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Operation Control

(Tattooing after Desexing Procedure)

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Table of Contents

1.1. Scope.....	3
1.2. General Requirements.....	3
2. Procedure.....	3
2.1 Definition.....	3
2.2 Location.....	4
2.3 Tattooing kit.....	4
2.4 Procedure.....	4
2.5 Consent Form.....	5



1. Purpose

This document is produced to identify the process of tattooing animals after desexing

1.1. Scope

This document is applicable to all departments of Vets for Pets.

1.2. General Requirements

1. All concerned personnel are responsible to ensure that work is carried out in compliance with this procedure.
2. Practice manager shall ensure that development, review, and improvement of this procedure is conducted at least once every year.
3. Development, review, and improvement of this procedure must be done in consultation with management team and vets.
4. This procedure to be documented and recorded as per the hospital document control procedure.

2. Procedure

2.1 Definition

- A tattoo is a mark created by puncturing an animal's skin and inserting a pigment (usually ink). This provokes an immune response, following which the pigment is left trapped within fibroblasts in the skin's upper dermis layer.
- Vets are required to ear mark or tattoo the ear of a female companion animal at the time of desexing unless the veterinarian



believes the procedure cannot be undertaken safely or humanely or the owner does not consent.

- It is important therefore for vets to ensure they obtain consent from a client before ear marking or tattooing a companion animal at the time of desexing.
- Vet are able to refuse to ear mark or tattoo on humane or safety grounds.

2.2 Location

The recommended location is on the inside surface of the ear pinna. This is the most visible location, where a tattoo will be noticed even when not specifically searched for. The tattoo will not be covered by too much hair and is less likely to be distorted by skin stretching during growth, making it more suitable for young animals.

2.3 Tattooing kit

- Tattoo forceps
- Tattoo Paste, Green Colour

2.4 Procedure

The operator does not have to be a veterinarian but must be adequately trained and competent. It is strongly recommended that tattoos are only administered on animals that are already under general anaesthesia, which must be under veterinary supervision.

- Remove as much hair as possible from the tattoo site.



- Remove any dirt, loose skin, grease or wax from the area and thoroughly clean using cotton wool soaked in surgical spirit or alcohol.
- Allow the area to dry.
- Apply a small amount of paste directly to the tattoo site, do not smear paste too liberally and obscure the veins.
- Before the paste on the tattoo site or pins has time to dry, position the forceps around the pinna avoiding hair, blood vessels or ribs where possible. The needles should be on the inside ear along the centre axis of the ear flap.
- Pierce the ear through the paste with a quick, firm motion, avoiding excessive pressure but ensuring the forceps are fully closed, then release immediately.
- Apply more paste to the tattoo site and rub firmly (using thumb against fore finger) against the lay of hair into the puncture holes for at least 10 seconds to ensure penetration.
- If there is bleeding, continue rubbing paste into the holes.
- Do not remove excess paste.

2.5 Consent Form

- Cost of Tattooing is \$15.
- Client must give a consent to tattoo his/her pet.
- Tattoo is only required for female cat/dogs.
- Admission form has been updated to address client's consent.

Name:

Signature:

