

Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians (AVST) Case Report Layout

1. Case Log Number

2. Name/ID number

3. Signalment

Age

Sex

Species/Breed (**Ensure a variety of species are represented amongst all case report submissions.**)

Weight

4. Presenting Problem

5. Differential Diagnosis

6. Attending Clinician

7. Pertinent Patient History and Physical Exam

Physical examination findings

Pertinent laboratory test results

Current patient history and pertinent previous history; outline pre-existing/related health problems or procedural complicating factors

Current medications

8. Tentative Diagnosis

9. Diagnostic Imaging Options

Explain any additional procedures or diagnostics used before, during, or after the procedure.

10. Surgical Treatment Options

Include the type of surgical procedure performed and explain why it was chosen over an alternative procedure (i.e., ameroid constrictor versus cellophane banding for a portosystemic shunt.) Include an explanation about the pertinent anatomy and physiology as it relates to the overall surgical plan.

Detail any anticipated complications as well as problems you anticipate from the operative procedure itself.

11. Patient and Equipment Preparation

Pre-surgical care summary

Thoroughly explain preoperative preparation details for each patient's surgical procedure such as anatomic landmarks for the surgical clip margins and other special preoperative considerations (i.e., prepucial flush prior to laparotomy, aseptic prep application precautions around open or draining wounds.)

Provide rationalization for antibiotic or antimicrobial agent choices.

Outline your plan for pain management during the procedure and provide a brief synopsis of any analgesic techniques used.

Explain your role in the preoperative preparations for the surgical procedure. Detail how you anticipated the surgeon's needs regarding unique or specialized instrumentation or equipment requirements and advanced preparation of the surgical suite.

Intraoperative preparations

Discuss aseptic prep agents used and reason for agent selected. Include the application technique or patterns used for both the initial and final aseptic prep applications, recommended contact times, and list any complicating factors encountered.

Explain intraoperative patient position or positioning devices and aseptic technique used for the patient.

Describe the aseptic technique or gowning and gloving methods utilized by all operating room personnel.

Discuss techniques used to ensure that the proper sterilization of instruments and specialized equipment was accomplished before being issued to the surgeon.

12. Operative Report

Provide detailed information regarding the intraoperative setup of the operating suite.

Explain the surgical approach, pertinent anatomy and physiology, and a complete synopsis of the full intraoperative procedure. Discuss any particular intraoperative challenges.

Include all pertinent supplies, instrumentation and equipment used and explain their intended function or purpose.

Include an explanation of implants, sutures or other materials used and why they were chosen.

Outline your responsibility and detail any special handling considerations for tissue or fluid specimens or cultures obtained during the procedure.

Detail how your role was integral to the success of the procedure as you performed duties of either the scrub nurse or circulating nurse.

13. Postoperative Care

Discuss the immediate postoperative patient care provided.

Summarize the complete postoperative nursing care plan and outline anticipated complications as well as treatment options should they occur.

Describe pertinent postoperative care required to complete surgical treatment for the patient's condition (i.e., special diets, use of external coaptation, rehabilitation, or wound care.)

14. Client Education and Prognosis

Define any care the patient requires post operatively including; activity restriction, bandage care, nutrition, medication, rehabilitation, and any follow-up care necessary.

Provide a final summary of the case and/or diagnosis; describe the results of all laboratory tests and how the surgical findings or diagnosis may impact the patient's future prognosis.

15. Include a copy of the instrument and equipment used (as ≤ 6th page). Provide a list of the surgical instruments, equipment and supplies that were anticipated or used during this procedure.

Detail the sterilization techniques utilized for the procedure as well as the methods used to document sterility assurance. List wrapping materials used for each item and include other pertinent data on how each item was wrapped.

16. A list of references should be on the last (≤ 7th) page.

Each case report will contain a maximum of 7 pages and may contain a maximum of **five** 8.5 x 11-inch pages of case report content, a 1 page listing of all surgical instruments and equipment used, and 1 page stating references used, following the format provided. Each case report must be printed in a 10-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, left and right justified, and with 0.5-inch page margins. *Case reports that do not meet these requirements will be rejected.* The case reports must be the original work of the applicant. **Please be careful to BLACK OUT/DELETE any personal client data such as owner name, address, phone numbers, etc.**

An example of an AVST case report follows these instructions.