Title: Fluids Shelf Life and Use Policy

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to define the policy regarding the expiration date and standards of use of physiologic fluids.

II. Background:

“Fluids” is defined here as medical-grade physiologic fluids such as Lactated Ringers Solution, 0.9% Sodium Chloride, or similar, without dextrose or additives, in their original plastic bag, bottle or vial. A bag has two ports for withdrawing solution; a rubber injection port that is penetrated by a hypodermic needle, and a plastic seal that is broken by the sharp end of a fluid administration set. For repeated use of fluids with dextrose or additives, please email cvsvet@ucdavis.edu for guidelines.

III. Policy:

Fluids must be discarded after the expiration date imprinted on the container, even if the fluid has never been used.

The following guidelines must be followed when fluid bags are used:
A. Once the fluid bag has been penetrated by a needle or administration set, the date of first use must be written on the bag. It is safe to write directly on the bag with a Sharpie, or a dated label may be adhered to the bag.
B. After the day of first use, solution withdrawn from the bag may be administered to animals by the subcutaneous or topical routes only.
C. For repeated use of the rubber injection port,
   1. A fresh needle and syringe must be used for each withdrawal of solution.
   2. The injection port must be wiped with isopropyl alcohol before each withdrawal.
   3. If a bag has been used only for solution withdrawal through the rubber injection port, and has not been attached to a fluid administration set, it must be discarded 30 days after the date of first use.
D. For repeated use of a fluid bag with a fluid administration set attached,
1. A fresh needle must be used for each animal.
2. Optionally, a fresh administration line or extension set (if used) may be used for each animal.
3. If a bag is attached to a fluid administration set, it must be discarded seven days after the date of first use.
4. If a stopcock is attached to a bag via a needle the bag must only be used for seven days.

Individual use vials of fluids must be used per manufactures instructions. For multiuse vials with rubber stoppers a new needle and syringe must be used for each withdraw of solution and it is suggested that the rubber stopper be wiped with isopropyl alcohol before every withdraw and can be used repeatedly up to the manufacture’s expiration

IV. References:

