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Wet table conversion system

Abstract

An article of manufacture provides a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention. The tabletop extension includes an examination table having a solid top surface, a bottom surface, and an outer end extending beyond an end of a veterinary tub table when installed, a drain opening about an outer end of the examination table solid top surface, a shallow basin coupled to the bottom surface of the solid examination table beneath the drain opening, a grate filling the drain opening while permitting fluids to drain into the shallow basin, and a drain line coupled to the shallow basin for providing a drainage path to the veterinary tub table.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) This application relates in general to an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary examination device, and more specifically, to an article of manufacture providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension.

BACKGROUND

(2) Veterinary procedures, and especially veterinary dental procedures, typically are performed on the long grates on the tops of tub tables that cover the majority of the top of the tub tables. Performing procedures on top of this long grate is uncomfortable for the operator and suboptimal for patient care. While some of these procedures require use of water that needs to be drained away from the patient, a solid top surface onto which the patient animal may be placed provides a platform that is beneficial for both the operator and the patient animal.

(3) Therefore, a need exists for an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension. The present invention attempts to address the limitations and deficiencies in prior solutions according to the principles and example embodiments disclosed herein.

SUMMARY

(4) In accordance with the present invention, the above and other problems are solved by providing an article of manufacture for a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the principles and example embodiments disclosed herein.

(5) In one embodiment, the present invention is an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension. The tabletop extension includes an examination table having a solid top surface, a bottom surface, and an outer end extending beyond an end of a veterinary tub table when installed, a drain opening about an outer end of the examination table solid top surface, a shallow basin coupled to the bottom surface of the solid examination table beneath the drain opening, a grate filling the drain opening while permitting fluids to drain into the shallow basin, and a drain line coupled to the shallow basin for providing a drainage path to the veterinary tub table.

(6) In another aspect of the present invention, the solid examination table is made of stainless steel.

(7) In another aspect of the present invention, the solid examination table has a center of gravity over the veterinary tub table while extending beyond the end of the veterinary tub table.

(8) In another aspect of the present invention, the solid examination table couples to the veterinary tub table.

(9) In another aspect of the present invention, the shallow basin is located within the examination table.

(10) The foregoing has outlined rather broadly the features and technical advantages of the present invention in order that the detailed description of the invention that follows may be better understood. Additional features and advantages of the invention will be described hereinafter that form the subject of the claims of the invention.

(11) It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the conception and specific embodiment disclosed may be readily utilized as a basis for modifying or designing other structures for carrying out the same purposes of the present invention. It should also be realized by those skilled in the art that such equivalent constructions do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims. The novel features that are believed to be characteristic of the invention, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages will be better understood from the following description when considered in connection with the accompanying figures. It is to be expressly understood, however, that each of the figures is provided for the purpose of illustration and description only and is not intended as a definition of the limits of the present invention.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) Referring now to the drawings in which like reference numbers represent corresponding parts throughout:

