



BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

**Designate dedicated
anesthetic induction and
recovery areas.**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What are the advantages of having dedicated areas?

How would induction and recovery areas differ from each other?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Identify potential areas to designate for induction/recovery.

VA/VT:

Support medical quality standards for induction and recovery.

CSC/PM:

Be familiar with locations in hospital where induction and recovery occur.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

**Review anesthetic
human safety hazards annually
with all hospital associates.**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What are 3 common human safety hazards that may be encountered when performing anesthesia?

Name 4 ways to mitigate these risks.

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Schedule annual review of human health hazards.

VA/VT:

Be familiar with health hazards and support a culture of safety.

CSC/PM:

Support a culture of safety and understand and support scheduling needs for safety training.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Review current CPR recommendations and provide CPR training at least annually to all hospital associates.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Name 2 sources where current CPR guidelines may be found.

What are the key components of basic life support?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:
Schedule CPR training, assign team members and practice “running the code.”

VA/VT:
Be familiar with BLS and ALS, and practice “running the code.”

CSC/PM:
Be able to participate in BLS and ALS, and support scheduling needs for training.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Use a new fluid bag and fluid administration set for each pet, regardless of route of fluid administration. Identify each bag with pet name, in addition to date and time.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What are the benefits of each pet having his/her own fluid bag set?

What are some ways to help minimize waste of used IV fluid bags and sets?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:
Ensure each pet has own fluid bag, properly labeled.

VA/VT:
Discard all used fluid bags and administration sets after each use.

CSC/PM:
Support ordering and inventory needs for fluid and anesthetic support.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Utilize esophageal instrumentation to provide further means of patient monitoring.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Name 3 patient parameters that can be measured/monitored via the esophagus.

What are 2 potential complications of esophageal monitoring?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Understand and help train the team on the benefits of esophageal monitoring.

VA/VT:

Ensure appropriate monitoring equipment is available and in good working order.

CSC/PM:

Support ordering and maintenance needs of monitoring equipment.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Identify, discuss and address genetic conditions that may impact anesthesia.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Provide a dog and cat example of a genetic condition that could impact anesthesia.

What are possible consequences of performing anesthesia on pets with an unknown genetic condition?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Discuss appropriate testing for genetic conditions and direct subsequent anesthetic modifications.

VA/VT:

Support anesthetic modifications that may be needed for genetic conditions.

CSC/PM:

Support client communications around anesthetic risks.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Provide pre-oxygenation to all pets who will benefit from and tolerate the procedure.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Name 3 patient benefits of pre-oxygenation and give 3 examples of pets that may benefit from pre-oxygenation.

What can be done if a pet would benefit from pre-oxygenation but resists the procedure?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Identify those pets that will benefit from pre-oxygenation and provide direction to the anesthetic team.

VA/VT:

Provide oxygen therapy with appropriate monitoring. Alert the DVM if the procedure is not well tolerated.

CSC/PM:

Identify those pets receiving oxygen therapy and be able to assist if needed.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Utilize the pre-anesthetic timeout checklist for every general anesthetic procedure.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Who is responsible for completing the *Preanesthetic Timeout Checklist*?

What are the benefits of using this checklist?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Complete the timeout checklist with the anesthetic team and ensure documentation in medical record.

VA/VT:

Ensure completion of checklist and communicate concerns to DVM.

CSC/PM:

Be familiar with checklist usage and discuss with clients how this impacts pet safety.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Train all hospital associates in the appropriate use of pain scales and recognizing pain in pets. Bring concerns of patient analgesia to the attending veterinarian's attention. Review pain recognition training annually.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What are (1) obvious and (2) more subtle signs of pain in both dogs and cats?

List medical and surgical conditions that are thought to be especially painful.

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Plan and address pet analgesic needs in the hospital and at home. Have a plan in place if analgesic needs cannot be met.

VA/VT:

Advocate for pet analgesia and support owner education in recognition of pain.

CSC/PM:

Understand signs of pain in dogs and cats and communicate concerns with hospital team. Support scheduling for pain recognition training.



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Content is derived from *Anesthesia and Analgesia for the Veterinary Practitioner: Canine and Feline*



BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Utilize advanced analgesic therapies (soaker catheters, spinal blocks, etc.) appropriately to contribute to pet safety and comfort.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Where could training for advanced analgesic techniques be obtained?

What are risks associated with utilizing advanced analgesic techniques?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Provide, or refer if indicated, for appropriate analgesic therapy.

VA/VT:

Identify and communicate to team those pets that may still be exhibiting signs of pain even after analgesia has been provided.

CSC/PM:

Support needed inventory and supplies for advanced analgesic provision.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Encourage and pursue additional training in advanced anesthetic administration and monitoring for hospital associates.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Where could training for advanced anesthetic administration and monitoring be obtained?

What are some examples of advanced anesthetic administration and monitoring?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Be familiar with advanced options and pursue or support additional training.

VA/VT:

Provide (and/or assist in) advanced anesthetic administration/monitoring.

CSC/PM:

Support scheduling, inventory and training needed to provide advanced techniques and monitoring.



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BEST PRACTICES HUDDLE CARD

Utilize and follow an anesthetic recovery form with all general anesthetic procedures.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What are the risks associated with anesthetic recovery?

What pets may be especially prone to complications during anesthetic recovery?

KNOW YOUR ROLE!

DVM:

Direct and train teams to use the recovery form and ensure complete documentation in medical record.

VA/VT:

Utilize the recovery form and notify DVM of any concerns during anesthetic recovery.

CSC/PM:

Communicate to owners how we work to mitigate risk associated with recovery. Schedule personnel to provide recovery support.



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