

ASB Standard 169, First Edition
~~2021~~2022

**Standard for Veterinary Forensic Live Animal
Examination**

DRAFT



ASB
ACADEMY
STANDARDS BOARD

Standard for Veterinary Forensic Live Animal Examination

ASB Approved Xxxxx ~~2021~~2022

ANSI Approved Xxxxxx ~~2021~~2022



ASB
ACADEMY
STANDARDS BOARD

410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

This document may be downloaded from: www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board.

This document is provided by the AAFS Academy Standards Board. Users are permitted to print and download the document and extracts from the document for personal use, however the following actions are prohibited under copyright:

- *modifying this document or its related graphics in any way;*
- *using any illustrations or any graphics separately from any accompanying text; and,*
- *failing to include an acknowledgment alongside the copied material noting the AAFS Academy Standards Board as the copyright holder and publisher.*

Users may not reproduce, duplicate, copy, sell, resell, or exploit for any commercial purposes this document or any portion of it. Users may create a hyperlink to www.asbstandardsboard.org to allow persons to download their individual free copy of this document. The hyperlink must not portray AAFS, the AAFS Standards Board, this document, our agents, associates and affiliates in an offensive manner, or be misleading or false. ASB trademarks may not be used as part of a link without written permission from ASB.

The AAFS Standards Board retains the sole right to submit this document to any other forum for any purpose.

Certain commercial entities, equipment or materials may be identified in this document to describe a procedure or concept adequately. Such identification is not intended to imply recommendations or endorsement by the AAFS or the AAFS Standards Board, nor is it intended to imply that the entities, materials, or equipment are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

Proper citation of ASB documents includes the designation, title, edition, and year of publication.

*This document is copyrighted © by the AAFS Standards Board, LLC. 20212022 All rights are reserved.
410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, www.asstandardsboardaafs.org/academy-standards-board.*

DRAFT

Foreword

~~These minimum requirements are designed to guide veterinarians who perform live animal examinations. An ad hoc committee was struck after the need for veterinary live animal examination standards was identified and voted upon at the 2018 International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association business meeting.~~

~~This document provides minimum requirements for live animal examinations. The standard covers preliminary procedures, evidence documentation, medical triage on scene, initial intake examination, and ancillary testing. This document also lists all the information a veterinarian needs in the formulation and consideration of opinions and interpretation of a forensic case.~~

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences established the Academy Standards Board (ASB) in ~~2016~~2015 with a vision of safeguarding Justice, Integrity and Fairness through Consensus Based American National Standards. To that end, the ASB develops consensus based forensic standards within a framework accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and provides training to support those standards. ASB values integrity, scientific rigor, openness, due process, collaboration, excellence, diversity and inclusion. ASB is dedicated to developing and making freely accessible the highest quality documentary forensic science consensus Standards, Guidelines, Best Practices, and Technical Reports in a wide range of forensic science disciplines as a service to forensic practitioners and the legal system.

This document was revised, prepared, and finalized as a standard by the Wildlife Forensics Consensus Body of the AAFS Standards Board.

Questions, comments, and suggestions for the improvement of this document can be sent to AAFS-ASB Secretariat, asb@aafs.org or 401 N 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

All hyperlinks and web addresses shown in this document are current as of the publication date of this standard.

ASB procedures are publicly available, free of cost, at <https://www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board> ~~www.asbstandardsboard.org.~~

Keywords: *veterinary forensic sciences, live animal examination, animal ~~crime scene~~abuse, animal cruelty, clinical veterinary forensic examination*

DRAFT

Table of Contents (*to be completed prior to publication*)

1 Scope.....

2 Normative References.....

3 Terms and Definitions.....

4 Requirements.....

4.1 Training and Personnel.....

4.2 Forensic Physical Examination.....

4.3 Diagnostics.....

4.4 Euthanasia and/or Necropsy.....

4.5 Documentation (record keeping).....

4.6 Photography and Videography.....

4.7 Diagramming/Sketching.....

4.8 Evidence Packaging and Handling.....

Annex A (informative) Bibliography.....

DRAFT

Standard for the Clinical Veterinary Forensic ~~Live Animal~~ Examination

1 Scope

This document provides minimum requirements for the forensic veterinary examination of a live animal and the collection of physical evidence. This includes the physical examination, ~~ancillary diagnostic~~ testing, documentation, and evidence handling, ~~and training~~ specific to the examination of live animals encountered in potential civil or criminal forensic cases involving animals.

