

Veterinary Hospital Accessibility Checklist

Assessing accessibility in a veterinary hospital research environment involves evaluating the physical environment, equipment, processes and policies, to ensure they are accessible to individuals with disabilities (seen & unseen) and meet relevant regulatory standards. This checklist covers various aspects of accessibility, including physical access, equipment usability, communication methods and documentation formats, which may be relevant in a veterinary hospital-based research setting.

Physical Accessibility:

- Evaluate entrances, exits, hallways, and pathways to ensure they are wide enough for wheelchair users and free from obstructions.
- Check for accessible parking, entrances, ramps and lifts.
- Assess the height of counters, desks, examination tables, lab benches, sinks and equipment to ensure they are reachable by individuals of different heights or those who use mobility aids.

Facility Infrastructure:

- Ensure that accessible features such as grab bars, handrails, and accessible seating are available where needed.
- Check accessibility of medical equipment, including examination tables, imaging machines and diagnostic to Review the accessibility of treatment rooms, examination areas, kennels, and grooming facilities.
- Ensure that animal handling areas are accessible and equipped with features such as non-slip flooring and secure restraint options.
- Assess the accessibility of restroom facilities for both clients and staff.

Equipment and Services:

- Evaluate the accessibility of medical equipment, including examination tables, scales, and diagnostic tools. Ensure they can accommodate pets of various sizes and are usable by individuals with disabilities.
- Assess the availability of auxiliary aids and services, such as sign language interpreters or communication devices for clients with hearing or speech impairments.
- Ensure that medical records and other client information are available in accessible formats upon request.

Communication and Documentation:

- Review communication methods used by the veterinary hospital, including signage, written materials, and digital platforms. Ensure they are accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- Evaluate the accessibility of laboratory documentation, including manuals, protocols, and safety information. Ensure they are available in accessible formats and are compatible with screen readers.

Policies and Training:

- Evaluate policies related to disability accommodation, including procedures for requesting accommodations and addressing accessibility concerns.

- Evaluate training programs to ensure that lab staff are knowledgeable about accessibility requirements and how to assist individuals with disabilities.

User Feedback:

- Gather feedback from individuals who use the veterinary hospital and facilities. Their perspectives can provide valuable insights into areas that may need improvement.

Review:

- Regularly monitor and review accessibility requirements to ensure ongoing compliance with accessibility standards and to address new accessibility issues that may arise.