

13-Dec-21

ASB Standard 169, Standard for Veterinary Forensic Live Animal Examination

#	Section	Type of Comment (E-Editorial, T-Technical)	Comments	Proposed Resolution	Final Resolutions
22	Title	T - Clarification	This title is incongruous with language used on the human clinical forensic examination references. "Live animal" is less clear than the term "clinical".	We recommend: The Standard for the Clinical Veterinary Forensic Examination	Accept
23	Overall	T - organization, should/shall issues	This standard would benefit from reorganization and consolidation. Would benefit from a section on legal considerations for the veterinarian to be aware of; expert opinion formation, and forensic report preparation. There are many instances of "shall" that are untenable in clinical practice or some circumstances and should be changed to "should"	Recommend referencing: R. Touroo, K. Baucom, M. Kessler, M. Smith-Blackmore, Minimum standards and best practices for the clinical veterinary forensic examination of the suspected abused animal, Forensic Science International: Reports, Volume 2, 2020, 100150, ISSN 2665-9107, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsir.2020.100150">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsir.2020.100150</a> . ( <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2665910720301006">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2665910720301006</a> ) as a guide for content organization.	Accept with Modification.
25	Foreword	T - inaccurate and incomplete	Paragraph 1: standard not just for veterinarians, irrelevant info about how IVFSA standard came about, The repeated reference to the "live animal examination" omits the concept of the FORENSIC examination.	Proposed concept: This standard was developed to provide guidance for investigating agencies and veterinary professionals assisting with the investigation of possible animal cruelty. OR ...professionals in performing forensic examinations of live animals for the purpose of investigation of animal cruelty. Once this proposed standard is sufficiently improved, the appropriate reference in the Foreword will be: " The draft of this document was a combination of standards individually developed by the Crime Scene Investigation and Reconstruction Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committee (OSAC) and the International Veterinary Forensic Science Association (IVFSA)"	Accept with modification. In order to not conflict with Scope, the two document specific paragraphs have been removed. References to IVFSA and OSAC will be revisited when document is finalized.
26	Foreword	T - inaccurate and incomplete	Paragraph 2 - On-scene medical triage is not addressed, sentence does not flow in logical order, 'preliminary procedures' and 'initial intake examination' verbiage is not used anywhere else in the document. The document is also primarily a to-do list which one could argue is not ALL the information a veterinarian needs to formulate opinions and interpretations.	Omit the second paragraph	Accept.
27	Foreword	T - inaccurate and incomplete	Regarding opinions and interpretations, while mentioned in the foreword, is not covered in the standard	Improve the standard, include opinion formation/interpretation and reporting in the standard.	Accept with modification. In order to not conflict with Scope, the two document specific paragraphs have been removed.
12	Foreword, para. 2	E	The "all" suggests a perfection of prediction that standards cannot achieve. Given the wide variety of animals, it's possible that some subjects will require additional information. This proposed change also tracks the language of the "scope" section, which specifies the document provides "minimum requirements."	Change "all the information" to "the minimum information"	Accept with modification. In order to not conflict with Scope, the two document specific paragraphs have been removed.
24	Keywords	T - more concise selection	A proposed key word for this proposed standard is "animal crime scene"; it does not provide directives for crime scenes. As per comments relative to 'live animal' in the title, add clinical to keywords.	Omit "animal crime scene". Consider adding "animal abuse". "animal cruelty", "clinical veterinary forensic medicine", "veterinary medicine" and "veterinary medicolegal examination"	Accept.

#	Section		Type of Comment (E-Editorial, T-Technical)	Comments	Proposed Resolution	Final Resolutions
28	Keywords		T - Incomplete and undefined	These keywords are not in the terms and definitions and are scant as compared to the content and possible utility of a clinical forensic examination standard	Define, expand.	Accept with modification. Keywords are not defined based on the ASB Manual. Additional keywords added based on comment # 24
29	Scope		T - incomplete, lacking logic	The veterinary clinical forensic examination will include other aspects such as diagnostics, behavioral interpretation. The current order of listed activities in the scope is illogical.	Expand and ensure the scope reflects the content of the standard, and that the content of the standard is appropriate for the scope. Reorganize.	Reject: Interpretation of diagnostics and the behavioral interpretation of an animal are outside the scope of the document.
30	Scope		T - inaccurate	The scope references training but the document does not cover (and should not cover) training.	Omit	Accept.
13	p. 1, Scope, line 2		E	The list of items covered in this section differs from that in the Foreword, thus indicating a different (narrower or broader) application of the standard depending on which list is read.	Conform description here with that provided in the Foreword	Accept with modification. In order to not conflict with Scope, the two document specific paragraphs have been removed.
31	2 Normative references		T - Normative references are documents that are indispensable for the application of the standard. The AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines are not needed to understand the document	This standard is for the conduct of the live animal exam. Veterinarians will already be familiar with the euthanasia guidelines, and no one else should be euthanizing animals at a crime scene or anywhere else (unless they are a certified trained animal shelter employee, and the practice act in that state allows such conduct and the euthanasia is occurring in that context, but this is not central to the Standard for Veterinary Forensic Live Animal Examination.)	Include in bibliography	Reject. In section 4.4 the Euthanasia Guidelines are included in a "shall" statement. According to the ASB Manual, this is an automatic Normative Reference.
33	2 Normative references		T - OSAC Proposed Standard Guide for Scene Investigation is recommended as a normative reference.	This document or a document like this one is likely to be used by a veterinarian to guide the conduct of a forensic live animal exam. Because animals (like people) are scenes, the practitioner must have familiarity with the basics of scene investigation.	Add	Reject. A non-published document cannot be added as a normative or bibliographical reference. This can be reassessed if/when the proposed standard is published.
32	2 Normative references		T - OSAC Proposed Standard Guide for Crime Scene Photography is recommended as a normative reference.	Photography is an essential component of documenting animal evidence, animal involved scenes and animal associated evidence. The photographic documentation of evidence in this proposed standard should be expounded and brought into line with other crime scene photography standards. There should be sufficient detail in this document or a document like this one to permit a non-forensically trained veterinarian understand the basic components and practices in crime scene and evidence photography, but this document cannot include it all, therefore the reader should be referred to the appropriate normative reference.	Add	Reject. A non-published document cannot be added as a normative or bibliographical reference. This can be reassessed if/when the proposed standard is published.
14	p. 2, "evidence"		E	The definition suggests that (1) facts can be "valid" (they can't) as compared to merely true or untrue; and (2) the point of evidence is to definitively prove a fact true or false, rather than (what we think it is intended to capture) the much lower bar that is legal relevance.	Change to "A body of facts, information, or material objects offered for its tendency to make it more or less likely that a belief or proposition is true or valid."	Reject with modification: Term/Definition removed as definition as contained in dictionaries such as Merriam Webster are appropriate, therefore it does not need to be defined here.

