

# Hazard Control in the Workplace

## The Top 5 Safety Issues and How to Avoid Them

In case you missed this article published in the December issue of Trends, this piece covers the top five safety concerns at veterinary practices and provides tips that you can implement to control these hazards.

### 1. Bites and Scratches

**Bites and scratches are the most frequent injuries** in the veterinary industry. To reduce the likelihood and impact of these incidents, focus on employee training and develop standards for handling patients at your practice.

#### Hazard Controls

- **Handling and Restraint Protocols**—The first step to control bite and scratch hazards is to establish procedures for the communication, handling, and restraint. Without formalized protocols, you lack a basis for training and safety standards.

*continued on page 2*

# BUSINESS INSURANCE



The Standard of  
Veterinary Excellence



## news for you

PRODUCED BY HUB INTERNATIONAL MIDWEST LIMITED  
FOR THE AAHA BUSINESS INSURANCE PROGRAM

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 3, WINTER 2013

[www.aahainsurance.org](http://www.aahainsurance.org)

## Free Safety Posters

Enjoy your enclosed free safety posters from the AAHA Business Insurance Program. Twelve complimentary safety posters are available to help you with

the top safety concerns at veterinary practices. You can download the files or order printed copies that will be mailed to you.

Visit [www.aahainsurance.org/safety](http://www.aahainsurance.org/safety).





Continued from page 2

## Hazard Control in the Workplace—The Top 5 Safety Issues and How to Avoid Them

natural posture, and lift steadily and smoothly.

- **Work Area Design**—Provide lift tables and arrange work surfaces at a height that fits most employees. Use adjustable counters and exam tables so that employees can move surfaces upward and downward, as needed, when working with patients.
- **Handling Equipment**—Provide gurneys, hand trucks, carts, or other equipment for moving patients and materials around

the practice. This reduces the amount of direct employee handling and the likelihood of injury.

### 4. Contact with an Object

This exposure includes being struck by an object, being struck against an object, and being caught between a fixed object and a moving object. Examples include a dog striking an employee while running by, causing the employee to hit a wall or piece of furniture, or supplies falling from a tall shelf, striking an employee on the head. The National Safety

Council reports that injuries caused by being struck by or struck against an object are:

- the second leading cause of non-fatal unintentional injuries
- the leading cause in the 15- to 24-year-old age group
- the fourth leading cause of days-away-from-work cases

Assess your practice to identify these hazards. Also, evaluate job positions to uncover exposures and then implement controls to prevent injuries.

*continued on page 4*

## The EEOC is after me? An employee sued the practice?

Don't miss the **AAHA Business Insurance Program's** Educational Program in Nashville:

### “That Would Never Happen to Me” and Other Employment Practices Liability Myths and Realities

In today's litigious society, all employers are susceptible to employment-related claims. In this course, we'll discuss today's current issues and trends regarding employment practices liability exposures—such as hiring practices and background checks, and the involvement of social media in the workplace. Topics will also include an overview of current trends in law, litigation, and the enforcement activity of agencies like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. You'll walk away with practical information and tips you can implement immediately to minimize your employment practices liability risks.



AAHA Nashville 2014

Friday, March 21

8:00 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.

Learning facilitator: **Laura Lapidus, Esq.**,  
CNA Risk Control Consulting Director

Visit us at booth  
1005!

