

Protocol Rubrics – Shelter Medicine Practice (2026 cycle)

From ABVP Handbook 2025

Protocol Development	Design and implement 5 protocols. - One (1) of these must be on the management of infectious disease - and the other four (4) in any of the categories of the 14 major consultation areas.	Population case log: Protocol development section For each protocol, also submit the protocol itself as a PDF document (total 5)
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General Protocol Rubric – Must pass all categories	
Pass	Fail
One (1) Protocol regards management of infectious disease (see specific rubric for MID protocols).	One (1) Protocol does NOT regard management of infectious disease.
Four (4) other protocols regard any categories in 14 major consultation areas and the category is identified.	Four (4) other protocols do NOT regard a category in 14 major consultation areas.
Protocol is appropriately logged in Population Case Log and minor inconsistencies with Shelter Medicine Practice are explained in the Log.	Protocol is NOT appropriately logged in Population Case Log and minor inconsistencies are not explained in Log.
General ABVP style guidelines used in manuscripts for products are followed. If applicable, protocols include product information, drug concentration and route of administration, or frequency/duration of treatment (preventive or interventional).	These general guidelines are NOT followed and product information is not included when applicable.
Content is consistent with general recommendations in most recent versions of Shelter Medicine textbooks, Association of Shelter Veterinarians Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters, or other published practices.	Protocol has significant error(s) or missing information which deems it to be inconsistent with current evidence, deeming it to be unacceptable for specialty-level Shelter Medicine Practice.

Management of Infectious Disease (MID) Protocol Grading Rubric: Minimum of 21/30 points to pass				
Protocol Elements*	4 Points	2 Points	0 Points	Score
Recognition and diagnosis of infectious disease in individual animals	Clear and reasonable description of clinical signs and diagnosis of the infectious disease, including diagnostic testing when indicated.	Missing key information regarding clinical signs and diagnosis of the infectious disease, including diagnostic testing when indicated. Lapses or inconsistencies with foundational resources should be reasonably accounted for in the log.	No description.	
Process for disease recognition in the population including role of veterinarian and medical staff.	Description of process of recognition that could be replicated and includes shelter staff roles.	Some aspects of recognition are missing and/or inconsistent with foundational resources. Lapses are not reasonably accounted for in the protocol log.	No description.	

Treatment of individual animals	Description of treatment in this shelter environment that could be replicated.	Some aspects of treatment in the shelter environment are missing and/or inconsistent with foundational resources and not reasonably accounted for in the protocol log.	No description.	
Risk assessment for exposed animals	Description provided of risk assessment process aligned with SMP principles and that could be replicated.	Missing or contraindicated aspects of risk assessment not accounted for in the log.	No description.	
Use of isolation and quarantine	Description provided of criteria and process, +/- facilities that is aligned with SMP principles and could be applied.	Missing some aspects of how isolation and quarantine are accomplished when it would be recommended by foundational shelter medicine resources. Lapses are not reasonably accounted for in the protocol log.	No description.	
Sanitation and PPE	Detailed description provided of product, equipment, and process for this particular disease.	Missing some aspects of sanitation and PPE requirements for this disease. Lapses not reasonably accounted for in log.	No description.	
Documentation	N/A	Brief description of record keeping requirements for this disease	No description.	
Communication	N/A	Brief description of plan for notification or communication to relevant stakeholders.	No description.	
Resolution	N/A	Mention of how individual animals will be considered cleared of disease and, if an outbreak occurs, when it is considered resolved	No description	

*Protocols are not meant to be formatted with these subheadings, but all of these elements should be reflected in the protocol overall. Protocols are expected to reflect expertise and practice consistent with foundational shelter medicine resources at the level of SMP specialty practice and/or demonstrate reasonable alterations that are not contraindicated in shelter populations.