2 Normative References

The following normative reference is indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

American Veterinary Medical Association Euthanasia Guidelines^a

Chain of Custody, National Library of Medicine—National Center for Biotechnology Information^b

3 Terms and Definitions

For purposes of this document, the following definitions apply.

3.1

~~alternative~~**alternate** light source

ALS

Equipment used to produce light at various wavelengths to enhance or visualize potential items of evidence.

NOTE Monochromatic light source can be used in examination of an animal's body to enhance visualization, identification, documentation, and collection of bodily fluids, and fibers as potential evidence.

~~3.13.2~~

animal

A creature or living ~~thing~~**being**, other than human, ~~able to move of its own accord~~. The legal definition of animal may be further defined by local law.

~~3.23.3~~

body condition score

A quantitative number, based on a species specific published scale, used to estimate ~~energy reserves~~**body composition** in the form of fat and muscle.

^a Available from: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/avma-guidelines-euthanasia-animals>

^b Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK551677/>

3.4

chain of custody

Chronological record of the handling and sequential documentation, showing custody, control, access, transfer, storage, of an item from its point of collection to its final return or disposal.

Note Items may include the animals themselves and disposition of evidence collected from animals and their environments.

3.3

collection swabs

Sterile swabs used for the collection of bodily fluids containing DNA evidence from body surfaces (e.g., fur, teeth, and nails).

3.5

clinical veterinary forensic examination

Medical examination by a veterinarian of a live animal for medicolegal purposes.

NOTE The examination may include, but is not limited to, the assessment of behavior, body condition score and organ systems to identify and document an animal's overall condition at a point in time.

3.43.6

diagnostic imaging

Radiographs, Computed Tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), ultrasound, and other diagnostic modalities used to assess and document condition, injury, or disease processes in the live animal.

3.5

evidence

A body of facts, information, or material objects providing proof that a belief or proposition is true or valid.

3.6

forensic physical examination

A systemic examination that includes, but is not limited to, the assessment of behavior both observed and in response to stimuli, body condition score and organ systems to identify, document, and collect evidence of an animal's overall condition at a point in time.

3.7

exigent circumstances

Circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that relevant prompt action was necessary to prevent physical harm to persons or animals, the destruction of relevant evidence or some other consequence improperly frustrating legitimate law enforcement efforts.

3.8

forensic

Related to methods, techniques and processes used to establish conclusions and/or opinions, facts, and findings which can be used for legal proceedings.

3.73.9

forensic photography (still and video)

~~Documentary visual evidence to create permanent record~~The act of producing an accurate reproduction of a crime scene or physical evidence using photography for the purpose of the clinical condition, environment and any ancillary materials or factors associated with an investigation of animal injury~~investigative or condition~~court aid.

4 Requirements

4.1 ~~Training and~~ Personnel

~~A licensed veterinarian in good standing in the state of their licensure shall conduct the live animal examination.~~

A licensed veterinarian in good standing in the state of their licensure shall conduct the clinical veterinary forensic examination. The examining veterinarian should have clinical experience with the species being examined. The thorough medicolegal investigation may be conducted through a collaboration of veterinarians familiar with the affected species and a veterinarian with forensic experience and training. “When aspects of a case fall outside the veterinarian’s normal practice area, they should consult or refer to other experts. For example, a boarded veterinary pathologist, radiologist, or toxicologist may be able to provide additional diagnostic insight, or species specific expertise may be necessary to provide exotic animal care.”^[1,2,3]

An assistant should also be present at the time of examination to assist with animal handling, collecting, and documenting evidence. The handling and packaging of evidence should be performed by individuals, or under the direction of persons with training and/or experience in these processes. The name(s) of any person(s) assisting during a forensic examination should be documented.

4.2 ~~Clinical Veterinary Forensic~~ Physical Examination

4.2.1 General

Every effort shall be made to preserve and document forensic evidence; however, this shall be balanced with the urgent veterinary care and welfare needs of an animal. Minimal standards of care, as set by regulatory agencies, shall be adhered to.

4.2.2 Context for Examination

The veterinarian shall review any available information concerning the examination, including but not limited to, witness reports, scene photography, allegations or theories, so that the examination and opinion formation are made with context to known or possible explanations for the animal(s) condition(s).

4.2.3 Legal Considerations^[2]

The veterinarian’s legal right to perform a medicolegal examination, beyond the duty to alleviate or prevent suffering and preserve life, should be established prior to the examination of the animal. In order to examine the animal, there should be owner consent, voluntary relinquishment of ownership, or a court-order terminating ownership rights or authorizing a search that includes the examination of the animal or animals.

An animal is also evidence in the criminal case. Therefore, a veterinarian should discuss with law enforcement and/or the prosecutor what initial and ongoing care (including the potential for emergent care), examinations, and diagnostics (including imaging) are permissible. These discussions should occur prior to the veterinarian's examination of the animal unless exigent circumstances exist. However, an examination and diagnostics authorized by the owner or their designee may occur prior to contacting law enforcement.

Animals whose ownership are unknown require the same considerations and consultation with the appropriate authorities when crimes are suspected.

Veterinarians shall always conduct themselves with the expectation that their work may be used in legal proceedings. As such, they should ensure that they are meeting the minimum standards of care and that all examinations, testing, treatment, and care are within the scope of owner consent, or authorized by law enforcement.

4.2.24.2.4 **Traceable Identification**

The veterinarian, or staff member under supervision, ~~shall~~should scan for microchip, ~~tags with a universal scanner if available, and shall document any microchip numbers. Tags, bands, and/or tattoos (any, and/or other form of potentially traceable identification). The shall be documented. The procedures used to locate any identifiers and the results of such procedures, or the seen~~absence of any identifiers shall be documented.

4.2.5 **Animal Identification**

Each animal shall be assigned a unique identification and the identifier(s) shall be used throughout the record keeping and chain of custody process. This identifier shall be affixed to the animal in the form of a tag on a collar or other similar method of maintaining the unique identifier on the animal, as appropriate for the species and the age. ~~recorded. If the animal has a readable microchip or other suitable identification, that may be used as the unique identification.~~

The entity presenting the animal for examination shall be documented along with any relevant information available on the owner.

4.2.34.2.6 **Animal Signalment and ~~Owner Information (if known)~~ Description**

The documentation of the identification of the animal shall include the following, if applicable:

- a) species;
- b) sex (intact, altered, or undetermined);
- c) breed or breed type resemblance;
- d) age (~~{~~[known, reported (if reported, indicate reporting individual or agency), or estimated]; (if estimated, describe how age was determined)]);
- e) fur length and type (smooth or rough);
- f) color and unique markings

g) ~~(any physical alterations noted)- (e.g., cropped ears, docked tail.~~

4.2.44.2.7 **Body Condition Score**

The veterinarian shall evaluate and document body condition. A body condition score (BCS) using a published and/or referenced body condition scoring system should be used and shall be documented, if available.

4.2.5—External Physical Examination

~~The veterinarian shall perform. If a thorough external physical examination, identifying any obvious or healed injuries (scars) as follows:~~

~~a) measure injury size and depth;~~

~~describe BCS system is unavailable, the location of the wound/body composition should be described using anatomical landmarks; physical examination findings or other appropriate method.~~

~~b) describe the wound (color, presence of granulation, contraction, epithelialization, contamination, etc.).~~

4.2.64.2.8 **Identify Abnormal Odors, Foreign Objects, and Substances**

The veterinarian ~~should identify~~shall inspect for and describe abnormal odors, foreign objects, and substances on all external areas and fur (where applicable) ~~as follows:~~

~~entire body to be scanned with alternative and safe to perform the exam). An alternate light source (ALS) should be used if available or and indicated; The exam should include the following:~~

~~a) evaluate for foreign material and swab as appropriate;~~

~~a)b) oral cavity (teeth and gingiva/mucosal surfaces) evaluated and swabbed as appropriate, consider use of species-specific numbering system and dentition chart; swabbing is indicated when there is foreign material not readily identifiable found in the oral cavity or if a control DNA swab is needed;~~

~~b)c) condition of feet (including toenails/claws/hooves) evaluated for foreign material and swabbed as appropriate; swabbing is indicated when there is foreign material not readily identifiable found on the feet;~~

~~d) document the presence of foreign objects such as collars, chains, plant material, or other object, prior to and after removal; indicate any relationship with pathology and include any appropriate physical characteristics of the foreign body.~~

~~e)e) other orifice examinations and evidence collected dependent on findings.~~

4.2.7.4.2.9 **Physical Examination Record**

4.2.7.14.2.9.1 **Documentation**

The veterinarian shall document the physical examination in the record ~~with~~. The physical examination record may include items from 4.2.7.2 through 4.2.7.9.

