

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Bureau of Radiological Health (BRH)
Lucas State Office Building, 5th Floor
321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

April, 2007

IDPH INFORMATION NOTICE: 07-X01: Requirements for operators of veterinary x-ray equipment

ADDRESSES: Iowa possessors of veterinary x-ray equipment

The Iowa Department of Public Health's BRH is issuing this information notice to remind Iowa veterinarians operating x-ray equipment of certain requirements in radiation protection. No written response to this notice is required.

The BRH has received several comments from concerned public about the lack of use of radiation protection during x-ray exposures by veterinarians during examinations. The public stated that neither veterinary nor assistants were using protective aprons, that the public was not asked to leave the room during exposures, and that assistants held the cassettes against the animal with their body.

41.1(10)"c" of the Radiation Machines and Radioactive Materials Rules states:

- (1) No individual other than the operator shall be in the x-ray room while exposures are being made unless such individual's assistance is required.
- (2) The operator shall stand behind the protective barrier of 9 feet from the useful beam and the animal during radiographic exposures OR
- (3) When an animal must be held in position during radiography, mechanical supporting or restraining devices should be used. If the animal must be held by an individual, that individual shall be protected with appropriate shielding devices, such as protective gloves and apron, and shall be positioned that no part of the holder's body will be struck by the useful beam. The exposure of any individual used for this purpose shall be monitored.

Therefore,

1. Only the operator and the holder should be in the room during exposures. All other individuals should leave the room or area.
2. If the operator cannot stand behind a protective barrier, the operator should stand as far as possible from the x-ray unit and wear a lead apron and film badge.
3. Any individual holding an animal must wear a lead apron, gloves, and film badge and stand out of the way of the useful (main) x-ray beam. No cassettes should be held by the individual's body.

Therefore, this notice is to remind you about the requirements in the Iowa Radiation Machines and Radioactive Materials Rules, and that you, the veterinarian, are responsible for the radiation protection of your staff and the public.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Charlene Craig (515-281-0415).

Melanie Rasmusson, Chief

Date