Pet name: _____   Date: _____

VETERINARY TRIAGE CHECKLIST

This triage checklist is designed to maximize veterinary efficiency when prioritizing patients and their care during emergencies. It ensures that the most critically ill animals are seen first and given sufficient attention.

Veterinary Telephone Triage

- ◯ Identify emergency condition (medical condition or a traumatic event)
- ◯ Assess emergency priority level
- ◯ Check veterinarian availability
- ◯ Alert the veterinary team based on the urgency level
- ◯ Advise the client on action to take if pet is in pain
- ◯ Document the conversation
- ◯ FIll inpatient admission form (animal's breed, sex, age, pet owner details, etc)
- ◯ Get the ETA (Estimated Time of Arrival) of the patient to allow preparation
- ◯ Set up and get equipment ready for the emergency patient arrival
- ◯ Prepare a client consent form

On Arrival Patient Triage

- ◯ Perform an initial assessment (survey of the scene)
- ◯ Examine the patient's posture and position (can the patient walk?)
- ◯ Does the patient have any bleeding/obvious wounds
- ◯ Obtain a brief history on the patient's behavior and events
- ◯ Take note of any current medications and previous medical conditions
- ◯ Alert the veterinary team of the patient arrival
- ◯ Obtain client consent for any urgent treatments

Patient Examination Triage

Alertness:

- ○ Is the patient alert, behaving normally and responsive?
- ○ Does the patient show no interest in the environment (depressed: awake but subdued)?
- ○ Judge If the patient is delirious: awake but altered perception)
- ○ Does the patient remain in sleep state aroused by strong stimulus (stuporous)?
- ○ Is the patient comatose: deep unconsciousness. Unable to rouse despite stimulus?
- ○ Check on ambulatory status
- ○ Does the patient respond to light?

Respiration:

- ○ Is the patient's breathing condition normal?
- ○ Inspect the patient's respiratory rate (abdominal breathing or shallow)
- ○ Check mucous membrane color (cyanosis issue needs to be addressed soon)
- ○ If possible measure the oxygen saturation of hemoglobin (pulse oximetry machine)
- ○ Evaluate the patient's audible airway sounds (with and without a stethoscope)
- ○ Provide oxygen/intubation if the patient needs it

Perfusion:

- ○ Is the patient's mucous membrane color pink to a muddy-grey, or pale (normal)?
- ○ Note down the capillary refill time
- ○ Evaluate the patient's heart rate (increased or decreased)
- ○ Check the patient's pulse deficits
- ○ Conduct cardiac workup
- ○ Perform an electrocardiogram (ECG) for the patient if needed
- ○ State patient's temperature