



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

Professional Practice Standard¹: Thermoregulating Devices

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This College publication describes a mandatory standard of practice. The *Veterinarians Act* in section 52 provides that a failure to comply with a standard may be investigated.

For anesthetized or otherwise immobile patients, including neonates, only the following thermoregulating devices are acceptable for use in veterinary facilities in British Columbia:

- **forced warm air blankets approved for use in hospitals**
- **circulating warm water blankets approved for use in hospitals or veterinary facilities**
- **air-free, conductive fabric blankets (e.g. “Hot Dog” brand devices)**

A list of unacceptable devices for thermoregulation includes, but is not limited to, these and similar products:

- electric heating pads
- hot water bottles
- exam gloves filled with water
- hairdryers
- ceramic discs
- heat lamps
- grain-filled bags (e.g. “magic bags”)
- any device or item that is heated in the microwave.

¹ Council has approved this professional practice standard in light of recent complaints from the public presented to the Investigation Committee involving animals sustaining serious burn injuries from inappropriate devices used in some veterinary facilities.