MINNESOTA
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

2829 University Avenue SE #401
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Phone: 651-201-2844
Fax: 651-201-2842
MN Hearing/Speech Relay: 1-800-627-3529
Email: vet.med@state.mn.us
Website: mn.gov/boards/veterinary-medicine/

May 2, 2020

The Honorable Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Draft Guidance for Resuming Elective Surgeries

Dear Governor Walz,

The members of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine are very grateful for the inclusion of veterinary care in the Draft Guidance for Resuming Elective Surgeries. The Board fully supports relaxation of some restrictions on veterinary surgeries and procedures so long as social distancing and the essential precautions to limit opportunities for coronavirus transmission are maintained. The Board members are very hopeful that the final version of the guidance will allow spay and neuter surgeries which cannot be safely postponed indefinitely.

The Board members collectively would like to share their feedback on the draft. The suggestions primarily address the differences in veterinary medicine where the patient is an animal. Hence, the Board suggests that the term, "veterinary client" be added where appropriate. Similarly, there are sections that would not currently apply to veterinary practice, presuming pets are not found to transmit the virus to humans, and RT-PCR tests will not be available to veterinarians.

New Guidance and Oversight
Please add "veterinary clinics and mobile veterinary practices" to both. As examples, there are mobile spay/neuter, orthopedic, dental, and euthanasia veterinary practices in Minnesota.

Screening and Testing
4th bullet point: The Board suggests addition of the sentence, "In veterinary clinics, the client should be screened if entering the facility."
5th bullet point: Please add "veterinary clients".
Bullet points 6 through 9 would not apply to veterinary clinics at this point in time.

Patient Information
1st bullet point question: Would veterinarians be required to seek informed and consent for their patients and would it be in written form?
4th bullet point: This would not include veterinary patients unless there is a surge in human cases in the community.

Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies
1st bullet point: Please add, "When medically appropriate, reusable PPE should be utilized."

Infection prevention
3rd bullet point: Please add "veterinary clients".

The Board members are all in awe of the tremendous work you, your staff, and so many government agencies are doing on behalf of all Minnesotans and very grateful.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide this health-licensing board's feedback. Please direct any questions to me so that I may relay them to the Board.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Veterinary Medicine,

Julia H Wilson, DVM
Executive Director

Cc: Madelyn Nelson