- (2) FIG. 1 illustrates an example embodiment of an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention.
- (3) FIG. 2 illustrates a side view of an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention.
- (4) FIG. 3 illustrates an end view of an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention.
- (5) FIG. 4 illustrates a top view of an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- (6) This application relates in general to an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary examination device, and more specifically, to an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention.
- (7) Various embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals represent like parts and assemblies throughout the several views. Reference to various embodiments does not limit the scope of the invention, which is limited only by the scope of the claims attached hereto. Additionally, any examples set forth in this specification are not intended to be limiting and merely set forth some of the many possible embodiments for the claimed invention.
- (8) In describing embodiments of the present invention, the following terminology will be used. The singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. As used herein, a plurality of items, structural elements, compositional elements, and/or materials may be presented in a common list for convenience. However, these lists should be construed as though each member of the list is individually identified as a separate and unique member. Thus, no individual member of such list should be construed as a de facto equivalent of any other member of the same list solely based on their presentation in a common group without indications to the contrary. As used herein, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.
- (9) It further will be understood that the terms “comprises,” “comprising,” “includes,” and “including” specify the presence of stated features, steps or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, steps or components. It also should be noted that in some alternative implementations, the functions and acts noted may occur out of the order noted in the figures. For example, two figures shown in succession may in fact be executed substantially concurrently or may sometimes be executed in the reverse order, depending upon the functionality and acts involved.
- (10) The terms “individual” and “user” refer to an entity, e.g., a human, using an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention. The term user herein refers to one or more users.
- (11) The term “invention” or “present invention” refers to the invention being applied for via the patent application with the title “Veterinary Procedure Wet Tabletop Extension.” Invention may be used interchangeably with exam table.
- (12) In general, the present disclosure relates to an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention. To better understand the present invention, FIG. 1 illustrates an example embodiment of an article of manufacture for providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention. The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** is mounted on top of a veterinary tub table (wet table) **102**. The veterinary tub table **102** typically exposes a significant portion, if not an overwhelming part of, the top surface of the veterinary tub table **102**.
- (13) The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** replaces a grate or solid insert and overhangs the front edge **107** of the tub table. The advantage of this configuration of the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** is that the operator (veterinarian or technician) can sit

comfortably at the end of the table as mainly tub tables **102** are in cabinets or are so deep that the front edge **107** goes to the ground or near the ground so there is no room for the operator's legs to fit under the veterinary examination tub table **102**. This prior art configuration requires the operator to sit sideways, sit with their legs spread apart, or even worse, stand for an entire procedure. This improved configuration is mainly important for veterinary dentistry, but also can be used for several other procedures.

(14) The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** provides a place to perform procedures that require water use from dental equipment and/or fixtures **106 a-b**, **104**, and therefore drainage, while allowing the employee to sit more comfortably with his/her legs under the overhanging section **105**. The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** provides the employee a more comfortable work environment and more room for the animal to lay during surgery. A drain opening **103** provides a water drain path back into the wet table **102**. The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** may sit upon the veterinary tub table **102** such that the center of gravity of the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** with a patient animal in place remains over the veterinary tub table **102**. The wet table extension **101** is configured to have its center of gravity that is positioned over the wet table **102** when the wet table extension rests on a second top surface **118** of the wet table **102**. In this manner, the bottom surface **120** is secured to the second top surface **118** via gravity. The overhanging section **105** is configured to be positioned over a user's knee when the user is sitting at the wet table extension **101**. The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** also may be coupled to a veterinary tub table **102** having a length of either 48" or 60" **101**. The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** is solid stainless steel (i.e., structurally solid) except for the drain opening **103** that is covered by a grate. The wet tabletop extension **101** can include a top surface **110**, a bottom surface **120**, an overhanging section **105**, a distal end **116**, and/or a proximal end **115**. In preferred embodiments, the bottom surface **120** is configured to rest on the second top surface **118** of the wet table **102**.

(15) The drain opening **103** is positioned proximate to the proximal end **115**. The overhanging section **105** is positioned proximate to the proximal end **115**. The solid examination table of the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** helps an anesthetized patient animal maintain body heat better than when lying on an open grate. The solid examination table of the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** is solid except for the overhanging section **105** that includes a grated drain opening **103** positioned a shallow basin **202** that drains into the tub table **102**. The basin **202** is positioned within the wet tabletop extension **101** proximate to the overhanging section **105**. Since veterinary dentistry procedures are typically lengthy, having a more comfortable seating position is important. In addition, a large amount of water is used and needs to be drained with veterinary dentistry procedures. The combination of these requirements makes this table beneficial to veterinary clinics performing dental procedures on tub tables or any procedure that requires drainage and the operator to sit along the table. In some embodiments, the top surface **110** is substantially planar and rectangular as well as includes a longitudinal axis that extends along the length of the wet table **102** when the wet table extension **101** rests on the second top surface **118**.