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36	Missing definition		T - Animal abuse	This is the subject of the majority of veterinary forensic clinical exams. This term should be defined and discussed.	Add	Reject: Specific definition of animal abuse is based on jurisdiction and may change state by state.
37	Missing definition		T - Animal sexual abuse	This is the subject of many forensic veterinary exams. The term should be defined and discussed especially in light of differing laws and language in various jurisdictions.	Add	Reject: Specific definition of animal sexual abuse is based on jurisdiction and may change state by state. It is beyond the scope of this document to address the laws and language in every jurisdiction.
38	Missing definition		T - Baseline laboratory testing	Each veterinary practitioner has their own definition of a "minimum database". The term baseline laboratory testing should be defined and discussed.	Add	Reject: "baseline laboratory testing" is not used in this document. "Minimum Database" is appropriate as written.
40	Missing definition		T - Body diagrams	This document or a document like this one will likely be a reference for veterinarians not trained in the forensic science and they will need appropriately detailed guidance.	Add	Reject: "body diagrams" is not used in this document.
41	Missing definition		T - Close up Photography	This is a necessary component of documenting animal evidence, and this aspect of photography should be defined and discussed in context.	Add	Check on OSAC Standard Guide for Crime Scene Photography.
45	Missing definition		T - Emergent care	There will be times a practitioner must decide between documenting evidence and providing emergent care. This term should be defined, and discussed.	Add	Reject: "emergent care" is not used in this document. This is outside the scope of the document, as this document is for the forensic examination. The care is part of the state-by-state veterinary board regulations.
47	Missing definition		T - Forensic	This document or one like it will likely be a reference for veterinarians not trained in the forensic sciences, and they will need appropriately detailed guidance.	Add. There is a lexicon definition that can be used.	Accept
48	Missing definition		T - forensic evidence	This term is used in 4.2.1 but it is not defined.	Add.	Reject: this is covered specifically for this document in the definition for "Clinical Veterinary Forensic Examination"
51	Missing definition		T - identifying label	If this document is going to include the term "identifying label" (Section 4.6.1) then it needs to be defined. Photo board, photo card, case identifier are all terms that may be used somewhat interchangeably. Recommend referencing the photography standard and use uniform language	Add or change.	Reject: 4.6.1 as a section defines what the parameters are for the identifying label as a requirement.
52	Missing definition		T - Law enforcement	This document or one like it will likely be a reference for veterinarians not trained in the forensic sciences and they will need appropriately detailed guidance	Add. The lexicon definition lacks context related to agencies and parties frequently assigned to animal involved investigations and therefore must be expanded.	Reject: "law enforcement" is not used in the document.
53	Missing definition		T - medicolegal	This document or one like it will likely be a reference for veterinarians not trained in the forensic sciences and they will need appropriately detailed guidance.	Add. Replace. Recommended: Having both medical and legal aspects. See veterinary medicolegal	Reject. Defined appropriately in general dictionary sources.
55	Missing definition		T - minimum database	This document uses "minimum database" in 4.3.1 but it is not defined, different veterinarians have different interpretations of what should be included in an MDB and therefore we recommend using "baseline laboratory testing" and defining that instead.	Define or omit.	Reject: the Minimum Database section defines what the parameters are as a recommendation.
56	Missing definition		T - orientation photos	This is not commonly used verbiage in forensic photography.	Omit or define appropriately.	Reject with modification: the requirements for "orientation photos" are included in section 4.6.3. "mid-range" added with "regional" for clarification

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57	Missing definition		T - overall photography	This is a necessary component of providing context for animal evidence photographs, and should be defined and discussed. This document or one like it will likely be a reference for veterinarians not trained in the forensic sciences and crime scene documentation and they will need appropriately detailed guidance.	Add.	Reject: "overall" is a commonly defined term, and in the context of section 4.6.3 is self-explanatory.
59	Missing definition		T - pain scale	Recognizing and documenting pain is an essential component of the live animal exam. There are published species specific pain scales that can be referenced to help describe and quantify an animal's pain.	Add	Reject: There are a variety of "pain scales/pain levels" many are animal specific. It is outside the scope of this document to define/list all of them.
60	Missing definition		T - performance enhancing drugs	PEDs are commonly used in animal sexual abuse and organized animal fighting. Veterinarians not trained in forensics will likely be using this document or a document like it for reference, and they will need appropriately detailed guidance.	Add	Reject: "performance enhancing drugs" are not referenced in this document.
61	Missing definition		T - photo board	This is an essential component of forensic photography. This document or one like it will likely be a reference for veterinarians not trained in the forensic sciences, and they will need appropriately detailed guidance.	Add or use a similar term. Can be a photo card, case identifier. In section 4.6.1 a "identifying label" is used to convey a similar concept.	Reject: "photo board" is not used in this document.
62	Missing definition		T - photo series	This term is used in the document, but it is not clear.	Define or omit.	Reject: this is a commonly used term and as it is used in 4.6.1 it is self-explanatory.
64	Missing definition		T - primary enclosure	Animals at scenes are frequently contained within primary enclosures. Documenting these enclosures are an essential part of the animal involved scene documentation. This document or one like this one will likely be a reference for veterinarians not specifically trained in forensics and they will need appropriately defined and detailed guidance. This document or one like this one will likely be a reference for scene investigators untrained in animal husbandry and they will need appropriately defined and detailed guidance.	Add	Reject: "primary enclosure" is not used in this document, as it is not part of the animal exam.
65	Missing definition		T - Signalment	While clear to veterinarians, this term will not hold meaning for most scene responders. An animal's signalment is a basic and essential component of describing the animal. Veterinarians communicating with others relative to an animal will refer to the animal's signalment.	Add	Reject: The term signalment is standard for a vet or vet tech. The content of 4.2.3 also lists the requirement of the signalment.
66	Missing definition		T - traceable identification	This term is used in 4.2.2 but is not defined. E.g. The presence of a tattoo does not indicate it is traceable.	Add and clarify or remove.	Reject: Section 4.2.2 does note that it is "potentially traceable"
67	Missing definition		T - unique identifier	There are a number of unique identifiers that may be used to track individual animals. This term is used in the standard and should be defined.	Add.	Reject: Because a "unique identifier" can differ across species, it cannot be more specifically than how it is utilized in section 4.5.1.
68	Missing definition		T - veterinary medicolegal examination	Medical examination by a veterinarian of a live animal for medicolegal purposes. Note: The examination may include, but is not limited to, the assessment of behavior, body condition score and organ systems to identify and document an animal's overall condition at a point in time.	Add	Reject: "veterinary medicolegal examination" is not used in the document.