4.2.9.2 **Overall Assessment**

The record should include the following information when the animal behavior and size allow:

- a) weight in imperial or metric units, or by species/breed specific tape system;
- b) measure animal: height head to floor, withers to floor, nose to base of tail, nose to end of tail;
- c) pulse rate and quality;
- d) respiration rate, effort, and sounds;
- e) temperature (consider method if sexual abuse suspected);
- f) mucous membrane color and capillary refill time;
- g) estimated hydration status ~~or blood volume loss~~;
- ~~a) otic and ophthalmic (fundic) examination.~~
- h) **Physical Examination System** blood volume loss.

4.2.7.24.2.9.3 **Systems Assessment**

~~The veterinarian shall perform and document the physical examination system assessment as follows:~~

The record should include the following information when the species, animal behavior, and/or size allow:

- a) cardiovascular,
- b) respiratory,
- c) gastrointestinal,
- d) oral cavity, consider use of species-specific numbering system and dentition chart;
- ~~d)e)~~ urogenital,
- ~~e)f)~~ neurological,
- ~~f)g)~~ musculoskeletal,

~~g)h)~~ integumentary: (including feet):

4.2.8—Sample for Genetic Analysis

~~i)~~ When case appropriate, a buccal swabotic and ophthalmic (fundic) examination;

~~j)~~ peripheral lymph nodes.

4.2.9.4 General Documentation of Injuries

The veterinarian shall:

~~a)~~ describe injury by type;

~~b)~~ describe injury by location;

~~c)~~ describe injury by size;

~~d)~~ describe injury by shape;

~~e)~~ describe injury by pattern;

~~f)~~ describe other features of the animal should be injury to include any items present to explain the pathogenesis (e.g., embedded collar, strangulating hair mats, or fecal dams).

4.2.9.5 Firearm and Projectile Injuries

The veterinarian shall:

~~a)~~ describe injuries;

~~b)~~ measure wound size;

~~c)~~ locate cutaneous wounds of the head, neck, thorax, abdomen, and limbs by measuring from two fixed anatomic reference points;

~~d)~~ descriptively locate wounds in an anatomic region;

~~e)~~ describe the presence of soot, burns, and stippling of the hair or skin;

~~f)~~ describe the presence of abrasion ring, searing, muzzle imprint, or lacerations;

~~g)~~ the veterinarian or designate shall photograph recovered projectiles with a scale.

4.2.9.6 Sharp Force Injuries

The veterinarian shall:

~~a)~~ describe the wound;

- b) locate cutaneous wounds of the head, neck, thorax, abdomen, and limbs by measuring from two fixed anatomic reference points;
- c) measure wound size;
- d) estimate the depth of the wound if possible;
- e) estimate the direction of stab wound tracks if possible.

4.2.9.7 Burn Injuries

The veterinarian shall:

- a) describe the appearance of the burn;
- b) describe the distribution and extent of the burn.

4.2.9.8 Patterned Injuries

The veterinarian shall:

- a) measure the injury size;
- b) describe the location of the injury;
- c) describe the injury pattern;
- d) document if samples for DNA analysis were collected from bite marks and the location of the bite marks sampled.

4.2.9.9 Suspected Sexual Abuse

The veterinarian should:

- a) collect swabs and/or flushes from the oral, vaginal, preputial, rectal, and/or cloacal cavities;
- b) collect nail scrapings or clippings;
- a)c) utilize an alternate light source to search for familial genetic analysis and/or criminalist comparisons foreign fibers and/or biological stains, and preserve discovered evidence.

4.2.94.2.10 Document Behavior

The veterinarian shall ~~document~~record the state of comfort, attitude, demeanor, and pain level of the animal during the examination based on the animal's observed behaviors or behavioral responses to stimuli.

4.2.104.2.11 Document History

The veterinarian shall ~~document~~record any known or reported history regarding ~~behavioral traits~~ or animal care provider observations or behavioral traits relative but not limited to:

- a) elimination or marking habits;
- b) reaction or behavioral responses to various stimuli;
- c) feeding (eating) or drinking problems;
- d) grooming, over-grooming or self-mutilation behaviors;

e) ~~the overall~~ presenting ~~condition of the animal~~complaint and/or specific lesions.;

~~e)f) any other relevant information available.~~

If unusual or remarkable behaviors are expressed during the examination or in response to certain stimuli, those behaviors should be video recorded when possible.

