



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SOUTH PLAINS DISTRICT VETERINARY COMMAND
80TH AND ENGINEER DRIVE BLDG 4905
FORT HOOD TX 76544 - 4752

FH-VTF-31

14 September 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR All Fort Hood Veterinary Services Staff and Clients

SUBJECT: Children in the Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF)

1. We strongly discourage Service Members and clients from bringing children under the age of 12 to the Fort Hood VTF.
2. The reason for this policy is that the VTF is not an environment conducive to children and can present a number of hazards to their health and welfare. Possible hazards include:
 - a. Injury from an animal bite or scratch.
 - b. Zoonotic disease agents such as bacteria and parasites that can be transmitted to children and may cause serious or even life-threatening illnesses.
 - c. Injury from implements integral for the practice of veterinary medicine to include needles, blades, scissors, and other sharp objects or from the chemicals and medicines.
3. We recognize that it is not always practical or financially possible for clients and service members to avoid bringing children with them when they visit the VTF. Consequently, we will not initially refuse veterinary services to anyone simply because children accompany them. However, we encourage clients to make other arrangements for their children if at all possible, and to bring them to the VTF only when it is absolutely unavoidable.
4. While in the VTF, children will remain under the direct control of the adult(s) who brought them. The VTF staff will NOT provide childcare services or temporary supervision of children before, during and/or after the appointment. The client is responsible for making sure that children behave with proper restraint and decorum. Specifically, clients will ensure children:
 - a. Keep their shoes and other clothing on at all times while in the VTF.
 - b. Do not crawl, sit or play on the VTF floor or counters.
 - c. Do not approach or attempt to pet other clients' animals.

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Children in the VTF

- d. Do not wander or run freely about the VTF.
 - e. Do not distract VTF staff member from their duties.
 - f. Do not attempt to touch or play with any medical implements, equipment, drugs, vaccines, sharps, computers, keyboards, etc.
 - g. Do not yell while in VTF.
5. If at any time the VTF OIC/NCOIC determines that a child is behaving in a manner such as to disrupt the provision of professional services or such as to pose a risk of injury or illness to the child itself or others, the appointment may be immediately terminated and the client, children and pets will be asked to leave the VTF.