

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
**DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

SOP#: 1104.2

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Welch Allyn Veterinary Electronic Thermometer</b>
<b>SCOPE:</b>	Research and Animal Care Personnel
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Surgical Core Manager, Professional and Administrative Staff
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To Outline the Proper Procedures for Use and Maintenance of a Veterinary Electronic Thermometer

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**I. PURPOSE**

1. This procedure outlines the use and maintenance of a veterinary electronic hand-held thermometer used to monitor body temperature in a variety of species.

**II. RESPONSIBILITY**

1. It is the responsibility of the Facility Manager in conjunction with the Surgical Core Manager to ensure that equipment is appropriately cleaned, maintained in good working order, and available for research personnel as requested.
2. It is the responsibility of the veterinary professional, administrative, and managerial staff to ensure that all research and technical staff using this equipment are adequately trained and experienced to perform veterinary electronic thermometer determinations.

**III. EQUIPMENT USE**

1. To turn unit on remove probe form storage channel.
2. Insert probe into disposable cover and secure firmly.
3. Apply small amount of water soluble lubricant to probe and gently insert probe in rectum approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and hold in place. **WARNING:** Incorrect insertion can cause bowel perforation.
4. After approximately 15 seconds and audible tone will sound and temperature can be recorded and probe removed.
5. To continuously monitor body temperature press and hold mode button for a few seconds while probe remains in rectum.
6. After removing probe from rectum discard cover by pushing red ejector button located on probe base.
7. Replace probe in storage channel to turn unit off.

#### **IV. MAINTENANCE**

1. Clean unit by wiping with a mild disinfectant and soft cloth.
2. Replace AA alkaline batteries when indicator alerts low battery.
3. Any additional maintenance/service should be performed by authorized personnel.

#### **V. CALIBRATION**

1. Annually verify the accuracy of the unit using the following procedure:
  - a. Remove probe completely and insert calibration key.
  - b. Insert, then remove probe from probe storage channel to reset thermometer.
  - c. Wait for the display to test, and then observe display.
  - d. Set thermometer mode to Celsius or Fahrenheit.
  - e. Display should read 36.6 +/- 0.1 degrees C or 97.3 +/- 0.2 degrees F.
  - f. Remove calibration key and insert probe plug.
  - g. Install probe into probe storage channel.
2. Calibration is documented by labeling equipment with the date of calibration and the date when calibration is due.
3. The Surgical Core manager maintains records of equipment calibration and maintenance.

#### **VI. REFERENCES**

1. Refer to the manufacturer's manual for additional information.

**Approved:**

**Date:**