~~4.2.114.2.12~~ **Multi-animal Cases**

~~In multi-animal abuse cases~~When multiple animals are involved in the same case, a physical examination ~~shall~~should be performed on each individual animal ~~involved in the case.~~ If a physical examination is unsafe to conduct on any particular animal, a ~~careful~~ visual examination ~~shall~~should be documented. ~~Diagnostics in a multi-animal case shall be evaluated on the type of case, species involved, and resources available to the investigating agency or animal welfare organization.~~ A representative sample of animals may need to be selected to represent the group, the reason for selecting a representative animal and selection criteria shall be documented.

~~4.2.124.2.13~~ **Document ~~Changes in~~Subsequent Reevaluations of Animal Health**

The continuum of evidence shall be documented through physical examinations that identify improvement or deterioration of an animal's condition, (weight gain, wound healing, behavioral changes in response to pain medications, etc.) while in care.

4.3 Diagnostics

~~4.3.1~~ **Minimum Database**

~~As appropriate, the veterinarian should order a minimum database to include complete blood cell count (CBC), chemistries, urinalysis, and fecal analysis.~~

~~4.3.24.3.1~~ **Initial Screening and Testing**

As appropriate, for breed, species, age, and location; the veterinarian should order ~~regional~~ screening and testing for internal and external parasites and/or regional, endemic, or breed specific diseases; this may include, but is not limited to, complete blood cell count (CBC), blood chemistries, urinalysis, and fecal analysis.

~~4.3.3~~ **Additional Screenings**

~~The veterinarian should order additional screening for toxins as needed.~~

4.3.44.3.2 Diagnostic Imaging

The veterinarian should order diagnostic imaging as ~~needed~~ indicated based on history, exam findings, and case requirements. Entire body radiographs are preferred. Additional imaging modalities ~~should~~ may be ~~ordered as~~ necessary.

4.3.54.3.3 Multi-animal Case Diagnostics

In multi-animal abuse cases, diagnostics should be considered for each animal, but may need to be performed on particular individuals at the discretion of the veterinarian and/or investigating agency based on available resources and the nature of the case. It is advisable after triaging animals to perform diagnostics on some select and representative animals for forensic diagnostic evidence.

4.4 Euthanasia and/or ~~Necropsy~~ Veterinary Forensic Postmortem Examination

In the event the animal in custody is determined to be suffering from illness or injury from which recovery is unlikely or treatment is unavailable, the animal shall be humanely euthanized according to current *American Veterinary Medical Association Euthanasia Guidelines*. If indicated, the deceased animal ~~shall~~ should undergo a veterinary forensic necropsy postmortem examination. The decision to perform humane euthanasia, veterinary forensic necropsy postmortem examination, or disposal of the animal remains shall be made in consultation with the lead ~~animal abuse~~ investigator and/or prosecuting attorney.

Documentation (~~record keeping~~)

4.4.11.1.1 ~~Animal Identification~~

~~4.5 Each animal shall be assigned a unique identification and the identifier(s) shall be used throughout the record keeping and chain of custody process. This identifier shall be affixed to the animal in the form of a tag on a collar or other similar method of maintaining the unique identifier on the animal, as appropriate for the species and the age.~~ Record Keeping

4.5.1 Animal Identification

See section 4.2.5.

4.4.24.5.2 Forensic Examination Documentation

All portions of the forensic examination shall be documented as follows:

- a) all normal and abnormal physical and behavioral findings,
- b) all laboratory procedures and results,
- c) all diagnostic imaging and results:
- d) all those assisting in the forensic examination.

4.4.34.5.3 Medical Records as Evidence

The medical record documenting the forensic examination shall be in a format commonly accepted by the veterinary profession and/or local veterinary regulatory agency.

- ~~a) The live evidence examination form shall be signed and dated by the person performing the evaluation. Secure digital signature with authentication key is acceptable.~~
- ~~b) If examination form templates are utilized, consistency shall be adhered to for all animals involved in a case and subsequent re-examination(s) for the duration of the case.~~

4.4.44.5.4 Reportable Diseases

In the event of a zoonotic, communicable, or reportable disease, the appropriate human or veterinary authority shall be contacted, and the examinations shall proceed according to the relevant local, state, or federal protocols for the disease(s).

