

DRESS CODE FOR THE VETERINARY HOSPITAL: LARGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Introduction: Appropriate professional apparel is required when working in the Veterinary Hospital (VH). The standard of acceptable attire is determined by regulations concerning proper identification, infection control and safety, as well as the need to present a professional image to our clients.

Clinical dress:

1. In areas where client contact may occur, professional business attire is expected. The health-care provider shall present a neat and clean appearance. Clothing that is generally considered appropriate:
 - Full-length pants
 - Polo or Oxford cloth shirts; Jewel neck or V-neck shirts for women
 - Jacket, sweater, or plain sweatshirt
 - Conservative jewelry
2. Inappropriate attire:
 - T-shirts or tank tops shall not be worn in the clinics.
 - Open-toe shoes or sandals shall not be worn in the clinics. There are no exceptions to this rule for anyone.
 - While some consider body piercings to be a fashion issue, they are not accepted as professional dress by the general public, and they shall be avoided to help place clients at ease. Pierced earring jewelry is acceptable.
 - Clothing shall never be ragged, unhemmed, excessively revealing (short skirts or shorts; midriff-baring blouses or halter tops; low necklines; low-rise pants; etc.), or presenting of an unkempt appearance.
3. All health-care providers shall wear an identification badge (or similar) indicating their name and function within the Equine Medicine & Surgery Service.
4. Surgery:
 - Clean scrub suits will be worn in the equine surgery suites (induction stall, operating room, recovery room). Students must supply their own scrub suits.
 - Cloth surgical scrub caps may be worn (instead of disposable bouffant caps), provided that all hair is covered and that the caps are clean and presentable.
 - Once worn outside the equine surgery suite, scrub suits need to be changed for clean scrub suits before reentering any surgical suite. Scrub suits shall not be worn outside the VH.
 - Long or fake fingernails are not allowed; all finger rings, bracelets, and dangling earrings must be removed.
 - Shoes must cover toes and soles (ankles and Achilles may be exposed). Shoes must be washable and/or are able to be disinfected.
5. Necropsy: If accompanying a patient to necropsy, coveralls (or similar) must be worn. Thorough cleaning of footwear and complete change of clothing (if needed) shall be done prior to return to the Large Animal Hospital.
6. Hot weather & shorts: with attending clinician permission, conservative-length shorts may be worn. Determining appropriate short length: the hem of the short shall be within 3 inches of the knee while standing.
7. When client contact is not expected: clothing shall be neat, clean, and appropriate for the activity.
8. Attending clinician supervision: If an attending clinician thinks that dress is inappropriate, the individual will be asked to change into clean scrub suit and lab coat, or coveralls.