - the professional title and corresponding post nominal letters for a veterinary technician that has completed a state and national exam

## **M**

**Macro IV lines** - A type of IV administration tubing/ set that takes 60 drops to deliver one ml of fluids to a patient

**Malignant** - A description given to the types of cells that cause cancer

**Malpractice** - When a medical professional acts in an illegal, or negligent manner, oftentimes resulting in harm or lack of care provided to a patient in need

**Manual radiography** - A method of capturing an x-ray image using a set of open air tanks or tubs filled with chemicals; an individual is responsible for placing the radiograph image in the chemicals, exposing the radiograph film to the developer and fixer chemical, for a certain amount of time

**Master Problem List** - A quick reference sheet found in an animal's medical record that summarizes important medical conditions, behavioral warning and/ or allergic reactions

**Medial** - A directional term used to identify/ describe the area of an animal closest to the center, specifically the inside of the forelimbs and the hindlimbs

**Metastatic** - Derived from the term metastasis; used to describe

when cancers spread to adjacent body parts or throughout the entire body; normally seen in fast growing or invasive forms of cancer

**Micro IV lines** - A type of IV administration tubing/ set that takes 10 drops to deliver one ml of fluids to a patient

**Microorganisms** - Very small, single or multicellular living beings that can be helpful or harmful to an animals health, common types include virus, bacteria, fungus and protozoa

**Mid stream** - Refers to the collection of urine samples eliminated by an animal during the normal urination process; the sample is collected after the animal has been allowed to urinate for a few moments, prior to collection, and not at the beginning of urination

**Misrepresentation** - Leading an individual to believe something that is in fact wrong or untrue

**MM (Mucous Membranes)** - describes the tissue that surrounds the mouth cavity and the remainder of the digestive tract; also found on the genitals and throughout the body on organs and orifices. In regards to an animal's vitals, it refers to the color of an animal's mucous membrane tissue, most commonly evaluated using the gum tissue

**Monitors** - Equipment used in the animal hospital to continuously evaluate an animals overall health; most commonly used during a surgical procedure to record the heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, temperature and other parameters

**Monofilament** - A type of surgical suture that has one single strand; primarily used on softer delicate tissue as it causes less damage and a reduced chance of infection compared to braided suture



**Morals** - An individual's personal view on what is acceptable to do and what is unacceptable to do based on their personal history, upbringing and cultural beliefs

**Musculoskeletal system** - The body system composed of bones and muscles that produces movement and allows multiple body processes to occur

## **N**

**Nasal cannula**- A plastic attachment that helps administer oxygen to patients in need via the nose

**Negligence** - Failure of a medical professional to properly treat or care for a patient that results in injury or death to the patient

**Nervous system** - A system of the body controlled by the brain that functions to create homeostasis using electrical signals; major components include the brain and spinal cord

**Non-credentialed** - An individual that is performing the duties of a job but does not have, or has not pursued, the educational or job experience needed in order to take and pass the exam for certification

**Non-absorbable** - The inability of an item to dissolve inside the body and commonly needs to be removed; most commonly used to describe a type of surgical suture

**Non-core** - A vaccine that is given to an animal based on their specific age, lifestyle or breed, commonly prevents a disease that they are at higher risk of contracting based on exposure

**Nutraceuticals** - A food or supplement that assists in overall health of an animal. Unlike food a nutraceutical is not regulated by the FDA

## **O**

**Obese** - An overweight animal, caused by increased food consumption and lack of activity, or as a result of medications or a medical condition

**Objective** - A record or account of information that is based on fact and data and is not influenced by a personal opinion or view point; ex. heart rate, temperature, and weight

**Ophthalmic** - Pertaining to the eye

**Orifices** - A normal opening in the body, common examples include the mouth and nose

**OTC (Over The Counter)** - describes supplements, medications and other products that are given for medical reasons or to treat a medical condition that can be purchased from a store or medical facility without a doctor's written prescription

**Otoscope** - A piece of medical equipment that allows a medical professional to see inside the ear canal, most often used to visualize the tympanic membrane

**Output** - the urination or defecation produced by an animal during a specific length of time

**Oxygen** - Required by almost all animals for survival, is found in the

environment and brought into the body via the respiratory system; during medical emergencies can be provided to an animal in need using a pressurized tank and a specialized cage, face mask or nasal cannula

**Oz (Ounce)** - a unit of measurement to determine a patient's weight

## **P**

**Pain medication** - An oral, topical or injectable medication that is used to prevent or treat an animal in pain

**Patient advocacy** - The responsibility of a medical professional to perform their duties, actions and day to day activities with their patients best interests as top priority; staff members recognizing and doing all they can to help an animal in need since animals cannot speak for themselves

**Patient** - The term used to describe the animal being seen or treated at an animal hospital

**Perforation** - An abnormal hole in the body of an animal caused by injury or disease; most common location is the intestinal tract as a result of a foreign body

**Pharmacy refills** - Medications that are filled and distributed directly by a pharmacy; not all medications can be filled at an animal hospital due to limited stock, so many specialty medications will be filled at human, animal or compounding pharmacies