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69	Missing definition		T - veterinary medicolegal investigation	The field requires a term that encompasses a medicolegal investigation of an animal and includes the veterinary exam and documentation, as well as the associated scene investigation.	Add	Reject: "veterinary medicolegal investigation" is not used in the document.
54	Missing definition		T - midrange photography	This document or one like this one will likely be a reference for veterinarians not trained in the forensic sciences and they will need appropriately detailed guidance on how to conduct scene documentation. "regional" photography is not a commonly used term in forensic photography.	Add midrange, omit "regional"	Accept with modification: "midrange" added with "regional" in 4.6.3.
58	Missing definition (but inappropriate)		T - pain level	Pain can be assessed by veterinarians interpreting facial expressions, body position, gait analysis, response to palpation, vocalization, response to analgesia etc. There are developed species specific Pain Scales that can be used that are intended to quantify pain in a method that is repeatable between veterinarians and from assessment to assessment.	Define "pain level". In order to quantify an animal's pain consistently between veterinarians, and between examinations it is most appropriate to reference a pain scale.	Reject: There are a variety of "pain scales/pain levels" many are animal specific. It is outside the scope of this document to define/list all of them.
49	Missing definitions		T - forensic necropsy	This term is used in section 4.4 and should be defined.	Add.	Reject with modification: "necropsy" replaced with "veterinary forensic postmortem examination" for consistency with the proposed ASB Std 170 and how it is defined in that document.
1	3.1			The more commonly used term (and one in the OSAC lexicon) is Alternate Light Source	Replace "Alternative" with "Alternate"	Accept
2	3.1			Extra comma in definition	Remove comma between "fluids" and "and"	Accept
34	Definition 3.1		T - alternate light source	not "alternative" light source. The proposed definition is inaccurate. An acceptable definition exists in the OSAC lexicon	We recommend the use of OSAC lexicon definitions whenever possible and appropriate so that new standards coming forward are consistent with one another (consensus). Equipment used to produce light at various wavelengths to enhance or visualize potential items of evidence. (OSAC lexicon)	Accept with modification. Lexicon definition used. Original definition from the document converted to NOTE.
35	Definition 3.2		T - Animal	An animal unable to move on its own accord is still an animal. A non-ambulatory animal is frequently subject to forensic examination. A more accurate definition of an animal is a creature or living being, not "thing".	Correct	Accept
39	Definition 3.3		T - Body Condition Score	Limit definition to "published" and "species specific" body condition scoring systems	Correct	Accept
42	Definition 3.4		T - Chain of Custody, unclear	There is an existing OSAC definition that is more accurate and that does require a NOTE: expansion to explain animals are evidence and they may also contain derivative evidence.	From OSAC Lexicon: Chronological record of the handling and storage of an item from its point of collection to its final return or disposal. Note: Physical evidence includes the animals themselves and evidence collected from animals and their environments.	Accept with modification: Note was slightly modified to read: "Items may include the animals..."
43	Definition 3.5		T - Collection swab, unclear	Not every collection swab is sterile, and not every collection swab is used to collect DNA	Clarify definition. OSAC lexicon has "buccal swab", chemistry has "swabbing" Recommend referencing existing definitions .	Accept with modification. Term removed as it is no longer used in the document.
44	Definition 3.6		T - diagnostic imaging, definition limiting	Diagnostic imaging may be conducted on live and deceased animals, as well as people. This term will end up in the lexicon, and so we must be thoughtful when creating definitions. It can be inferred from context of this document that diagnostic imaging of the live animal is intended in the forensic clinical exam. MRI is after the longer term, for consistency's sake omit or add "x-ray", "CT" and "U/S".	Remove "live animal"	Accept

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3	3.6			diagnostic imaging can be done on animals that are no longer alive	Remove "live" from the definition	Accept: "...in the live animal." was removed
4	3.7			inaccurate definition - evidence may support or disprove a belief or proposition; it does not always provide proof	Replace "providing proof that" with "indicating whether"	Reject with modification: Term/Definition removed as definition as contained in dictionaries such as Merriam Webster are appropriate, therefore it does not need to be defined here.
46	Definition 3.7		T - Evidence	Bring into agreement with the definition of evidence in ASB Technical Report 025, First Edition 2017 Crime Scene/Death Investigation – Dogs and Sensors Terms and Definitions	Correct and elaborate, animals and their environments are evidence, physical evidence, trace evidence, behavioral evidence.	Reject with modification: Term/Definition removed as definition as contained in dictionaries such as Merriam Webster are appropriate, therefore it does not need to be defined here.
50	Definition 3.8	3.5	T - forensic physical examination, unclear	A forensic physical exam does is not limited to an animal exam and this definition will end up in the lexicon, standing on its own outside of this document, it is illogical. The term "clinical veterinary forensic examination" is more accurate. The concept of "medicolegal" should be included.	Replace. Recommended: Medical examination by a veterinarian of a live animal for medicolegal purposes. Note: The examination may include, but is not limited to, the assessment of behavior, body condition score and organ systems to identify and document an animal's overall condition at a point in time.	Accept
63	Definition 3.9		T - Photography, definition unclear	This is an applied definition in the context of a veterinary forensic clinical exam.	Recommend change to 'forensic photography' -and define as the act of producing an accurate reproduction of a crime scene or physical evidence using photography for the purpose of an investigative or court aid.	Accept
71	4.1 Missing concept		T - Training and personnel - clinical experience	This section should delineate the need for the examining veterinarian to have species specific experience or a collaboration with a species specialist.	Add	Accept with modification. Sentence added regarding experience of differing species.
72	4.1 Missing concept		T - animal handler	There is need for an animal handler during a clinical exam	Add	Accept with modification. Sentence added regarding trained assistant.
73	4.1 Missing concept		T - evidence packager	There is often a need for an assisting individual to be available for evidence packaging	Add	Accept with modification. Sentence added regarding evidence collection.
74	4.1 Missing concept		T - persons present	There is a need to document all persons present during the forensic examination	Add	Accept with modification. Sentence added regarding those assisting, to match what is in documentation section of the document.
70	4.1 Title		T - inaccurate title, incomplete concept	Titled training and personnel, this section does not cover the training of the veterinarian conducting the forensic clinical exam, or other personnel involved in the exam and evidence collection process	Clarify and expand section	Reject with modification. Section title revised to "Personnel". No other personnel shall conduct the exam.
83	4.2 Missing concept		T - relevant history	The forensic veterinarian must have context for the examination. Witness reports, scene photography, allegations or theories must be disclosed so that the examination and opinion formation are made with context to known or possible explanations for the animal(s) condition(s). Prior veterinary exams if available must be reviewed as well.	Add. Also add Ideally the veterinarian is included at the scene response.	Accept with modification "Context for Examination" section added. Does not include that the veterinarian is included at the scene response as that is outside of the control of the veterinarians.
76	4.2 Missing concept		T- establishing legal authority to perform the forensic exam	Beyond a veterinarian's duty to alleviate or prevent suffering there must be established legal right to perform the exam via consent, relinquishment, a court order terminating ownership or authorizing a search.	Add a section on legal guidance for the veterinarian	Reject: it is outside the scope of the veterinarian's duties to obtain the legal releases.

