

## **DRESS CODE FOR THE VETERINARY HOSPITAL: SMALL 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. Those with routine client interaction should be dressed professionally as outlined by the guidelines below:

- **Infection Control:** All personnel within the VH must strive to prevent infectious agents being transferred from one patient to another. While specific procedures are established for known infectious patients (gloves, masks, aprons, etc.), clean clothing and footwear are important aspects of protecting the patient.
- **Safety:** Some clothing choices, while professional and fashionable, may not protect the wearer in their work environment. All personnel must choose attire appropriate to the risks associated with their appointed tasks. They must follow procedures outlined to protect them from injury.
- **Professional Image:** All those coming into routine contact with a client should be dressed professionally. Attire that is distracting, *excessively* casual, or dirty detracts from the clients' experience and potentially undermines their confidence in the standards of the VH. Attire worn by specialty service on-call clinicians who encounter unexpected and urgent after-hours client contact (emergency consultations or procedures) can be more casual than during normal business hours but should still be within the standards of acceptable attire for the VH.

### **Dress Code for the Prep Room**

For patient preparation – clean scrub suit; bouffant cap (disposable) or clean cloth surgical cap to cover hair; surgical mask when in proximity to sterile area, including final “dirty” prep; buttoned white lab coat or impervious apron during clipping and application of “dirty” scrub (removed before entering the OR area). Shoes that cover the toes are required in the Prep Room. They must be clean and free of dirt.

### **Dress Code for the Surgical Area**

A high level of cleanliness of clothing is required for areas where sterile surgery occurs. This is particularly so for active members of the surgical team (ie those in close proximity to the sterile field).

#### **A. Scrub Suits:**

- i. Students must wear clean ciel blue scrub suits. If they do not have blue, or if their blue items are soiled, they may check out green scrubs suits from Central Supply. They **MUST** be returned to the appropriate bin (Changing rooms or Central Supply) at the end of the day, or when soiled.
- ii. Scrub suits that will be worn in the OR must be covered with a lab coat when the individual is outside of the OR area. They must not be worn outside the VH. This includes the parking lot, the Research Building, TAU, Facilities Operations, etc. They must not be worn when coming from home, or when leaving to go home.

#### **B. Shoes:**

- A. Shoes must be clean and must cover toes and soles. Solid-topped clog-style footwear is acceptable, but strap or mesh sandals are not. Shoes must be washable and/or able to be disinfected.
- B. Shoe covers should be used to cover shoes that have been worn outside the hospital and soiled footwear. They are recommended when there is expected floor contamination with fluids.
- C. T-shirts may be worn under scrub suits, provided the sleeves do not hang below the scrub top when acting as a scrub assistant. Turtle necks and long sleeves are not to be worn under the scrub suit.
- D. Long-sleeved surgical jackets may be checked out from Central Supply only by the OR personnel and students wearing surgical scrubs. They should be exchanged daily for a clean one.

- E. Bouffant hats (disposable) or clean cloth surgical caps are required and must cover and contain all hair. Beard covers must be worn to cover facial hair. A mask must be worn in the OR at all times.
- F. Fingernails: long or fake fingernails are not allowed.
- G. Jewelry: All finger rings, bracelets, dangling earrings, and facial jewelry or other facial items should be removed or covered.
- H. A white disposable coverall must be worn over regular clothes, technician uniforms, and dirty scrubs if a quick visit to the Surgical Area is necessary.

**Procedures:** The following list outlines the standard of acceptable attire for the Small Animal Hospital:

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
1.	Gym/tennis shoes	ACCEPTABLE	Must be clean with no holes.
2.	Medical "clog" shoes	ACCEPTABLE	
3.	Close toed shoes	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	Required for all CTs, Ward, ICU and ER staff. Required for all personnel wearing scrubs. Required for all those with routine animal handling (eg., wards, radiology or ICU).
4.	Scrub Apparel	ACCEPTABLE	Must be clean and in good condition. Required for CTs, Ward, ICU and ER staff. (for students, CIEL BLUE scrubs)
5.	Lab coat	RECOMMENDED /REQUIRED	Must be clean and in good condition. Lab coats are recommended for any interaction with clients and patients. White lab coats are required for all those wearing surgical scrubs.
6.	Sleeveless Tops (women)	ACCEPTABLE	No spaghetti strap/halter/tank tops/camisoles
7.	Jeans	ACCEPTABLE	Must be in good condition, clean with no holes, not faded. For personnel with routine client contact, denim blue jeans are discouraged.
8.	Ties for men	RECOMMENDED	
9.	Name tag	REQUIRED	Required for all clinical staff at all times. Visitors should supply their own nametags.

**PROHIBITED ITEMS:**

- Open-toed sandals, flip flops, "Teva" type shoes
- Open-toed shoes when working in the wards/ICU or wearing scrubs
- Exposed navels (midriff tops) Low-cut tops showing cleavage
- No spaghetti strap/halter/camisoles
- Exposed undergarments
- Shorts
- Unnatural hair color (e.g. blue, pink, green)
- T-shirts (printed)
- Denim work shirts
- Large hoop piercing anywhere
- Unkempt or ragged clothing