



Category 4: Facilities

OPTIONAL

4.6 Separate species at exam, during treatment, and in wards/housing

Practice must provide **at least of one (1)** of the following to attain the 80 points.

- Separate exam rooms for dogs and cats
- Separate wards/housing for dogs and cats
- Separate treatment areas for dogs and cats
- Visual blocks between patients in wards
- Visual blocks between patients in treatment areas

Equipment and Supplies

May include but are not limited to:

- Visual blocks such as screens, medical grade curtains, and towels

Examples and Compliance Paths

- Separate exam rooms for dogs and cats
 - Practices that cannot achieve total separation may demonstrate thorough protocols to achieve as much separation as possible. For example:
 - Having one dedicated cat exam room
 - Exam rooms used for both species are thoroughly cleaned with accelerated hydrogen peroxide cleaner and use species-appropriate pheromones for the next patient
- Separate wards/housing for dogs and cats
 - Dogs and cats are housed in species-specific wards. An exception may be made for a critical care patient who needs to be placed in the most visible spot for medical reasons.
- Separate treatment areas for dogs and cats
 - Dogs and cats are treated in separate rooms. It is acceptable to utilize shared medical spaces once the patient is anesthetized, including:
 - Special procedure rooms
 - Imaging rooms
 - Surgery rooms

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- Visual blocks between patients of different species in wards.
 - *Note: This method is not ideal because dogs and cats are still in the same space, but it is acceptable for small hospitals that do not have the space to fully separate species.*
 - Towels hung over the fronts of cages
 - Screening on the lower half of the fronts of dog runs
- View blocking in treatment
 - Curtain tracks can be installed around work tables in treatment to act like a human emergency department
 - Half-height walls that allow staff to look over without animals seeing each other

Scoring

Observational

Photo Examples



Example of dog-only treatment area. Credit: Foto Imagery / Tim Murphy

Cautions

Critical patients need to remain in view for their safety. Species separation concepts may be set aside to maintain patient safety in critical care situations.