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77	4.2 Missing concept		T - establishing authority to treat certain conditions	Animals harmed by suspected criminal activities have the complex construct of being simultaneously evidence, property and victims in need of care. Each of these states must be respected and appropriately managed. A process for the authorization of therapeutic care should be established before the start of the forensic examination.	Add a section on legal guidance for the veterinarian	Accept. Section added to address legal guidance.
78	4.2 Missing concept		T - all veterinary work has possibility to become integral in a legal proceeding	As such, minimum standards of care must be met on all occasions regardless of current legal status.	Add a section on legal guidance for the veterinarian	Accept with modification: the following sentence was added to the end of the 'General' section: "Minimal standards of care, as set by regulatory agencies, shall be adhered to." Legal Considerations section also added.
79	4.2 Missing concept		T - all veterinary contact with animal evidence must be recorded	4.2.13 designates that all changes in animal health be documented while in care, but further, all treatments, evaluations etc. regardless of whether there has been a change in condition must be documented. This belongs in record keeping or documentation (veterinary record), whichever designation and organization scheme is chosen. This foundational concept belongs early in the document.	Correct, reorganize, consolidate.	Reject: the items in 4.2 follow the logical steps taken. Section states "improvement or deterioration" which includes all documentation. Section title changed for clarification
84	4.2 Missing concept		T - awareness of bias	The examining veterinarian must be aware of and avoid expressions of unconscious or implicit biases in order to mitigate their influence on interpretation of physical exam findings and deductions.	Add	Reject: the concept of bias is a significant part of veterinary education and is out of scope of this document.
19	Section 4.2		E	The detail in ASB 170 provides a useful alternative to the "as appropriate" and "as needed" language identified as problematic above, and specifically sets forth what must be described/documented with respect to suspected injuries.	Recommend adding the level of detail re documentation of specific injuries found in ASB 170, sections 6.5-7.7.	Accept with modification: Sections for external examination added, and modified as appropriate for live animals. Section from 170 for internal examinations not added.
75	4.2 Title		T - inaccurate title	Recommend clinical veterinary forensic examination	Amend.	Accept
81	4.2.2 Missing concept	4.2.4	T - individual identification	Various species have a variety of identification systems - include toe and ear notching on list of systems (but not limited to)	Add	Accept with modification, content in parentheses made part of the sentence to include other forms of identification.
82	4.2.2 Missing concept	4.2.4	T - scanning/microchip scanning - confusing presentation	All scanning is not equal, some scanners do not detect some microchips. The scanning shall be conducted with a "universal" microchipping scanner. The examination of an animal for a tattoo for example is a distinct and separate concept from microchip scanning. "Scanning" is unclear.	Add	Accept. section modified for clarification.
80	4.2.2 Title	4.2.4	T - Inaccurate title, traceable identification	not all animal identifiers are traceable, all identifiers found must be notated, or if they are not present	Correct	Accept. section modified for clarification.
10	4.2.3	4.2.6		The term "signalment" is not known by the general population.	Define "signalment" in 3	Reject. This document is not intended for the general populations, it is intended for use by veterinarians. Signalment is a common term used by veterinarians.
88	4.2.3	4.2.6	T - signalment fur length and type	Not all animals are furred, some breeds or breed types only have short hair, a veterinarian is not going to necessarily describe a pit bull type dog as short haired for example or smooth coated - it is understood by the breed type	Omit	Reject: The lead-in sentence states that the items shall be included "if applicable"

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89	4.2.3	4.2.6	T - signalment color and markings	Color and markings are distinct visual concepts. An animal may be brindle, or an animal may have a brindle patch over the left eye	Clarify markings vs unique markings	Accept with modification: "unique" added to f) for clarification
90	4.2.3	4.2.6	T - signalment color and markings	alterations noted? Is this in reference to an alteration of the animal's color and markings? Or is this intended to be part of fur length and type - note if the animal has had alterations to hair length (i.e. shorn or grooming changes)	Omit, or reorganize & clarify	Accept. Made a separate item.
86	4.2.3 Missing concept	4.2.6	T - signalment, unique identifier/poor organization	A unique identifier (name or number) is essential to individuate the animal. This number must be recorded and notated whether assigned or pre-existing on the animal.	Add. Unique identifier should be affixed to animal as appropriate for the species. This is essential for appropriate chain of custody maintenance. Any lack of identification should also be noted. This foundational concept is covered in section 4.5.1 and covers assigned unique identifiers. Preexisting unique identifiers may be used.	Reject: Since this is covered in 4.5.1, there is no need to cover it in this section.
85	4.2.3 Title	4.2.6	T - Inaccurate title, owner information (if known)	Owner information is not covered in this section, and may or may not be relevant information for the examining veterinarian to know.	Clarify or remove	Accept with modification: Title modified to remove Owner Information and added Description. Sentence added to 4.5.1 regarding documentation of the owner and the entity presenting the animal.
87	4.2.3d Missing concepts	4.2.6d	T - age	Age may be known, reported or estimated. Age may be reported in relevant range such as neonatal, juvenile, young, young adult, adult and geriatric. When an age range is used the indication for the relevant range should be referenced. (i.e. juvenile is over 8 weeks of age but under one year in a given species)	Add "reported" to age. If estimated, record how estimated (based on dentition, lenticular examination, weight, radiographic examination, other)	Accept.
15	p. 3, 4.2.4	4.2.7	E	The existing language ("The veterinarian shall evaluate...if available.") is unclear with respect to "referenced system": referenced by whom or what? It also does not address how evaluation should be done if a published/referenced system is not available.	Clarify where scoring system must be referenced for purposes of this standard. Provide additional guidance on how the veterinarian is to evaluate body condition score if a published or referenced system is not available.	Accept. Second sentence added for clarification when published or referenced system is not available. Title also modified.
91	4.2.4	4.2.7	T - body condition score	What scale used needs to be recorded	Specify what BCS system used. Also says "shall", if available. Therefore this shall should be a should. Remove shall.	Accept with modification. "shall" maintained for body condition evaluation and documentation. Separate sentences contain "should" for how to evaluate.
92	4.2.5		T - section title - External physical examination, Poor organization and overly prescriptive	External physical examination is conducted for purposes other than notating scars or injuries. The external physical exam is the entirety of the external physical exam and includes palpation, gait evaluation, range of motion, attitude followed by systems evaluations. The clinical exam is limited to external examination and diagnostic imaging. External examination also includes notation of parasites, foreign materials present and so forth. An internal exam is not performed on the live animal. Therefore this section title is confusing. The measuring of scars in animals bearing dozens or hundreds of bite wounds, abrasions, contusions, petechial hemorrhages will not have each distinct mark measured. Therefore these statement cannot be under the "shall" umbrella.	Omit and generally reorganize the concept under system assessment for integumentary. The level of direction on scar and wound notation is excessive.	Based on Comment #19. Additional sections added to 4.2.8 which cover this concept, so 4.2.6 has been deleted.
5	4.2.5 c)			incomplete term - "granulation tissue"	add "tissue" after "granulation"	Based on Comment #19. Additional sections added to 4.2.8 which cover this concept, so 4.2.6 has been deleted.



