STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

Emergency Executive Order 20-17

Clarifying Application of Executive Order 20-09 to Veterinary Surgeries and Procedures

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

On March 19, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-09 directing the postponement of non-essential or elective surgeries and procedures that use PPE or ventilators ("Executive Order 20-09"). Questions have arisen regarding the applicability of Executive Order 20-09 to veterinary medicine. Veterinary procedures use equipment, particularly personal protective equipment ("PPE"), which is vital to stop the spread of COVID-19.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. Paragraph 1 of Executive Order 20-09 is amended by the following additions (indicated by underlined text) and deletions (indicated by strikethroughs):

   Beginning no later than March 23, 2020 at 5:00 pm, and continuing for the duration of the peacetime emergency declared in Executive Order 20-01 or until this Executive Order is rescinded, all non-essential or elective surgeries and procedures, ~~including non-emergent or elective dental care,~~ whether medical, dental, or veterinary, that utilize PPE or ventilators must be postponed indefinitely.

2. Paragraph 2 of Executive Order 20-09 is amended by the following additions (indicated by underlined text) and deletions (indicated by strikethroughs):

   A non-essential surgery or procedure is a surgery or procedure that can be delayed without undue risk to the current or future health of a patient. Examples of criteria to consider in making this determination include:

   a. Threat to the patient's life if surgery or procedure is not performed.

   b. Threat of permanent dysfunction of an extremity or organ system, including teeth and jaws.

c. Risk of metastasis or progression of staging.

d. In the context of veterinary medicine, threats to public health, threats to the health or safety of the animal's owner (*e.g.*, in the case of service animals), and threats to the health or safety of the animal may also be considered.

3. All other provisions of Executive Order 20-09 remain in effect.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 4.035, subdivision 2, and section 12.32, this Executive Order is effective immediately upon approval by the Executive Council. It remains in effect until the peacetime emergency declared in Executive Order 20-01 is terminated or until it is rescinded by proper authority.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on March 23, 2020.

Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Approved by the Executive Council on March 23, 2020:

Alice Roberts-Davis
Secretary, Executive Council

Filed March 23, 2020
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State,
Steve Simon