

SOP Vet called to examine animal(s) by AC

Example:

1. Get brief history, Set up appointment to meet AC at site. Do not enter property without AC or police present.
2. If owner is a client, may be conflict of interest.
3. Examining vet should alert the practice, as soon as possible via email: include owner, animal(s) if known, but do not discuss in detail-this is possibly a legal case
4. Put an "Alert" on the owner file regarding AC asking for exam/owner under investigation.
5. All records should be as complete as possible. Use predetermined forms.
6. All communication (including with office staff) must be properly documented in the record including phone calls and emails with owner, AC, subpoena's (scan in as needed).
7. Do not discuss this case in an unprofessional way at any time.
8. Ask for advice early, use VVEWR site.
9. If recommending euthanasia-have consensus of 2 vets if possible
10. It is not the examining veterinarian's job to decide if owner should be prosecuted. That being said, you can and should follow-up (see 14)
11. AAEP has put together great tools for navigating these issues online.
12. If calls come in asking for information from press, clients or animal rights groups, be polite, but firm, "we are unable to comment". This would include if we have been to see "X" animal/farm.
13. Follow-up with AC if you have not heard back in 7 days
14. If no action by ACO, call State vet's office, Sheriff and or Commonwealths Attorney from that county.