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6	4.2.6	4.2.8		Use of "should" in this section indicates that these activities don't need to be performed. The condition of the oral cavity and feet is vital data, however, in a physical exam.	Replace "should" with "shall"	Accept with modification. "should" replaced with "shall". Phrase added regarding the safety of the vet and the animal.
9	4.2.6	4.2.8		Address "foreign objects" more thoroughly. This states that objects should be identified, but not their relationship to wounds, their size and weight, whether they were removed or not and when.	The presence of foreign objects such as chains or other restraints shall be documented prior to and after removal. The relationship of the object with pathological alterations of the body, and the object's weight and other characteristics will be objectively documented.	Accept with modification: new item c) added to address proposed text.
11	4.2.6	4.2.8		a) is consistent with the header of this section. B), c), and d) are more appropriate for 4.2.7 as examination of the oral cavity, feet, and other orifices does not necessarily involve identification of foreign substances	Move b), c), and d) to 4.2.7	Reject: This section is specific to looking for foreign objects/substances in the indicated body areas.
93	4.2.6	4.2.8	T - section title, Poor organization	Section title is Identify abnormal Odors, Foreign Objects and Substances but contains instruction on steps of a general physical exam that should be performed on all animals or in circumstances when certain matter is identified or evidence is suspected to be present and so is part of evidence collection.	Correct.	Accept. Title and section modified for clarification.
94	4.2.6a	4.2.8	T - ALS Scanning	Directs if available or indicated	Should be if available AND indicated. If included as a standard, should detail when indicated.	Accept.
95	4.2.6b	4.2.8b	T - Oral cavity/ Poor organization & errors	All animals should have an oral exam during the physical exam if behavior permits. This belongs in systems. Swabbing should be done when appropriate, and therefore if included in this standard, indications for oral swabbing should be detailed. Trauma or other changes to teeth and gums (including a periodontal disease assessment) can be indicated in the systems section. The oral cavity includes more than teeth and gums.	Move to Physical Examination System Assessment (but with a new section title, we recommend Physical Examination)	Accept with modification. "oral cavity" portion of 4.2.6 revised for clarity. "oral cavity" also added to Overall Assessment.
96	4.2.6c	4.2.8c	T - condition of feet	All animals should have their feet examined during the physical exam if behavior permits. This belongs in systems. Swabbing should be done when appropriate, and therefore if included in this standard, indications for hoof, claw or foot swabbing should be detailed. Trauma or other changes to feet should be included in musculoskeletal or integumentary as necessary. Integument is often scraped for diagnostic purposes, only mentioning swabbing is incomplete.	Move to Physical Examination System Assessment (but with a new section title)	Accept with modification. "feet" portion of 4.2.6 revised for clarity. Feet also added to "integumentary" section of Overall Assessment.
97	4.2.6d	4.2.8e	T - other orifice examination	Orifices are part of systems, whether genitourinary, or gastrointestinal, regardless of odor, foreign objects and substances.	Move to Physical Examination System Assessment (but with a new section title)	Reject: This section is specific to looking for foreign objects/substances in the indicated body areas.
98	4.2.7	4.2.9.2	T - section title, Poor organization, many shalls should be shoulds.	Organizationally, the physical exam should happen before the physical exam record, and therefore logically standards for physical examination should precede the physical examination record. Consolidation is needed. Physical examination record - physical examination record are repeated in 4.5 Documentation (Record Keeping)	We recommend	Accept with Modification. Physical Examination Record section moved under Physical Examination section and is now Overall Assessment section.
99	4.2.7a Missing concept	4.2.9.2 a	T - Weight/scale	The scale used should be regularly calibrated, and the weight should be taken more than once to reduce error	Add. Should be a should because some situations will not allow weighing an animal and the animal weight may be estimated (not preferred, but a reality)	Accept with modification. The requirement moved up to documentation and the Physical Examination list introduction has been modified to a should statement

#	Section		Type of Comment (E-Editorial, T-Technical)	Comments	Proposed Resolution	Final Resolutions
100	4.2.7b	4.2.9.2 b	T - Measurements	Not always necessary, Not always possible.	Should be should not shall.	Accept with modification. The requirement moved up to documentation and the Physical Examination list introduction has been modified to a should statement
101	4.2.7c	4.2.9.2 c	T - cardiovascular/circulatory evaluation Poor organization/repetition	pulse rate and quality should be recorded in the evaluation of the cardiovascular system as listed in section 4.2.8a Some animals will not permit these examinations should be a should.	Correct, reorganize, consolidate. Should	Accept with modification. The requirement moved up to documentation and the Physical Examination list introduction has been modified to a should statement
102	4.2.7d	4.2.9.2 d	T - respiration rate, effort and sounds, Poor organization/repetition	ascultation and observations of the respiratory system should be recorded in the evaluation of the respiratory system as listed in section 4.2.8b Some animals will not permit parts of these examinations should be a should.	Correct, reorganize, consolidate. Should	Accept with modification. The requirement moved up to documentation and the Physical Examination list introduction has been modified to a should statement
103	4.2.7 e	4.2.9.2 e	T - temperature, in case of suspected animal sexual abuse	Make recommendations for method considerations in the case of suspected animal sexual abuse. Belongs under urogenital system. Some animals will not permit these examinations should be a should.	Explain, reorganize. Should	Accept with modification. The requirement moved up to documentation and the Physical Examination list introduction has been modified to a should statement
104	4.2.7f	4.2.9.2 f	T - mucous membrane color and capillary refill time, Poor organization/repetition	evaluation of mucous membrane color and capillary refill time are part of cardiovascular system evaluation as listed in section 4.2.8a Some animals will not permit these examinations should be a should.	Correct, reorganize, consolidate. Should	Accept with modification. The requirement moved up to documentation and the Physical Examination list introduction has been modified to a should statement
106	4.2.7g	4.2.9.2 g	T - estimated hydration status or blood volume loss	Hydration status should be evaluated in all patients that allow such examination. Blood volume loss estimation is only needed in animals with known or suspected blood loss. If present, not an "or" situation, an "and" situation.	Clarify.	Accept with modification, the two items were separated out as they may not always be related in the situation.
105	4.2.7h	4.2.9.3 i	T - otic and ophthalmic (fundic) examination, Poor organization/repetition	evaluation of ears and eyes are part of the neurological system as listed in section 4.2.8e or a veterinarian may include otic exam under integument or eyes, ears, nose, throat as a separate systemic. Some animals will not permit these examinations should be a should.	Correct, reorganize, consolidate. Should	Accept with modification. The requirement moved to "Systems Assessment" for clarification
107	4.2.8		T - title, shall perform and document	Recommend the simple "Physical examination" title. Cannot be a shall because some animals will not permit a physical examination of some or all systems, and it may be unsafe to handle or anesthetize certain animals	Clarify title, change to should.	Accept with modification. The requirement moved up to documentation and the Physical Examination list introduction has been modified to a should statement
108	4.2.8 Missing concept		T - assessment of peripheral lymph nodes	This is an essential component of a physical exam and should be included for species that have peripheral lymph nodes.	Add, as a should.	Accept.
109	4.2.9	4.2.8	T - title, organization, language choice	Collecting a reference sample is part of forensic evidence collection. Unclear why only DNA reference sample collection is referred. Hair, entomology etc. may also indicate reference sample collection.	Omit section or expand scope, reorganize to evidence collection.	Accept. Omitted.

