

OSHA Tidings



VetOSHA.com

Veterinary OSHA Management for Your Practice

August 2023

Safe and Sound
By Dr. Kendrick

Protecting our Team
*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.

Safe and Sound

By Dr. Chery F. Kendrick

OSHA is proud of their Safe + Sound celebration in August of each year. This year when I brought the Safe + Sound celebration ideas from OSHA to our VetOSHA clients I emphasized that they not only take time to celebrate this august event, taking advantage of OSHA's fun ideas, including templates to help your team participate, but to also carry these ideas throughout the year.

OSHA requires us to look at our program monthly by doing two things:

1) Have our monthly Safety Committee Team meeting, keeping meeting minutes for 5 years.

In these meetings we address the following items specific for our clinic:

- Injuries and their resolutions
- Training needs
- Facility safety needs updates
- Management items addressing safety management.
- Goals for the month
- Topic of discussion for our clinic's team meeting

2) Have monthly meetings with the clinic's team members where we address an OSHA safety topic.

This can be incorporated into our general staff meetings. (Be sure to keep meeting minutes for 5 years).

We have a list of monthly OSHA topics to help our clients facilitate this OSHA requirement.

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By Dr. Chery F. Kendrick

My thought though as we prepared our clients for OSHA's August Safe + Sound week was why not continue using some of these ideas each month with our teams to keep them motivated to make workplace safety a daily priority? OSHA's Safe + Sound website has lots of tools for us to use, including certificate of participation, and Safe + Sound badges. You can even register your clinic to proudly show you participated in Safe + Sound week. But why just one week? Let's make this an *Every* week practice.

The main goals of Safe + Sound Week are twofold:

- Recognize members of the Safety Team who keep your OSHA program working smoothly.
- Invigorate your safety program, soliciting more input from more members of your team.

Be sure to check out OSHA Safe + Sound webpage for tools and fun ideas:

<https://www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek/>

Make safety a daily practice.

Stay safe out there,

Doc Chery

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Laura Conn, CVT, CVPM, CVBL

Laura is the Director of Management and Education at VetOSHA.

Manager's Minute:

We all know the sighs or eye rolls we get when we announce to our team members that it is time for our OSHA safety training! However, for us to have a successful OSHA program, we need the support of our teams. Sadly, sometimes it takes a negative situation to gain that support.

A recent situation that occurred:

A team member came in and let the practice manager know she had previously been involved with someone who now is a threat to her. She has contacted authorities, working on an order of protection, but was concerned that he may try to call her at her place of business, or even show up.

At first, it didn't seem like a big deal, all team members were told how to handle the situation if this person did show up or call. However, as the day went on, the manager realized that everyone was relying on her to ensure they were still in a safe working environment.

The PM discussed this throughout the day with the staff, slowly everyone became more aware of the seriousness of the situation and the importance of the OSHA safety protocols in affect and their Active Shooter training

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Laura is the Director of Management and Education at VetOSHA.

Manager's Minute: Con't

While this is something we probably never considered would be part of our job when we decide to jump into veterinary medicine, it has become a hard reality of the world we live in today. This is also a hard reality of why our OSHA safety training is so very important. It does not just involve not eating while standing in the room where a dental is being performed, or not to stand on a swirly chair to get something off of the top shelf. The training and protocols that we develop are to keep everyone safe in ALL types of situations.

For the safety of you and your team, keep up to date on your Emergency Action Plans, disgruntled client training, and any training you have that details what to do in any type of emergency situation. Writing up and training on protocols once isn't enough, revisit them at least annually, discuss with everyone how we can keep each other safe.

It takes amazing individuals who work so hard for their teams... they are lucky to have you all!

If you have any questions, concerns, or thoughts, please always reach out to us at team@VetOSHA.com. We are always here to help you!

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