

# ANIMAL MATTERS: Tips & Treatments



Michigan Veterinary  
Specialists<sup>sm</sup>

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## PRACTICE MANAGEMENT: “Going Green”

### The movement

It is hard to go anywhere or read something without noticing the increased focus on businesses and people “going green.” In spite of whatever debate that may continue about the reasons for global warming and its impact, there are many good reasons for you and your business to go green. The basics of this philosophy are summed up in the slogan Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (also known as the 3 R’s).

### MVS changes

MVS is starting to follow the 3 R’s in many areas. The first change you will notice is due to feedback we have received from many of you. We will now only fax case summary letters (instead of both faxing and mailing the case summary letter of your referred patient). This change will start on Monday, **March 16<sup>th</sup>**. This will significantly reduce redundant patient information, reduce paper use and make it easier for your team to manage information on each patient. (Please contact Kristi Valentini, our Marketing Manager, if you would like us continue to mail case summary letters in addition to faxing them. You can reach her at [kvalentini@michvet.com](mailto:kvalentini@michvet.com) or by calling 248-354-6660.)

### Tips for your practice

You can also find ways to “go green” in your business to reduce your impact on the environment and save money for your practice. Here are some tips:

1. Use less paper – try extra hard to run that paperless office that has been in the works for a decade or more. Only print one copy of a report and distribute throughout the office if everyone needs to read it. Print only the emails that need to be kept as record. Forward as much email as possible. Proofread on the screen more and print fewer drafts of reports and letters. Fax or email instead of mailing (like we are going to do in March).
2. Recycle paper products including newspapers, magazines, printer paper and grocery or other bags. The demand for post-consumer - recycled office products is much higher than the supply which keeps the prices high on post-consumer paper products. Recycling not only saves natural resources - it reduces tons of waste entering the landfills.
3. Purchase green products and offer more choices—Make it a point to purchase recycled paper products and other items made with recycled items. Also, reduce your impact with eco-friendly cleaners in your facilities like Method. Purchase larger containers of drinks for your company fridge and have reusable cup available instead of offering individual plastic bottles. Have inexpensive plates and silverware available in your office kitchen, along with dish soap, instead of giving your employees a supply of paper plates, plastic utensils and Styrofoam cups.

### Expert:

**Brent Calhoun, DVM**  
Hospital Administrator

Dr. Calhoun received his DVM degree from Michigan State University. Prior to joining MVS, he provided practice management and computer consultation services and has worked with over 500 hospitals in North America.

### Questions?

If you have any questions about this article, please contact Dr. Calhoun at [calhoun@michvet.com](mailto:calhoun@michvet.com) or (248) 354-6660.

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