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110	4.2.9		T - criminalist comparisons, language choice	Criminalists analyze a broad spectrum of evidence types where this section is only referencing genetic evidence. When indicated, a buccal swab should be collected for familial genetic analysis or individual identification for comparison analysis ( not criminalist comparison) but this can be reorganized into a evidence collection section.	Correct	Section omitted based on comment 109
111	4.2.10		T - document behavior, Language choice/missing concept	The use of the word document is confusing with the verb vs noun. Suggest re title "Behavioral observations". There are published pain scales that can be referenced.	Retitle - Pain assessment and behavior observation, expand content to reflect a more comprehensive behavioral and pain analysis. Include responses to therapy.	Accept, "document" in section reworded to "record"
112	4.2.11		T - document history Language choice/poor organization	The use of the word document is confusing with the verb vs noun. Suggest re title Relevant Information (and this section should be proximate to information about bias). The veterinarian should document known or reported history, or review available history before starting the exam. Items listed a - e are too specific and omit the wide variety of questions an examining veterinarian may have in a given circumstance. History should be documented but the standard should not specify exact items to be asked.	Correct, reorganize, consolidate. Specific circumstance question sets may be recommended for particular types of animal abuse, but that is too specific for this broad standard.	Accept with modification. "but not limited to" added to end of introduction to allow for other options.
113	4.2.11e		T - condition of the animal Language choice/poor organization	The overall presenting condition of the animal and/or specific lesions are physical finding and not a matter of available history or alleged history. The recommendation to videotape specific behaviors observed or expressed during the physical exam does belong in this section an can be moved to the recommended renamed pain assessment and behavior section.	Omit, reorganize	Reject with modification: sentence modified to read: "presenting complaint and/or specific lesions". Note that lead-in paragraph includes "or animal care" which would encompass specific lesions.
114	4.2.12		T - representative samples in Multi-animal cases Clarification/poor organization	Multi-animal is not defined. Is that more than one? This section does not need to exist in this standard. It goes beyond the scope of this document. This section starts with "shall" and ends with "could". The concept of safety is introduced in this section. Each animal should be documented individually; the taking of a representative sample of animals to examine should be a very rare circumstance, and reasons for doing so should be well documented. Individual exams should be performed wherever possible, and it is almost always possible. The guidance as currently written provides an "out" to agencies that want to shortcut the provision of veterinary inspection of the entirety of a group of animals, and this also does not provide a justice oriented assessment of a group of animals. In no circumstances should a subset of animals be selected for examination that would reflect criminal counts for the entire collection of animals. Additionally section 4.3.5 references diagnostics in multi animal cases, and this repeats the dubious concept contained here. Choosing to examine some animals and not others should be a choice made after discussing with appropriate authorities.	Omit.	Accept with modification. Paragraph modified to define multi-animal and to include a requirement for selection criteria for large groups of animals.

#	Section		Type of Comment (E-Editorial, T-Technical)	Comments	Proposed Resolution	Final Resolutions
115	4.2.13		T - Document Changes in Animal Health	Should be "documenting" health changes. The animal, as a living being is constantly changing. The continuous documentation of live animals in custody is a part of the ongoing medical record keeping.	The concept of expeditious examination of animals at the primary presentation is of utmost importance, and the ongoing evaluations should not be a separate section. Omit this section and include the concepts higher up in the document.	Reject. Response to treatment is diagnostic for some conditions.
116	4.3.1		T - minimum database Missing concepts/language	See comments in minimum database definition. The term "chemistries" is vague; resources may limit the performance of minimum database, different veterinarians have different definitions of minimum databases. If it is ever optional, then the minimum database is no database. When reference laboratory work is not submitted, the reason(s) for not doing so should be detailed.	Clarify/recommend baseline or reference laboratory work as opposed to "minimum database"	Reject with modification, Section deleted and appropriate content moved to Initial Screening and Testing section
16	p. 5, 4.3.1, 4.3.2		E	Elaboration of "As appropriate, the veterinarian shall order...." will make clearer the factors that a veterinarian should consider when determining whether to order the testing/database.	Provide elaboration as to the circumstances that would make this action "appropriate."	Reject: The veterinarian has the expertise to make the appropriate decision in these situations.
117	4.3.2	4.3.1	T - Initial screening and testing, Repetition/lack of clarity or information	If the fecal analysis is part of the baseline database, it does not need to be re-referenced in this section. Screening for diseases may be predicated on factors other than geography or breed predisposition to include signalment and physical exam findings, baseline laboratory findings. The additional screening of animals is a clinical decision made by a veterinarian in the context of complex presentations and it is overly prescriptive to delineate here.	Omit.	Accept with modification. Previous section deleted to remove duplication regarding testing.
118	4.3.3	4.3.2	T- toxin screening, random, limiting, Lacks guidance or purpose	There are a myriad of additional laboratory testing and diagnostics that may be indicated based on an animal's individual circumstance as indicated in physical exam findings, baseline laboratory findings, reported history etc. This is clinical decision making, and beyond the scope to this document. "As needed" requires guidance for decision making	Omit	Accept.
17	p. 5, 4.3.3, 4.3.4	4.3.2	E	Elaboration of "should order...as needed/as necessary" will make clearer the factors that a veterinarian should consider when determining whether to order the screenings/imaging.	Provide elaboration as to the circumstances that would make this action needed/necessary.	Accept with modification. Paragraph modified for clarification.
119	4.3.4	4.3.2	T - Diagnostic imaging, Lacks guidance or purpose	"as needed" requires guidance for decision making. Decisions for diagnostic imaging will be made as indicated by physical exam findings, reported history or as part of a survey for evidence of prior trauma, as indicated by disease course, to document the animal's condition at the time of presentation etc. Whole body survey radiographs are not indicated in all cases, and specific imaging may be ordered for specific cases. This is a clinical decision.	Diagnostic imaging and other ancillary testing should be stated as a clinical option.	Accept with modification. Paragraph modified for clarification.

