New! Hospital Standards Self-Evaluation Checklist

The California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) approved the Hospital Standards Self-Evaluation Checklist of February 2012 which was developed by its Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee with input from the public and profession. The CVMA was involved at every meeting and had input in the final product.

The purpose of the checklist is to assist practice owners and hospital directors in complying with the law by giving them a tool which they can use to conduct their own inspections to verify compliance with minimum standards. Every veterinary hospital is required to be in compliance with the minimum standards at all times.

The Inspection Program

The VMB has the authority to inspect veterinary hospitals. There are two types of inspections: random routine inspections and complaint-initiated inspections. The VMB inspects all items on the checklist in both types of inspections. However, during a complaint-initiated inspection particular attention may be directed toward a specific issue, and/or a Division of Investigation investigator may accompany the inspector to perform interviews.

The Inspection

Once the inspection is complete the inspector will go over the report with the managing licensee or designated representative. The inspection report identifies deficiencies, lists individual corrections, lists what items are required to be submitted to demonstrate compliance (e.g., pictures, receipts, written narratives, photocopies, etc.), and discusses their correction to meet the minimum standards requirements. Questions are encouraged so the managing licensee and/or staff are clear on each issue.

The 30-page checklist is a useful tool for hospitals to stay in compliance and make the inspection process go smoothly. Throughout the checklist, objectives are cited and examples for compliance are given. Examples cited are neither prescriptive nor the only way individual veterinary hospitals may meet minimum standards requirements.

The entire VMB checklist can be accessed at www.vmb.ca.gov/forms_pubs/hosp_insp_chklst.pdf.