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WVMA Member:

Your Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association is working diligently to make certain that you have the most up-to-date and accurate information available at your fingertips. Please share this information with any veterinary colleagues, WVMA member or not, so we can continue to work together for our patients and their people.

Sincerely,

Ann Sherwood Zieser, DVM
2020 WVMA President

The message below is from Attorney Jordan Lamb, DeWitt LLP, and is provided as a WVMA member benefit:

On March 25, 2020, Governor Tony Evers issued Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home Order. This Order closes all non-essential businesses, prohibits public and private gatherings of any number of people who are not part of a single household, restricts non-essential travel, and mandates that individuals stay at home, with certain exceptions, in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This Order is in effect from 8:00 a.m. March 25, 2020 through 8:00 a.m. April 24, 2020 or until a superseding order is issued.

However, as you have heard, there are numerous exceptions to the mandatory closures in the Order for **Essential Activities** and for **Essential Businesses and Operations**.

Essential Activities. The Order ALLOWS individuals to leave their residence to engage in Essential Activities, which include seeking medical care, obtaining necessary services and supplies, engaging in outdoor activity subject to social distancing, caring for family members, or engaging in Essential Businesses and Operations.

Essential Businesses and Operations. The order ALLOWS individuals to leave their residence to work in Essential Business Operations, **which includes to work at veterinary care clinics and/or to provide healthcare services to animals.** The Order further states that a business providing any of the following services may remain open and operational: "businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, boarding,

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rescues, kennels, and adopting facilities.” (Order § 13.c.).

The order **does NOT require employees of Essential Businesses and Operations to carry any identification or permit to travel.** However, a number of employers want to voluntarily provide their employees with such documentation. Accordingly, we have created a template for WVMA member clinics to use should they want to provide their employees with such a letter. To download the template, [click here](#).

Check the [WVMA COVID-19 Resource Page](#) for the latest news pertaining to COVID-19 and veterinary medicine. We will continue to update the page as we receive new information.

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