(16) FIG. 2 illustrates a side view of an article of manufacture providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention. The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** rests on the veterinary tub table **102** having fixtures **205**, **206a-b** at one end. A drainage tub **204** is located within the veterinary tub table **102**. The veterinary tub table **102** may include other accessories including electrical outlets **211**, lights (not shown), a water sprayer, and other accessories useful to the operator.

(17) At the overhanging section **107** of the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101**, the drain opening **103** is positioned over a shallow basin **202**. A drain line **203** empties the shallow basin **202** into the drainage tub **204** of the wet tabletop extension **101**. In other words, the drain line **203** is functionally and fluidically coupled to the basin **202** and is configured to empty contents of the basin **202** into the drainage tub **204**. The overhanging end **105** of the veterinary procedure wet

tabletop extension **101** extends out over the end of the veterinary tub table **102** to create space under the overhanging end **105** of the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** for the operator to sit with his/her legs under the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101**.

(18) FIG. 3 illustrates an end view of an article of manufacture providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention. The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** is shown on top of the veterinary tub table **102** with the drainage tub **204** within the veterinary tub table **102** and fixtures including a water sprayer **305** coupled to a water line **307** controlled by hot and cold valves **206a-b**. The drain opening **103** is positioned over a shallow basin **202** that collects water used in a procedure that may drain into the drainage tub **204**.

(19) FIG. 4 illustrates a top view of an article of manufacture providing a veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension according to the present invention. The veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** is shown on top of the veterinary tub table **102**. The drain opening **103** is positioned over a shallow basin **202** at the overhanging section **107** of the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101**. The patient animal may be placed on the solid top **401** of the veterinary procedure wet tabletop extension **101** with a portion of the animal being treated oriented over the drain opening **103**. This configuration provides an improved workspace for the treatment of patient animals.

(20) Even though particular combinations of features are recited in the present application, these combinations are not intended to limit the disclosure of the invention. In fact, many of these features may be combined in ways not specifically recited in this application. In other words, any of the features mentioned in this application may be included in this new invention in any combination or combinations to allow the functionality required for the desired operations.

(21) No element, act, or instruction used in the present application should be construed as critical or essential to the invention unless explicitly described as such. Further, the phrase “based on” is intended to mean “based, at least in part, on” unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Claims

1. A wet table top extension system, comprising: a table comprising a top surface and a drainage tub, the top surface of the table comprising a first end, a second end and an opening to the drainage tub positioned between the first end and the second end; an extension body secured to the top surface of the table, the extension body comprising: a proximal end contacting the table and positioned covering the opening to the drainage tub, the proximal end having a top surface impermeable to fluid, and the proximal end configured to receive an animal; a distal end extending beyond the first end of the table and forming an overhanging portion, the overhanging portion configured to be positioned over a user's knee when the user is sitting at the table; a basin positioned at least partially within the overhanging portion of the extension body, the basin configured to collect fluid; a drain opening formed into a top surface of the extension body and configured to allow fluid to enter the basin; and a drain line fluidically connecting the basin and the drainage tub of the table.
2. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the extension body comprises stainless steel.
3. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the extension body is secured to the table via gravity.
4. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the extension body is substantially planar and rectangular.
5. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the extension body comprises a longitudinal axis that extends along a length of the table when the extension body rests on the table.
6. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the extension body has a center of gravity positioned over the table.

7. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the table is a wet table.
 8. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the drain opening comprises a grate.
 9. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the table comprises at least one fixture.
 10. The wet table top extension system of claim 9, wherein the at least one fixture comprises at least one of a water sprayer and a water valve.
 11. The wet table top extension system of claim 9, wherein the at least one fixture is positioned proximate a second end of the table.
 12. The wet table top extension system of claim 11, wherein the extension body is configured to extend across the top surface of the table towards the at least one fixture.
 13. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the drain line extends through an interior of the extension body from the basin to the drainage tub.
 14. The wet table top extension system of claim 13, wherein the drain line extends laterally through the interior of the extension body.
 15. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the basin has a length that is greater than a length of the drain opening.
 16. The wet table top extension system of claim 1, wherein the basin is positioned above and spaced apart from the drainage tub.
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