Veterinary radiation safety procedure

SOP TEMPLATE

Check this template against your local regulations and your own policies before you use it.

SOP no.		Version		Effective date	
Owner		Approver		Review date	

Purpose

To keep radiation doses to staff as low as possible.

Scope

Every X-ray exposure at the clinic, by every staff member.

Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Vet or licensed operator	Operates the machine as their licence allows and logs each exposure.
Radiation safety officer	Manages licences, dosimeters, equipment checks and training.

What you need

- Lead aprons, thyroid shields and gloves
- Personal dosimeters
- Positioning aids and sandbags

Procedure

1. **Only licensed staff operate**

   Only staff licensed or authorised under your local rules may take X-rays.

2. **Restrain without hands**

   Use sedation and positioning aids so no one needs to hold the patient.

   > **Caution:** If someone must hold a patient, they wear full protection and keep their hands out of the beam.

3. **Wear protection and dosimeters**

   Everyone in the room wears a lead apron and thyroid shield, and their dosimeter under the apron.

4. **Control the room**

   Close the door, turn on the warning light and keep everyone else out.

5. **Log every exposure**

   Record the patient, the views and the settings in the X-ray log.

6. **Check the equipment**

   Check aprons for cracks each year, and have the machine tested as your licence requires.

Records

- The X-ray log.
- Dosimeter reports, licences and equipment test reports.

Related documents

- Vet nurse induction checklist

Revision history

Version	Date	What changed	Approved by