4.4.54.5.5 Administrative Review

The case file ~~shall~~should be administratively reviewed by the lead veterinarian before the report is issued to check for clerical errors and ~~assure~~ensure the proper format. This review ~~shall~~should be documented, if performed, in the case file.

4.54.6 Photography and Videography

4.6.1 Equipment

For reasons of evidence integrity and legal discovery, forensic photography should be performed with a stand-alone camera or agency issued cell phone and not with a personal cell phone. It is strongly advised to not use a personal cell phone for the forensic photography, as the entire phone may become evidence in the case.

4.5.14.6.2 Photographic Documentation

Photographs with an identifying label (case board) shall be included in at least the first photo in a photo series, which include:

- a) date and time of the photograph,
- b) name or initials of the photographer,
- c) unique identifier(s) associated with the animal and the agency requesting the examination,
- d) name of the investigating agency,
- e) case or incident number from the investigating agency if available.

~~Animal~~NOTE If photography is not being utilized, this can be accomplished with videography.

4.5.24.6.3 Photographs of Animals

Overall photographs of the animals should be taken from a minimum of six sides, as follows:

- a) ~~front~~ (cranial aspect (front)),
- b) ~~back~~ (caudal aspect (back)),
- c) ~~top~~ (dorsal aspect (top)),
- d) ~~both sides~~ (lateral aspects (both sides)),
- e) ~~underside~~ (ventral aspect) (underside), if possible.

NOTE. If photography is not being utilized, this can be accomplished with videography.

4.5.34.6.4 Photographs of Evidence on the Animal

Any lesions, sites of trace materials or unusual findings shall be documented with orientation photos, which include overall, regional /midrange, and close-up photographs taken in series to maintain context /location on the body. Close-up photographs shall be taken with and without a measurement scale included in the image.

4.5.4—Photograph Prior to Changes

~~All lesions, sites of trace materials, or unusual findings shall be documented photographically prior to making changes. If any changes occur (removing evidence, cleaning or shaving wounds, etc.) and .), photographs shall be taken and documented prior to and again after any changes are made during the documentation process.~~

4.5.54.6.5 Photograph to Create a Document Medical Record Changes with Images

~~As During the progress of the animal recovers case, additional photographs shall images should be taken to document the continuum of forensic evidence and compliment other documented forensic evidence (e.g., weight gain and wound healing).~~

4.5.64.6.6 Integrity of Photographs Images and Use of Image Log

~~All photographs images taken during the course of the case shall be maintained in their original format unedited format, to include any photos images taken in error or out of focus. All photographs images during the forensic examination shall may be notated on a photo an image log or photographic archive, which includes the photo number and description of what is represented in the photograph. In large-scale cases photographs may be grouped, listed, or otherwise documented together in the photographic log or archive.~~

4.5.74.6.7 Photograph Image Preservation

~~Photographs Images shall be downloaded from a camera storage media to a computer and/or other devices secure resources with the capacity to ensure the photographs images are preserved in. The use of at least two secure storage locations as appropriate.~~

4.5.8—Equipment Requirement

~~For reasons of evidence integrity and legal discovery, forensic photography shall be performed with a stand-alone camera or agency issued cell phone and not with a personal cell phoneshould be considered.~~

4.5.94.6.8 Videography

~~Videography is supplemental to photography. If only videography is utilized, the recording and storage of the video shall be documented and taken to comply with the photography requirements of 4.6.1 through 4.6.8.~~

~~**Videography**7. If the videography is supplemental to photography, it shall comply with **Sound**the integrity and preservation requirements and recommendations in 4.6.6 and 4.6.7. It is strongly advised to not use a personal cell phone for the forensic videography, as the entire phone may become evidence in the case.~~

As a general protocol, the videography can be conducted without the audio input active and recorded without sound. However, if recording ~~the vocalization(s)~~audio of the animal is important to the medical documentation, the sound input shall be turned on and the videography conducted with audio.

4.64.7 Diagramming/Sketching

~~The~~When appropriate, the veterinarian should create sketches and/or diagrams of wounds and examination findings ~~(e.g., using examination templates)~~ with measurements of the lesions and noting distance from at least two anatomical landmarks for orientation purposes.