**Physical restraint** - when a veterinary professional holds an animal in a specific position without causing injury; see also restraint

**Plan** - The outline or process moving forward; created by the

veterinarian and generally includes a path to help an animal recover from an injury, sickness, or alleviate suffering

**PO (By Mouth)** - refers to any food, medication or other item given to a patient by mouth or orally

**Pocket pets** - A general term used to describe small animals that are kept as pets, includes the following ferrets, guinea pigs, rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, mice, rats and sometimes hedgehogs

**Positioning aids** - Used primarily in radiographic procedures, these items help to move or maintain an animal in a specific orientation or position for the duration of a procedure, ex. a trough, sandbags, gauze ties, and foam wedges

**Post nominal letters** - Initials found at the end of an individual's name in order to designate specific schooling or certifications; ex. DVM, CVT, RVT, and LVT

**PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)** - a type of clothing worn to prevent personal injury or the spread of contagious organisms; ex. gloves, gown, mask, face shield, etc.

**Prescribe** - The order or recommendation made by a doctor for a patient to take a medication, supplement, diet or therapy to treat or improve a current medical issue or condition

**Prescription diets** - A food or prescribed by a doctor in order to treat or improve a medical condition or issue

**Prescription** - Based on something prescribed by a doctor, most commonly given in a written form

**Preventative** - An action, medication or treatment performed in order

to prevent a potential health issue or disease

**Prognosis** - The potential for recovery or ability of an animal to regain optimal health; determined by a doctor using evidence found from a patient's medical chart; ex. Good, Poor, Fair, and Guarded

**Progress notes** - A summary of a patient's current and past medical issues, tests and treatments; can be kept in a paper or electronic form

**Prophylaxis** - A procedure performed in order to prevent future health issues or concerns

**Pulse** - the amount to times the heart beats in a minute

## Q

**Quality control** - Practices performed on medical equipment and supplies in order to ensure they perform correctly and with the highest degree of accuracy; ex. radiology machines, bloodwork machines, and anesthesia machines

## R

**Radiology** - the study and use of radiation in order to capture an external image of the internal organs and bones of a patient

**Records** - The written summary of a patient's past and present visits to the hospital; used by medical professionals to reflect on to provide medical care

**Recumbency** - the placement of an animal on a specific side, or area

of their body using directional terminology as a guide; ex. sternal recumbency, lateral recumbency, and dorsal recumbency

**Reference lab** - A laboratory used by medical professionals in order to evaluate blood, urine, feces and other body samples for abnormalities by conducting specialty tests that cannot be performed in the animals hospital

**Reproductive system** - The part of an animal's body responsible for procreation, can occur via gestation or incubation; major components include the uterus, vagina, penis, ovaries, and testicles

**Reptiles** - A general term used to describe animals found in the class Reptilia; ex. various species of snakes, lizards and turtles

**Respirations** - the number of breaths taken by the patient per minute

**Respiratory system** - The part of an animal's body that facilitates oxygen inhalation and exhalation; major components include nose, mouth, lungs, and trachea

**Restraint** - The movement or placement of an animal in a certain position, in order to complete a procedure; involves the use of physical, verbal and/or a chemical component (see also physical restraint, verbal restraint, chemical restraint)

**Reverse cutting needle** - Most commonly found on suture, this needle type has the cutting edge on the outer curve of the needle; used for ophthalmic and other delicate procedures as it causes less trauma to the surrounding tissues

**RVT (Registered Veterinary Technician)** - the professional title and

corresponding post nominal letters for a veterinary technician that has completed a state and national exam.

## **S**

**Sanitation** - Keeping an area or the parts of the animal hospital clean and free of debris

**Saphenous (lateral)** - The vein found on the lateral side of the hindlimb

**Saphenous (medial)** - The vein found on the medial side of the hindlimb

**Scavenger** - An important component of the anesthesia circuit, takes the left over anesthetic gas from the anesthetic machine and directs it outside of the operating room to prevent employees from being exposed

**Scruff** - The area of loose skin located on the back of the neck of many animal species; most commonly used as a restraint method in cats, mirroring the way a mother cat would carry her young kittens

**Sedation** - The use of a medication, most commonly given orally or injected, to help subdue or prevent an animal from being fully awake or conscious for a procedure

**Sedatives** - The classification or group of medications used for sedation purposes

**Sensory system** - The parts of the animal body specific to their senses, includes but not limited to eyes and ears

**Serial radiographs** - The process of taking multiple radiographs, at

specific time intervals, in order to watch the progression of internal body processes for abnormalities

**Side effects** - An unintended consequence or reaction from the use of a medication or supplement that does not benefit the original reason for administration

**Signalment** - The specific characteristics of an animal including species, breed, age, sex and sterilization status

**SOAP (Subjective, Objective, Assessment and Plan)** - The most common form of veterinary medical record keeping practices; see individual definitions of each individual term for further information

**Soda lime** - A granule used in an anesthesia machine to absorb carbon dioxide exhaled by the animal during a surgical or similar procedure