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18	p. 5, 4.3.5	4.3.3	E	Regarding the language: "but may need to be performed on particular individuals at the discretion of the veterinarian and/or investigating agency based on available resources and the nature of the case..." ... Leaving to the "discretion" of the veterinarian/investigating agency is too vague. What resource limitations or types of cases would necessitate circumscribed analysis? Further, the existing standard does not address the question of what criteria should be used to select the animals for particularized	Rewrite to provide additional guidance as to when this circumscribed analysis is permissible and how it should be carried out.	Reject. Multi-animal cases may refer to a case with 2 to 2000 animals or more, so a veterinarian must use their discretion in the case.
120	4.3.5		T- Multi animal case diagnostics Organization/repetition	see notes for 4.2.12. Testing can only be conducted when legally permissible. It is not advisable to select a few animals to represent the group. If only select animals are tested, and proven to have indications of criminal maltreatment, than charges may only be pursued for those select animals. It would be unjust to extrapolate to other animals.	Omit.	Reject. Multi-animal cases may refer to a case with 2 to 2000 animals or more, so a veterinarian must use their discretion in the case.
121	4.4		T - Euthanasia and/or Necropsy, Concept clarification	Recovery is unlikely for all animals, eventually. Euthanasia should be considered when an animal is irredeemably suffering. If the animal is suffering and euthanasia is the veterinarian's recommendation, the decision should be made in consultation with the investigating agency etc. It is overly prescriptive and beyond the scope of this document to prescribe when animals shall be euthanized. Lead animal abuse investigator is too specific, consultation should be made with lead investigator or prosecutor. This states "if appropriate, shall" which makes it a should.	Clarify	Reject with modification. Reference to the <i>Euthanasia Guidelines</i> in the event is appropriate. The shall was modified to should. Animal abuse investigator was modified to just lead investigator.
122	4.5 - Documentation		T - Title and organization	As previously indicated the veterinary exam record is in 4.2.7 and 4.5	Consolidate, parts belong under physical exam.	Accept with modification. Some sections maintained as appropriate, some moved to Physical Examination
123	4.5.1		T - organization, overly prescriptive, not broad enough for all species.	Assigning a unique identifier - the animal may already be uniquely identified prior to law enforcement intervention, or by law enforcement. Affixing a tag is overly prescriptive. Should not be plural, only 1 identifier per animal; rarely on a 'tag' on a collar. The concept of animals being assigned unique identifiers or unique identifiers being recorded should be noted earlier in the document.	Move, clarify.	Reject with modification. Section clarified and moved to section 4.2.5.
124	4.5.2		T - repetitive	These items all belong with the physical exam veterinary record	Consolidate.	Reject. Previous portion of the standard is telling the Vet to record as they perform the exam, this section is noting what needs to be included in the documentation.
20	p. 6, 4.5.2, 4.5.3		E	Lapses in documentation and analysis due to exigencies are explicitly anticipated by sections 4.2.1 and 4.3.5, and adding this additional documentation requirement will assist in making transparent the veterinarian's decisions to forego analysis/documentation, and also will make clearer any evidence or steps that were not accounted for in the forensic analysis.	Add language indicating the veterinarian also must document any lapses in preserving and documenting forensic evidence due to circumstances requiring prioritization of the care and welfare needs of the animal. Possible language: "The veterinarian shall document and justify itemized deviation(s) from elements within this standard."	Reject. The previous sections which indicate that the care of the animal must come before evidence collection are appropriate. Lapses may not be known in all cases.

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125	4.5.3		T - Unnecessary	Content of the veterinary medical record is dictated by the practice act of each state. The section is unneeded. Elsewhere the security of the veterinary record should be addressed. Not all programs allow a digital key or signature. A veterinarian can attest that a veterinary record is a true and accurate document of their exam. The keeper of the records is responsible for validation of records. This section is beyond the scope of the document.	Omit	Accept with modification. Items a) and b) removed to simplify the requirement.
126	4.5.4		T - beyond the scope	The reporting of reportable diseases by a veterinarian is a clinical responsibility	Omit	Reject. Important to keep in the document due to counteract that criminal cases are more confidential than other cases.
7	4.5.5			Improper terminology - "assure"	Replace with "ensure"	Accept.
127	4.5.5		T - overly prescriptive	An individual veterinarian is responsible for the content of their veterinary record. The review of a record for clerical errors & formatting may be done in some settings but this cannot be a shall. The sole practitioner does not have a "lead" veterinarian. The report should be proofread. There needs to be a report section. The report is distinct from the veterinary record.	Omit	Reject with modification: shall statements revised to should to make the paragraph a recommendation.
128	4.6		T - too many sections	This 4.6 has 10 subsections dealing with photography and videography	Consolidate.	Reject. It is important to separately require the steps, if the steps are not properly followed, evidence may not be admissible.
129	4.6.1	4.6.2	T - language choice	'Identifying label' maybe change to 'case board'. Time of photo is in metadata, not needed in every label in every photo, there should not be plural identifier(s) for a single animal. Agency requesting examination and investigating agency is repetitive.	Consider using "photo board" or similar or define identifying label.	Accept with modification. (case board) added after identifying label.
130	4.6.2	4.6.3	T - title and content	Title section "Photography" Animal photographs - consider using "photographs of animal evidence". Overall photograph needs to be in the definitions. Use the anatomical designation i.e., "cranial view" followed by simple language clarification in parentheses (front).	Define overall, reorganize language.	Accept with modification. Section title changed, order of list modified with anatomical designation followed by simple language.
131	4.6.3	4.6.4	T - change title, clarify language	Animals are evidence, so if this is a separate section, title "photographs of non-animal evidence". Photographs are being taken of the trace material or other relevant findings, not the sites. Define orientation photography. Reference the photography standard. Generally overall and regional photographs are for orientation. Define scale. Also, absence of evidence may sometimes be needed to be documented and may be guided by case history, witness statements or scene findings. E.g. if it is reported that a dog was strangled, it will be important to document the condition of the neck, whether or not there are signs consistent with strangulation there.	Amend.	Reject with modification. Title revised to explain section more appropriately. Additional modifications made for clarification.
132	4.6.4	Removed	T - title, organization	repetitive of 4.6.3	The concept of photograph before changes should combine with 4.6.1; the list is repetitive of 4.6.3. Reorganize and combine.	Accept with modification. Paragraph moved into section 4.6.3 and duplicative text removed.

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133	4.6.5		T - title, shall/should issue	photographs are not done to create a medical record, they may be performed to supplement what is recorded in the medical record. While periodic photography can be helpful to show healing or weight gain, the animal may not be in custody to document over time. For that reason this cannot be a "Shall"	Retitle, change to should.	Accept
134	4.6.6		T - clarification.	What is 'original form' of a photograph? Is this intended to mean original format: RAW vs JPG? Or does this refer to keeping the memory card.	Clarify	Accept
135	4.6.6		T - title	Title references integrity of photos, but content goes on to include logs in the second two sentences.	Retitle, omit, reorganize.	Accept, paragraph and title modified
136	4.6.6		T - Shall/should issue	Maintaining a photo log isn't necessary because of digital metadata. In cases involving numerous animals with numerous lesions, the creation of a log with hundreds or thousands of pictures is untenable. Photo logs used to be necessary when using film photography. The term of "large scale case" is unclear. Photo logs are not commonly used in forensic photography today. Photo logs MAY be used based on practitioner preference. When using a photo log, the log should list the photos in sequential order, as taken, the photo log should not be "grouped" based on any other logic. Not clear what is meant by "archive".	Omit.	Reject with modification. Section and title revised for clarification based on comments 134 and 135
137	4.6.7		T - lack of clarity	The download may happen from a removable memory card or similar device, not necessarily from the camera itself. When the images are stored, what type of 'other device' (what does that phrase mean?) Also, supplemental/backup storage could be a "cloud" location (offsite backup). Best to specify multiple locations. Should reference security of storage devices or locations.	Clarify, amend.	Accept, section modified for clarification.
138	4.6.8	4.6.1	T - organization, title, shall/should issue	The discussion of what to use for photography should be at the start of the photography section. There may be occasions when the only opportunity to document a finding is to use a personal cell phone. While not advisable, it sometimes will be done, and for that reason, this cannot be a "shall". It is not necessarily for discovery/evidence reasons but to protect the witness making original documentation from having their phone subject to discovery and relinquishment.	Reorganize, clarify, should.	Accept. Section also moved up to 4.6.1 and retitled
139	4.6.9	4.6.8	T - Shall/should issue	Videography may be used as a supplement to photographs, so the directives for when & how it is used are different, not the same as 4.6.1 through 4.6.8. There may be cases where the only recorded digital evidence is videography. The lack of photos does not negate the value of the video. What does it mean that the video shall be documented? Is this a directive to create a video log?	Should.	Accept with modification. Section revised. Shall statements remain, but only as referring to complying with other sections which have both shall and should statements.
140	4.6.10		T - excessive breakdown of subsections	This guidance can be combined with 4.6.9	Consolidate.	Accept

