

# POST-OP INSTRUMENT CHECKLIST

## Decontaminate

Soak surgical instruments in a solution of water and detergent immediately after use to prevent the drying of blood and other organic materials.

## Clean Manually

Use a soft brush and a neutral pH detergent to clean the instruments manually. Pay special attention to hinges, locks, and other moving parts to ensure all debris is removed.

## Conduct Ultrasonic Cleaning

Place instruments in an ultrasonic cleaner filled with a pH neutral enzymatic clean solution. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cycle times and temperatures. Make sure sharp and delicate instruments such as scissor blades do not touch other instruments so as to damage blades and scratch surfaces.

## Rinse

Thoroughly rinse instruments with deionized or distilled water to remove all residues of cleaning agents and debris. Never allow instruments to air dry, always hand dry with a lint free towel.

## Lubricate

After drying, all hinged instruments require lubrication. Apply a water-soluble steam-permeable lubricant to hinges, locks, and other moving parts before sterilization. It is important that the lubricant is not rinsed off.

## Sterilize

Following lubrication, sterilize instruments according to the manufacturer's recommendations. One common method is autoclaving. Never steam autoclave with the box or screw locks in a closed position. When preparing for sterilization, always set up hinged instrument in an open position.

## Troubleshoot

Regularly inspect instruments for signs of wear, damage, or corrosion. Address any issues promptly to ensure the instruments remain in optimal working condition.

Proper care and maintenance can significantly impact the performance and longevity of surgical instruments. By incorporating the practice of first-time washing into the instrument care routine, veterinary clinics can prevent unnecessary wear on their instruments to enhance their operational efficiency.