WASH HANDS
Using warm water and a water-saving, non-medicated soap.
• At the start and end of the working day.
• After visiting the toilet.
• After and before eating or smoking.
• When visibly soiled.
• After handling animal fluids and excretions.
• Before and after invasive procedures in combination with disinfection.

CLEAN AND DISINFECT HANDS

USE GLOVES
• When handling diseased or carrier animals with known or suspected contagious disease, including parasitic infections.
• When handling animals with known or suspected antimicrobial resistant infections.
• When handling all wounds.
• When contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions and mucous membranes is possible.
• During surgery or when aseptic technique is required (double gloving during clipping). Use sterile gloves.

WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

CLEAN AND DISINFECT PREMISES

SURGICAL PREPARATION

SCRUBS AND LAUNCH BOXES
• Scrubs and lab coats – daily and when visibly soiled or contaminated.
• Bedding and animal blankets – between each patient and when visibly soiled or contaminated.
• Laundry should be done on the premises or by a professional company.
• Remove any visibly soiling contamination prior to washing (use gloves).
• Wash at 60°C and dry at high temperature to eliminate infectious organisms.

EDUCATE PET OWNERS

Use printed documentation (leaflets, posters) & face to face communication.
• To ensure good hygiene practices during clinical visits and following contact with their animal in their homes.
• To support veterinary efforts in improving hygiene and responsible use of antimicrobials with good adherence to prescribed therapies.
• To convey better understanding of the public health implications of zoonotic and antimicrobial resistant infections in pets.

TRAIN ALL STAFF / TRIAGE STAFF

TRAIN ALL STAFF
Train and encourage all staff to understand and comply with good hygiene practices. Correct hygiene is not difficult if everyone is aware of its importance.
• Develop written hygiene protocols (display prominently) and appoint a member of staff with responsibility for promoting and enforcing hygiene practices.
• Establish thorough in-house training of staff and encourage attendance at continuing education courses on hygiene.
• Establish an in-house cleaning and disinfection routine with rotation of areas to keep whole hospital clean.

TRIAGE STAFF
• Provide separate kennels for infectious and elective patients.
• Be particularly attentive to dermatology cases.
• Distant site infections are a major risk factor for surgical site infections. Treat animals affected with skin diseases or that have distant wounds before performing elective surgeries.

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