



Standard for obtaining certification through the Veterinary Hyperbaric Association

The goal of the Veterinary Hyperbaric Association is to promote the advancement of veterinary hyperbaric therapy through education and practical standards and operations. The VHA will offer certification specifically for veterinarians and veterinary technicians who will be operating hyperbaric chambers with animals. This will include various aspects of operations including animal management, as well as safety aspects with regard to hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

1.0 – Eligibility

- In order for an individual to be eligible for certification they must be one of the following:
 - a.) Veterinarian (DVM or equivalent)
 - b.) Veterinary Technician
 - c.) Veterinary Assistant
 - d.) Veterinary Nurse
 - e.) Animal Science
- Must have completed and passed the VHA prerequisite course on hyperbaric medicine.
- Must have 80 hours of experience operating a chamber in a veterinary facility.

2.0 – Certification

- Once the candidate has completed all the prerequisites, they will be able to sit for their exam to obtain their certification. The exam will cover all aspects related to veterinary hyperbaric medicine and assess the knowledge and competencies of the individual.

- In order to maintain the certification, the candidate will have to maintain a minimum of 14 hours every two years including 7 hours specific to chamber safety. The sponsor must also provide a letter stating that a minimum of 100 hours of continued experience has been achieved by the individual.

3.0 – Purpose

- To ensure that each candidate has a minimum basis and proficiency in the field of veterinary hyperbaric medicine.
- The evolution of a system whereby the completed course will result in the certification in hyperbaric veterinary medicine
- This will include attending the required course, education, examination, completion of minimum required practical hours and continued evaluation.

4.0 – Proficiency

- In order to successfully navigate the process for certification, the candidate must show knowledge in the following areas:
 - a.) Elemental knowledge of animal behavior, the management and handling of animals, and normal physical criterion.
 - b.) General safety guidelines for the chamber and facility.
 - c.) The operation of gas systems, tanks, venting and facility safety.
 - d.) Anatomy of animals.
 - e.) Gas laws, pressure volume and temperature relationships.
 - f.) The effects on animals of pressure changes and the ability to recognize them in animals as they occur.
 - g.) The ability to recognize issues in the equipment that might need attention.
 - h.) Terminology used in HBOT.
 - i.) Recognize the signs of oxygen poisoning.
 - j.) Indications as well as contraindications for the use of HBOT.
 - k.) Mechanisms of HBOT.
 - l.) Patient care and safety.
 - m.) Chamber operations.
 - n.) Basics of fire safety.