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NOTICE: COVID-19 Veterinary Essential Services

March 25, 2020

Consistent with the governor's declared state of emergency regarding COVID-19 (Corona Virus), the Board of Registration of Veterinary Medicine ("the Board") is providing guidance to veterinarians on best practices to protect the patient, patient owners, and veterinarians and their staff.

While the practice of Veterinary Medicine has been deemed an Essential Service the Board is recommending the following:

1. Optimize use and preserve Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE")
2. Postpone Non-Urgent and Wellness visits
3. Postpone Elective surgeries, routine dentistry care, and vaccinations in accordance to public health considerations
4. If on site examination and/or treatment is medically necessary, limit exposure of patient owners

Further, to assist with "social-distancing" and to reduce the volume of visitors in your practice/facility, the board encourages the use of **Telemedicine** (hyper link policy) whenever possible.

Although these steps are recommended and encouraged, at this time the veterinarian may use their professional discretion, while maintaining compliance with all Board regulations and policies, in determining best practices to protect the health, safety and welfare of their patients, their staff and the general public during the state of emergency. Veterinarians should also stay up to date with any guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Continuing Education

Please review the Board [Policy No. 13-02](#) regarding online continuing education credits. Online CE programs that adhere to this policy by providing live, interactive education will be deemed acceptable as non- "home study or other mediated instruction" credits.

The Baker-Polito Administration will continue to update the public on COVID-19 response and precautionary measures. For more information, please visit: www.mass.gov/COVID19.

