

ZIMS Medical Moments: Veterinary Information Made Easy

Animal Care Staff Medical Summary

Your institution's favorite education animal has stopped eating and appears to be in discomfort. Your keeper staff is, of course, very concerned. Today you anesthetized the animal and did a thorough examination. You record a detailed Clinical Note using very technical medical terminology. This entry will be visible only to your Veterinary staff. Because you know that the keepers will want details on what you found, you also record an Animal Care Staff Medical Summary note. This note is a summary of what you found during your exam and is written in layman's terms. This Animal Care Staff Medical Summary will display not only in the medical records but also as a note in the animal's husbandry record. To retain the integrity of this note it is editable only from within the medical record.



Medical Help Documents

You are a new Veterinary Technician and today is your first day working alone. The Veterinarian has given you a stack of medical records that need to be entered into ZIMS. Although you very carefully followed his directions on ZIMS data entry, now that you are alone you panic when you log in. After staring at the screen for a while you push the Start button and look at the options. You begin to feel better when you see the "Help & Support" topic. You select it and are thrilled to see there is a "Medical" topic. You select it and breathe a sigh of relief as there are almost 40 medical topics to select from. You choose the topic for the page on top of the stack – Samples – and start your data entry. The Help Documents turned your initial anxiety into assurance.



Setting Medical Preferences

Your data entry time for medical records goes slowly because many of the defaults are not what you would prefer and you are feeling very prickly about it. You mention this to your Registrar and she asks "Have you set your preferences?"

"I did not know I could do that!" you respond. She shows you where, you set your preferences and you find that your data entry time is greatly reduced!



Medical Preferences you can set:

- Default Clinical Note from SOAP to Notes/Examination/Report Entry
- Open the Animal Care Staff Medical Summary box as default
- Set External Laboratory to a specific lab
- Set default laboratory to your institution
- Select not to display ISIS maintained Test Panels
- Select not to display ISIS maintained Favorite Samples

Application Preferences of interest:

- Set your default Unit of Measure
- Set default Responsible Party to yourself or another staff member
- Select the grids in the husbandry record to open expanded
- Show only your institution's identifiers in animal search results grids

Pharmacy Inventory Part I: Registration

You just received a shipment of 10 bottles of injectable Diazepam for your veterinary hospital. You log into ZIMS to add it to your drug inventory using the following best practices:

- You check the Regulated Drug box and complete the information.
- You enter the drug name including the concentration to allow tracking both by milligrams (mg) and by volume.
Example: "DIAZEPAM INJECTION (5 mg/ml Liquid) (DIAZEPAM)".
Your options can be found using the lookup feature.
- You include the starting amount and the volume is calculated below that field. Example: 50 mg yields a 10ml volume for a single vial.
- You assign a unique Bottle ID, complete the remaining fields, and registration is complete!

Because you received a box of 10 bottles of the Diazepam you, select "Save and Copy" and simply edit the bottle number to register the remaining inventory in just a few keystrokes. If you are ready to register a different drug, select "Save and New" and it will bring up a blank data entry screen. To save a single bottle, simply click "Save."



Body Condition Score

During veterinary rounds you talk with a keeper who is concerned about a gecko in their care. It appears to be losing weight and is unthrifty. You remember treating this animal earlier in the year for similar symptoms. In the medical record you check the history of its Body Condition Score to help you identify the time line. You see that the Body Condition Score began a decline in December of last year but was once again "Ideal" in June of this year. You review your medical records starting in December of last year. You provide the gecko with the same treatment it received earlier and it is on its way to full health.



Note Template

Your female orangutan had an altercation with an exhibit mate and received a bite on her chest that required stitches. You take the opportunity while she is under sedation to perform a "well-baby" check on her young offspring. Using a Note Template that you created for Physical Exams you record the details in a Clinical Note. Note Templates make sure that you record all the necessary information on a topic. They save you from repeatedly typing a consistent framework of words, in this case the details of your physical exam, saving considerable data entry time as much of the information does not have to be retyped.



Type Aheads Made Easy!

Those long results lists you are getting when using the Type Ahead lookup fields are making you grumpier than a bear woken up early from hibernation.

Finding the drug you want is impossible! But there is an easy way! You can type the beginning of multiple words! For example you need to find Baytril 100 so you type "Baytril" in the drug field and you get ten results. But if you type "bay 100" you get the one result you are looking for! If your Delivery Route is subcutaneous injection and you type "Injection" you get fifteen results. But if you type "s.c." you instantly get only "Injection, subcutaneous (s.c.)". There are many time savers for most of the Type Ahead lookup fields in ZIMS.