**Spectrum of Activity** - The ability of a medication or chemical cleaner to kill a specific microorganism

**SQ (Subcutaneous)** - used to identify an injection of a medication under the skin

**State Practice Act** - A set of rules and regulations put forth by an individual state that outlines the roles and responsibilities of each member of the veterinary profession

**Steam autoclave** - The use of a specific temperature, pressure and duration of time on a medical instrument or tools, in order to kill all microorganisms found on the surface

**Sterilization** - The removal of all microorganisms on a medical

instrument or tools using gas, steam or liquid submersion methods

**Sternal** - A directional term used to identify/ describe the belly or stomach area of an animal, the area closest to the sternum

**Stethoscope** - A piece of medical equipment that allows a medical professional to listen to the heart, lungs and gut sounds of a patient

**Stock** - The practice of replenishing/ replacing used supplies

**Subjective** - A record or account of information that is based on personal experience or viewpoint, is not based on facts

**Superficial pressure bandage** - A bandage that serves to prevent patient bleeding from a wound, or opening; common placement areas include limbs and over the abdomen after abdominal surgery

**Supplements** - A liquid, capsule, tablet or pill taken to benefit an animals overall health, but does not replace a medication, food or diet

**Surgery Record** - A paper or electronic account of a surgery, includes medications used, vitals and overall result of the procedure

**Surgery** - The use of instruments to repair or treat an injury, disorder or prevent a future health problem by making an incision or manipulations of the body; primary duty of a veterinarian

**Suspension** - Another term for a liquid medication, often of thick consistency

**Suture** - Thread like material that is used to close openings (doctor made or as a result of injury) on patients

**Syringe** - A plastic (or occasionally glass) medical device equipped

with a plunger on the end that is used to administer medications and food to a patient; most commercial syringes have the ability to attach a needle for IV, IM and SQ injections

## **T**

**Tablets** - Granules or powder, tightly compressed, that contains a specific amount of medication to treat a medical condition or issue

**Taper needle** - Most commonly found on suture, this needle type has a blunt point at the end allowing it to pass through, or between tissue fibers without cutting; used for soft tissue procedures such as that of the intestines and highly vascular areas

**Technician** - The title used to describe a nurse for animals, this individual assists a veterinarian in order to care for sick and injured animals; specific job duties depend on the state and country, may or may not require certification to hold employment

**Temperature** - the heat produced by the body

**Therapeutic** - A medication or therapy used to help improve or alleviate the symptoms of a disease or illness

**TPR (Temperature, Pulse, and Respirations)** - a list of objective values used by medical professionals to evaluate the overall health of a patient

**Treatment Plan** - An outline of all medical procedures that need to be completed on an animal over a duration of time; includes but not limited to vital signs, fluid administration, medications, walks and feeding

**Triage** - Evaluating an animal's medication condition based on severity, those in critical condition are seen first where those that are stable must wait until after the critical patients are seen

**Turbidity** - A term used to describe the amount of molecules or sediment found in a liquid sample, commonly used to evaluate a urine sample

**Tympanic membrane** - Another name for the eardrum, a layer of tissue found in the ear that separates the outer ear from the middle ear; assists with the transmission of sound

## U

**Ultrasound** - The use of sound waves to visualize the internal organs on a screen

**Urinary system** - The body system responsible for filtering the blood; waste is excreted in the form of urine; major components include the kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra

**Urine sedi stain** - A liquid used to stain urine on a microscope slides in order to identify the components of sediment found in a urine sample

## V

**Vaccine** - A manufactured substance that helps build immunity to a specific disease; created by taking a part of the disease (killed or weakened) and introducing it to the body to produce an immune response

**VCPR (Veterinary Client Patient Relationship)** - the relationship established when an animal comes into the animal hospital and is examined by a veterinarian; the frequency of this relationship, or how often the animals must be seen before treatment or being prescribed a medication is dictated by the State Practice Act

**Vector** - An organism that does not cause a disease, but transfer it from one animal to another; ex. mosquito, fleas, ticks, lice

**Verbal communication** - the interaction between individuals (veterinary team members, client, industry partners) using words

**Verbal restraint** - when a veterinary professional uses words, such as "sit", "stay", "down", or "no" to reinforce an animal to stay in a particular position; see also restraint

**Vitals** - The evaluation of objective patient parameters, most commonly includes weight, temperature, heart rate/ pulse, respiratory rate, mucous membranes and capillary refill time

## W

**Walk-ins** - An occurrence where a client does not have an appointment but shows up, without warning, to an animal hospital hoping to see a doctor; can be routine or emergency in nature

**Want/wish list** - A running list of medical items (supplies, medications etc.) that the clinic is either low on, out of, or needs to be ordered for special purposes

**Water blanket** - A device that contains water, it is heated to help

support and keep a patient warm that is hypothermic or has the potential to become hypothermic

**Wt (Weight)** - how heavy an animal is, can be recorded in pounds (lbs), kilograms (kg), ounces (oz) or combination of pounds and ounces

## Y

**Young** - An animal that is still growing and has not reached maturity, or is not fully grown

## Z

**Zoonosis** - A disease that can spread from one animal to another and vice versa; ex. a pet spreading a disease to a human, or a human spreading a disease to their pet