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141	4.7		T - Clarity	Illustrative drawings of wounds are diagrams, not sketches; a diagram is drawing showing the relation between parts. A sketch is a rapidly executed freehand drawing that is not intended as a finished work . Should be used as needed - not all cases need diagramming. Can be done by the veterinarian or their designee.	Clarify	Reject. Diagram is defined by the lexicon as: "Representation of the spatial distribution of evidence or other pertinent reference points." which is appropriate for this section. "As appropriate" added to allow for sketches in appropriate situations.
142	4.7		T - Clarity	What is an "examination template"? Is this referencing body diagrams?	Clarify	Accept with modification. Phrase removed.
143	4.7		T - Clarity	Examination finding - is this meant to reference evidence identified?	Clarify	Reject. This is an appropriate term that is understood by veterinarians.
144	4.8		T - organization	Excessive breakdown of sections	Consolidate.	Reject. This amount of detail is appropriate to make sure that the veterinarian follows all of the appropriate steps in order to properly collect, handle, and package the evidence.
145	4.8.1	4.8.3	T - Clarity	The veterinarian (can include designee) should consult with the laboratory they are submitting to as labs may have different requirements and preferences. Veterinarians may have equipment or supplies on hand that can be utilized for evidence collection - but this is outside the scope of this document. The parenthetical reference to DNA swabs is not needed if we are going to rely on laboratory recommendations of what to use.		Accept
146	4.8.1	4.8.3	T - Outside of scope	This is an editorial comment: "There are commercially available forensic packaging materials that a veterinary facility may have on hand if frequent involvement in these types of cases is anticipated."	Omit	Accept
147	4.8.1	4.8.3	T - organization, clarity, should/shall, repeats 4.8.4	A log SHOULD be created. It may be noted as a sub-item in the chain of custody. The evidence needs its own number in addition to the animal number; the animal identifier could be a name.	Clarify, reorganize. Remove 'and packaged'; remove '(number)', add name; add 'description of ' before 'item collected. Reorganize list to make sense.	Accept. section modified for clarification.
148	4.8.2	4.8.1	T. should/shall issue	A general practitioner may have to document a case before having a protocol, they "should" develop protocols. "Prevent" is not assured by protocols. "Appropriate care" of living animals is beyond the scope of this document.	Should, minimize instead of prevent. Omit appropriate care. Mention of SOP should be at the outset of this section before packaging.	Accept.
149	4.8.2	4.8.1	T - clarity	Secure sheltering - what is meant by this phrase? Secure from theft? Tampering? The weather? Like any piece of evidence, access to live animals should be controlled.	Clarify.	Accept. Sentence modified to include "controlled access"
21	p. 9, 4.8.2	4.8.1	E	This standard correctly requires certain procedures but offers no guidance as to what the content of those procedures should be. The proposed revision makes clearer that this standard is not all that needs to be done by the lab to pass scientific muster	Add "This standard is not meant to constitute a standard for the necessary procedures."	Reject. This document is not intended supersede individual facility or lab procedures or SOPs.



#	Section		Type of Comment (E-Editorial, T-Technical)	Comments	Proposed Resolution	Final Resolutions
150	4.8.3	4.8.4	T - Organize, clarify	<p>The need for chain of custody documentation should be mentioned early in the document, although it is appropriate to detail here with evidence documentation. When an item is packaged, the type of packaging should be listed (i.e. in a sealed manila envelope). The original documentation of the chain of custody should move with the evidence, and a copy should be maintained by the party parting with the evidence. What is meant by 'manner' of transfer? This needs to be explained (by hand, by delivery service etc.).</p> <p>"Signatures/initials" of all personnel should also include written name. Document from the time it is seized or collected and with every move, for the entire period of time it is considered evidence. To the lab, or to the shelter are too specific, and there are other places items or animals may be transferred for various reasons. The reason or purpose of transfer should be included. "The date" should be the date that custody is assumed. The copy can be provided but it goes beyond the scope of this document to ensure that all entities SHALL retain the chain of custody documentation.</p>	Clarify.	Reject with modification. Detailed chain of custody is out of scope for this document. References to 3 ASTM standards that address chain of custody have been added to the bibliography [ASTM E1459-13(2018), ASTM E1492-11(2017), ASTM E1188-11(2017)]
151	4.8.4	4.8.2	T - organization, repetition	The item should be numbered when it is logged, for clarity these concepts should be discussed together, in 4.8.1.add case number, agency, change 'evaluator' to 'collector'. Sealing the evidence needs to be addressed somewhere, again 4.8.1 makes sense.	Clarify, consolidate.	Accept with modification. Section move to more appropriate position in the section (4.8.2) and sentence regarding the sealing of the evidence added.
152	4.8.5		T - inaccurate, should/shall issue	The evidence may be parsed at the lab so that some samples will be available for independent analysis, but the collector should not be retaining portions of evidence. This guidance may be referencing taking paired samples with swabs? Or saving some tissue or fluids for potential future analysis but that is not "duplicate" evidence. This also starts with "when possible....shall". Since it is not always possible, this should be a should.	Omit or clarify	Accept. Section clarified.
153	4.8.6		T - duplicative	this was addressed in the photography section	Omit	Accept.
154	4.8.7	4.8.6	T - clarity, accuracy	Explain how evidence is stored (what is controlled, what is secure?) ; explain crime laboratory accreditation - most veterinarians won't know what ISO/IEC mean. Also clarify, ANAB/ANSI do the accrediting, ISO/IEC are the standards they use.	Clarify	Accept.
155	4.8.7	4.8.6	T - should/shall issues	"if such testing is to be performed"; needs rewording, is unclear; not all crime labs are accredited - has to be a should.	a is a shall, b is a should.	Accept.
8	4.8.7 b)	4.8.6		confusing sentence: "Evidence shall be non-diagnostic evidence transferred to another agency..." Not clear what this sentence is trying to say. First, are samples used to diagnose disease not evidence? Second, is this sentence trying to say that non-diagnostic evidence should be analyzed at an ISO/IEC Accredited Lab?	Clarity. "Evidence shall be transferred to an ISO/IEC Accredited Laboratory for analysis, if such testing is to be performed." ?? Also, note that evidence shall be stored in a manner that preserves the diagnostic integrity (refrigeration, freezing, dry, wet, etc.).	Accept.