4.74.8 Evidence Collection, Packaging, and Handling

~~4.7.11.1.1 Evidence Packaging~~

~~The veterinarian should consult with a forensic laboratory for proper collection and packaging of evidence (e.g., preferred methods and supplies). Most veterinary facilities will have the necessary materials, e.g., sterile collection swabs, sterile or distilled water, and envelopes for evidence collection (DNA collection swabs are recommended).~~

~~There are commercially available forensic packaging materials that a veterinary facility may have on hand if frequent involvement in these types of cases is anticipated.~~

~~An evidence log shall be created for all evidence collected and packaged noting the location on the body where the evidence was collected, date collected, case number, animal identifier (number), person collecting, and item collected.~~

4.7.24.8.1 Evidence Procedure

Organizations ~~shall~~should have standard operating procedures (SOPs)/technical procedures for the receipt, handling, storage and/or disposal of evidence in order to ~~prevent~~minimize evidence loss, contamination and tampering. These procedures shall include the secure sheltering with controlled access and appropriate care of the living animals.

4.8.2 Evidence Identification

Packaged evidence shall be sealed with a tamper-evident method. Evidence packaging shall be marked with a unique identifier, date collected, description of contents and the evaluator's signature or initials.

4.8.3 Evidence Packaging

The veterinarian should consult with the laboratory where evidence is being submitted for proper collection and packaging protocols (e.g., preferred methods and supplies).

An evidence log shall be created for all evidence collected and packaged. The evidence log shall note the evidence identification number, the location on the body where the evidence was collected, date collected, case number, animal identifier (number/name), person collecting, and item collected.

4.7.34.8.4 Chain of Custody

A chain of custody shall be documented, showing manner of evidence transfer to laboratories or shelter facilities including the dates and signatures/initials of all personnel who had custody of the evidence.

~~A copy of the document shall be retained by each person/facility who signs.~~

~~4.7.41.1.1 Evidence Identification~~

~~4.7.54.8.5 Evidence packaging shall be marked with a unique identifier, date collected, description of contents and the evaluator's signature or initials.~~ **Duplicate Samples**

When ~~possible~~appropriate, evidence ~~shall~~should be collected and submitted in duplicate, and/or a portion of every evidence sample ~~shall be~~ retained to enable future analysis.

~~4.7.6 Documentation of Evidence Modification or Alteration~~

~~Evidence subject to major modification shall be photographed prior to alteration. Examples of a major modification include but are not limited to weight gain, shaving to remove mats, major grooming, and wound repair.~~

4.7.74.8.6 Evidence Storage and Transfer

~~Evidence~~The evidence shall be :

stored in a controlled and secure manner, ~~and~~ appropriate for the nature of the evidence.

If being transferred to another agency for analysis, non-diagnostic evidence (samples collected for purposes other than identifying medical conditions) ~~should be~~ transferred to ~~another agency for submission or analysis by an ISO/IEC Accredited~~ accredited laboratory.

Annex A
(informative)

Bibliography

The following bibliography is not intended to be an all-inclusive list, review, or endorsement of literature on this topic. The goal of the bibliography is to provide examples of publications addressed in the standard.

- 1] ASTM E1459-13(2018), Standard Guide for Physical Evidence Labeling and Related Documentation
- ~~1+2]~~ ASTM E1492-11(2017) Standard Practice for Receiving, Documenting, Storing, and Retrieving Evidence in a Forensic Science Laboratory if such testing is to be performed.
- 3] ASTM E1188-11(2017) Standard Practice for Collection and Preservation of Information and Physical Items by a Technical Investigator
- 4] Standards Document for the Forensic Live Animal Examination, IVSFA.^c
- 5] Touroo, R., K. Baucom, M. Kessler, & M. Smith-Blackmore. "Minimum standards and best practices for the clinical veterinary forensic examination of the suspected abused animal." *Forensic Science International. Reports*, 2, 100150, 2020.
- 6] Byrd, J., P. Norris, N. Bradley-Siemens, Eds. *Veterinary Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences*, CRC Press, 2020.

^c Available from: https://www.ivfsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/IVFSA_Veterinary-Forensic-Live-Animal-Exam-Standards_Approved-2020_With-authors.pdf

DRAFT



ASB
ACADEMY
STANDARDS BOARD

Academy Standards Board
410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board