Pharmacy Inventory Part II: Tracking a Bottle

You need to administer some Diazepam to an animal that is experiencing some agitation over construction near its exhibit. You select New Prescription/Treatment. The Treatment Item/Drug is a type ahead lookup so ZIMS will start finding matches as you type. When searching for a drug it is recommended you enter it into the ZIMS search field using the generic name of the drug with no concentration.

Example: "DIAZEPAM", not "DIAZEPAM INJECTION (5 mg/ml Liquid) (DIAZEPAM)". This will ensure that your drop down list of formulations will include all the Diazepam in inventory and avoid missing a bottle that was registered under a variation of the name.

You select the correct formulation from the drop down list and complete the screen. The Bottle ID allows you to select exactly which bottle this dose came from. Be sure to use the correct unit of measure (mg or volume) depending on the formulation. The remaining amount of the drug in the bottle will be automatically updated in your inventory. NOTE: If you have drug inventory that migrated from MedARKS into ZIMS it may need to be modified to ensure proper tracking. If you come across this circumstance in your drug inventory, contact support for additional assistance.



Calendar Tasks

Your polar bear cub has developed diarrhea. You are not sure if it is because he pulled another bear's food dish into his den and consumed the yummy contents not meant for him, or if there is something else causing his distress. You take a fecal sample today and find *Nanophyetus salmincola*. You begin treatment but want to remember to request another sample to be taken in one week and another in two weeks. Using the Calendar Tasks option you schedule the fecal collections and assign them to the Team that cares for the polar bears. The task will appear on My Calendar for all the Team members so they don't forget.



Creating Incomplete Accessions

This morning you received an iguana that arrived needing medical attention. Unfortunately your Registrar also needed medical attention and went home sick with the flu before he accessioned the iguana. Put your pen and paper away! The medical records can be entered into ZIMS! You create an Incomplete Accession for the iguana. An Incomplete Accession requires only the taxonomy, sex type, birth date estimate and some related notes. You are able to enter the complete medical treatment, weights and other related data for the iguana. When the Registrar returns to work he accessioned the iguana and associates that full accession with your Incomplete Accession, correcting the taxonomy, sex type and birth date if needed. All the data you recorded has now been transferred into the fully-accessioned animal record.



Test Panels

Your institution is known for its extensive collection of turtles and tortoises, both common and exotic. As part of your Veterinary care for this collection you collect plasma several times a year and use the test results as part of an on-going study of the differences between the species. There are eighteen tests that are requested from each of your turtles. To save data entry time you have created a Test Panel for the eighteen measurements. This panel will save data entry time as you can tab through each test in the panel grid and record the results for each animal instead of entering test results one at a time. It also ensures that all of the tests are requested for each animal and the results reviewed. You can save panels for in house analyzers as well as reference labs.



Pharmacy Inventory Part III: Marking a Bottle Finished

You are getting ready for an accreditation inspection and want to make sure your physical drug inventory matches your ZIMS drug inventory. You pull your Diazepam to check amounts remaining. You open a bottle which records indicate should have 2 tablets remaining. Somehow moisture has gotten into the bottle and the tablets are ruined. You need to record that these damaged tablets were properly discarded. You find the bottle in your inventory, select Actions> Add Usage Record>Discard. Then you will be able to mark it as Finished and no further usage can be recorded on that bottle.

The next bottle you review is injectable and should have 7.5mg remaining. However, you know that you emptied this bottle this morning. You try to mark this bottle as Finished, but you receive an error message. If there is a discrepancy greater than 10% of the starting volume, you will get this error message to review usage records. You look through the usage records and realize that a dose was administered during an emergency procedure over the weekend and had not yet been recorded in ZIMS. Once that record is entered, the inventory is accurate and the bottle can be marked as Finished.

Your inventory is interrupted by an animal emergency. When you return you discover that you need to edit a bottle that has been marked as Finished. Only the medical administrator at your institution can reopen a bottle. ZIMS creates a note that the bottle was reopened in the audit history that cannot be edited. You make a mental note to yourself to be more careful next time as revisions made after the bottle has been marked Finished should be uncommon and justifiable to regulating authorities.

When you are done with your inventory you create a "drug usage by bottle ID" report to generate a final copy for filing.

