

Preparing for a Locum veterinarian, Dr. Linda Speizer

****New** COVID Precautions**

It is the nature of being a locum veterinarian that Dr. Speizer may travel between multiple cities and different veterinary hospitals. With this understanding alongside the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it has become necessary to enforce policies for the protection of Dr. Speizer's health, as well as the health and livelihood of veterinary hospital staff, clients, and respective households.

All individuals (including Dr. Speizer, staff, and clients) over 2 years old without respiratory restrictions or the inability to remove a mask without assistance, must wear appropriate facial coverings/masks (i.e., two or more layered cloth, surgical, or N-95) at all times while in hospital and in the appropriate fashion (i.e., covering both the mouth and the nose). Allowances may be made for staff mealtimes. Dr. Linda Speizer will be wearing a mask at all times when in the veterinary practice. This is to protect you, your staff and your clients.

It is imperative that Dr. Speizer be notified as soon as possible if any staff member at the veterinary hospital tests positive for COVID-19, has had reasonable recent exposure to other positive individuals or recent travel to a high risk area of which the veterinary hospital staff is aware, is awaiting test results for COVID-19, or is out sick with any possible/consistent symptoms of COVID-19. Likewise, Dr. Speizer will notify the veterinary hospital as soon as possible of any personal pending or positive tests or possible exposures, or if personal suspected/consistent symptoms are noted.

Summary of Policies/Recommendations

Please prepare a summary of veterinary hospital common recommendations. These should include:

- ◆ Kitten and Puppy vaccination schedule
- ◆ Adult patient vaccination schedule (i.e., 3-year rotations)
- ◆ Recommended age of feline and canine spay/neuter procedures
 - Do these pets stay overnight?
 - Bloodwork required for anesthesia?
 - Days that surgery is/are performed?
- ◆ VCPR requirements for rechecks and refills of medications (long term meds as well as ongoing problems i.e. Otitis externa meds refill requests)
- ◆ After Hours in-patient care (is there a staff member present after hours or who can check on patients?)
- ◆ After Hours emergency care (provided by whom?)
- ◆ Flea, Tick, Heartworm, Deworming protocols
- ◆ Dentistry recommendations (A saved Dental Procedure Estimate in your computer software and a staff member that can explain to clients the procedure/costs is very helpful)
- ◆ Online Webstore?

Staffing

Please have your most experienced technician and veterinary assistant available to work with Dr. Speizer on the first few days. This will help with efficiency and smooth out some delays. An experienced staff member should be familiar with the veterinary software and able to prepare estimates (be familiar with hospital invoicing policies), load clients into exam rooms, take and enter history, perform TPRs and help with patient restraint. Experienced staff should be able to draw blood, place catheters, take radiographs, set up for and monitor anesthetized patients, set up ultrasound and prepare samples to go to outside laboratories if necessary. Dr. Speizer will delegate as much as possible to staff in order to be efficient and to help stay on schedule while spending as much time with clients and client communications.

Medical Records

Dr. Speizer strives to write complete, legible, and thorough medical records. This is best accomplished when she has time to write each record before moving on to the next patient. A SOAP style is generally used and includes recommendations and discussions with the client about each problem/issue. If the hospital has a favourite Client Handout program, please ensure that staff know how to access these documents and can discuss handouts and recommendations with clients.

Medication Refills

In general, Dr. Speizer will dispense medications from the veterinary hospital pharmacy. If a needed medication is not available, a prescription can be written for the client to take to the local pharmacy. Dr. Speizer will need to use the veterinary hospital prescription pad for these medications. If the hospital has an online pharmacy/Webstore, that will be recommended first.