

# OSHA Tidings



VetOSHA.com

Veterinary OSHA Management for Your Practice

June 2023

## Summertime Hazards

By Dr. Kendrick

## Keeping up with OSHA

By Laura Conn, CVT, CVPM, CVBL

OSHA Management Consulting



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#1 in OSHA Services for the Veterinary Practice

- *Veterinary Specific Manuals*
- *Training*
- *Safety Data Sheet Library*
- *GHS Secondary Container Labels and Charts*
- *Advocacy*
- *Complaint Response*

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## Doc Chery

Dr. Chery F. Kendrick is the owner, president, and chief regulatory specialist at VetOSHA.

## SUMMERTIME HAZARDS

With the start of summer, OSHA has issued the usual summertime warnings on recognizing the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and the importance of staying well hydrated, but they also shared a very well-done information sheet on the importance of protecting your employees from tick-borne disease.

I especially liked this handout as it had great pictures to assist in the identification of the various species we see, but also excellent information on the most up to date research on attachment time and disease transmission.

I found this to be a wonderful tool to use not only when reminding your staff about tick-borne diseases, but its value as a tool to use for client education.

Zoonotic disease transmission is an important hazard to be aware of and our use of PPE and strict attention to hygiene helps prevent most transmission, but it is not uncommon to find a tick on yourself after handling patients or even after walking them.

I have attached this wonderful tool to this newsletter.

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Cont.:

Let's also look at the question of staying hydrated. One of the most common questions we receive concerns drinks in the clinic.

The wonderful introduction of covered water bottles has been an especially welcomed one in the veterinary practice, as OSHA does allow completely closed water bottles to be used in the treatment areas. This has made the issue of keeping hydrated in the busy practice much easier.

Keep in mind OSHA still does Not allow open cans, cups with uncovered straws, or coffee cups with lids with drink openings. (Travel mugs for coffee with closable lids are allowed). The idea is that the part where you drink from needs to be covered, removing the protective cover to drink, then covering it when you have finished getting your drink, keeping it protected from aerosolization of microbes.

OSHA laws are easier to follow when they are practical and reasonable, and this certainly has been a welcome change in regulatory control!

Stay safe out there, stay hydrated, and Welcome Summer!

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### Laura Conn, CVT, CVPM, CVBL

Laura is the Director of Management and Education at VetOSHA.

### Manager's Minute:

#### Keeping up with OSHA:

Where has the time gone? We are half-way through the year already! Areas that are so easy for us to get behind on include our OSHA required training for team members, protocols, and updating our OSHA team.

So, now we are playing catch up! To make it easier, I have outlined a little guide to include what we need to accomplish to ensure we are current with our OSHA responsibilities. I thought this may help some of you!

- Develop your OSHA team
  - o Safety Captain (SC)
  - o Safety Committee - Team members who support and help the SC
- Decide how you will provide your OSHA training. OSHA does not have specific requirements on how the training may occur. Various forms may include:
  - o Written
  - o Oral
  - o Video
- Who needs OSHA training
  - o All new hires
  - o All team members
- Topics to address (but not limited to)
  - o Radiology safety, chemical safety, clinic hazards, ergonomics, Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP's), proper use of Personal Protection Equipment(PPE), Emergency Action Plans (EAP's), zoonotic diseases

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## Laura Conn, CVT, CVPM, CVBL

Laura is the Director of Management and Education at VetOSHA.

## Manager's Minute: Cont.

- Frequency of training
  - o New hires must be trained within 3 days of hire
  - o Team members are trained annually, at minimum
  - o Active shooter training occurs at the time of hire only
  - o Chemical safety training occurs annually unless new products are introduced. Team members must be trained on these as soon as they are received in the practice.
  - o Always check your state OSHA training requirements as well
- Monthly meetings
  - o These are always a great idea to share new or updated information
  - o These allow team members to receive information on specific topics and not feel overwhelmed
  - o Provides for opportunities for questions to be addressed on a regular basis
  - o Great opportunity to remind of safety procedures and evaluate where the practice sits with the safety goals that were set for the year
- Documentation
  - o Always to make sure to document when training occurs
    - Include:
      - Employee's name, title, and signature
      - Date of training
      - Training topic
    - Quizzes are a great way to ensure team members participate and understand the training

If you have any questions or concerns, please always reach out to us at [team@VetOSHA.com](mailto:team@VetOSHA.com). We are always here to help you!