

**FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINΕ**

**DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL VETERINARY STUDIES**

**CLINIC OF SURGERY**

**VETERINARY ICU RULES & PROTOCOLS**

 **🩺 GENERAL PATIENT CARE**
1. **Hand hygiene is mandatory:** Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after handling each patient.
2. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Wear gloves, masks, gowns, and shoe covers as required for each patient to prevent cross-contamination.
3. **Minimal handling:** Reduce stress by limiting unnecessary contact with critically ill patients. Use calm, controlled movements.
4. **Accurate documentation:** Update patient records **immediately** after administering medications, treatments, or observing changes.
5. **Vital signs monitoring:** Check temperature, heart rate, respiration, and pain levels as per the designated schedule. **Report abnormalities immediately.**
6. **Use proper restraint techniques:** Always handle animals gently but securely to **prevent injuries** to both the patient and staff.
7. **Isolation precautions:** Patients with contagious diseases **must be isolated** and handled with strict infection control protocols.
8. **Sterile procedures only:** Any invasive procedure (IVs, injections, catheters, wound care) must be done using strict aseptic techniques.
9. **Disinfect all equipment after each use:** Ensure thermometers, stethoscopes, IV pumps, and other reusable tools are properly sanitized.
10. **Report patient deterioration immediately:** If a patient shows signs of distress (difficulty breathing, collapse, severe pain), notify the veterinarian **without delay.**

**🦠 INFECTION CONTROL & BIOSECURITY**
11. **No food or drinks in the ICU:** To prevent contamination, staff and visitors must not consume food inside the critical care area.
12. **Use footbaths or disinfectant mats:** Step into the provided disinfectant before entering and exiting the ICU.
13. **Keep ICU doors closed:** Maintain a controlled environment by limiting air circulation and exposure to outside contaminants.
14. **Proper biohazard disposal:** All used gloves, bandages, needles, and contaminated materials must be discarded in designated biohazard containers.

15. **Frequent disinfection of high-touch areas:** Wipe down doorknobs, counters, cages, and medical equipment **at least every shift** or as needed.
16. **Strict isolation for contagious cases:** Clearly mark isolation units and use **separate** medical tools and PPE for these patients. 🦠
17. **Separate clean and dirty areas:** Never place clean supplies near contaminated surfaces. Follow the designated workflow for handling materials.

🚨 **EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS**
18. **Crash cart readiness:** The emergency cart must be **fully stocked** with necessary resuscitation drugs and equipment. **Check daily.**
19. **Know the emergency response codes:** Be familiar with ICU code colors (e.g., Code Blue for cardiac arrest).
20. **Oxygen and ventilation equipment must be functional:** Ensure oxygen tanks are full, ventilators are working, and emergency airway devices are accessible.
21. **Maintain a quiet environment:** Reduce noise levels to minimize stress on critically ill patients. **No loud talking, alarms, or unnecessary disturbances.**

👩‍⚕️ **STAFF & VISITOR GUIDELINES**
22. **Only authorized personnel allowed in the ICU:** Staff and visitors must be approved before entering critical care areas.
23. **Visitor time is limited:** Too many visitors can stress patients. Follow **strict visitation schedules** and PPE requirements.
24. **No cell phone use inside the ICU:** Phones can introduce bacteria and distractions. Use them **only in designated areas.**
25. **Clear communication is essential:** Use proper handover reports and notify the veterinarian about any patient changes.

* **First Aid:** A pharmacy is available in the Laboratory/Clinic room for minor injuries.
* **Medical assistance is provided at General Hospital of Karditsa (Emergency Care Unit). Telephone: 2441351520 / ΕΚΑΒ (National Service of Emergency Care) Telephone: 166.**
* **In case of fire. A Dry powder extinguisher exists on the room / Fire Service Telephone: 199.**

**Keep the Clinic areas and equipment always clean.**