

DATCP Message for Veterinarians - Essential Services

The following message was received on the afternoon of Friday, March 20 from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Many Wisconsin veterinarians appear to be interpreting essential as emergency. This is not the case. To help provide some clarity for all veterinarians, please read the following message from the Veterinary Examining Board (VEB) and Division of Animal Health (DAH):

DATCP and the VEB are encouraging veterinarians to consider required testing and vaccinations that have a significant animal health or public health risk as essential services. Items such as rabies vaccinations* animal movement testing and issuance of CVIs, if they can reasonably provide those services during this emergency.

As usual, all treatment and the current circumstances should be well documented in your records. Veterinary medicine views itself as an essential profession and procedures other than emergencies are often essential.

*Rabies Vaccinations are essential; If the owner is a client and the animal is very near to being due for vaccination then they should look at the current guidelines for quick parking lot vaccinations, licensed technician administration, etc. If the animal has several months to go before it is due, consider rescheduling the appointment. If the owner is not a client, then the clinic should take them on a case by case basis and determine if there is some way to accommodate getting an unvaccinated animal vaccinated, consider taking the animal into the clinic briefly without the owner, in order to maintain social distance, to conduct an initial exam. Discussion with the client can occur over the phone.