

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Rules Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 - 12:00 p.m.

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, Rules Committee, met via Zoom on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. The following Committee members were present:

Committee Members Present

Dr. William Wright, DVM, Committee Chair
Dr. Wendy Cuevas, DVM, Committee Vice Chair
Ms. Jessica Sewell, LVT, Committee Member

Committee Members Absent

No Committee Member absent.

Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor

Attorney General's Office

No Assistant Attorney General present.

Administrative Staff Absent

Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Visitors Present

Keri Riddick, DVM, Executive Director, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)
Jill Lancaster, DVM, Advocacy Chair, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)
Dr. Doris Miller, DVM, DVM, PhD, DACVP, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine (UGACVM), Associate Director of State Government Relations

Call to Order: Dr. Wright called the Committee meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda

Ms. Sewell motioned, Dr. Cuevas seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

1. Rule 700-2-.02. Application for Licensure for Veterinarians

Based upon a vote of the Board during the April 5, 2023, meeting, the Committee discussed amending BR 700-2-.02 Application for Licensure for Veterinarians to clarify that graduates of a foreign college or school of veterinary medicine are not required to demonstrate having graduated from an accredited college or school of veterinary medicine and submit an Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) certificate or proof of completion of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education (PAVE). The foreign applicant may choose to provide a transcript from an accredited college or school of veterinary medicine or ECFVG or PAVE or an equivalent document acceptable to the Board. The Committee further amended the rule to clarify that it is Joint Secretary Rule or Policy which dictates when an application for licensure expires as well as the steps an applicant will need to take if the application is withdrawn due to expiration. The changes proposed within the rule carry out the policy objectives that are expressed in Georgia Veterinary Practice Act and the General Provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and it is the opinion of the Committee that the changes are consistent with that which is stated within those statutes. The Committee voted to refer the following recommended amendments to the full Board as presented.

Rule 700-2-.02. Application for Licensure for Veterinarians

- (1) An applicant for licensure as a veterinarian shall make application on forms provided by the Board.
- (2) With the completed application form(s) the applicant for licensure shall submit:
 - (a) The application fee in an amount established by the Board;
 - (b) Proof of graduation submitted directly from an accredited college or school of veterinary medicine certifying completion of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and the award of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree; If a transcript is not yet available, the Board will accept a letter from the Dean of the college or school of veterinary medicine certifying the date that graduation occurred; or, an electronic submission of proof of graduation submitted directly from the accredited college or school of veterinary medicine followed by the submission of an official transcript within thirty days;

- (c) Graduates of a foreign college or school of veterinary medicine shall submit a transcript certifying completion of education in veterinary medicine and in lieu of the documents referenced in paragraph (b), one of the following:
- (i) The Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) certificate from the American Veterinary Medical Association; or,
 - (ii) Proof of completion of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education (PAVE) offered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards; or,
 - (iii) An equivalent document acceptable to the Board.
- ~~(e)~~(d) All scores of the applicant from the North American Veterinary Licensure Examination (NAVLE) or the Clinical Competency Test (CCT) and the National Board Examination (NBE) or an equivalent examination acceptable to the Board; and-
- ~~(d)~~(e) Proof of a passing score on the Georgia Veterinary Law Exam.
- (3) ~~In addition to meeting the requirements stated above, graduates of a foreign college or school of veterinary medicine must submit one of the following:~~
- ~~(a) The Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) certificate from the American Veterinary Medical Association; or,~~
 - ~~(b) Proof of completion of the PAVE program from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards; or,~~
 - ~~(c) An equivalent document acceptable to the Board.~~
- (4) An applicant must furnish evidence satisfactory to the Board of all qualifications for licensure.
- ~~(5)~~(4) All applications for licensure expire one year from the date of receipt of the application and non-refundable fee. All applications for licensure must be complete within the timeframe indicated in the Joint Secretary Rules and/or policies. All applications which are not complete within this designated timeframe shall be considered "expired" and withdrawn. Following expiration of an application, a new application in its entirety, to include all fees, shall be required for consideration of licensure.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-2-.02

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-50-21](#), [43-50-31](#); [43-50-110](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Examinations" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

Repealed: New Rule entitled "Qualifications for Admission to Examination" adopted. F. Oct. 8, 1974; eff. Oct. 28, 1974.

Amended: F. Apr. 16, 1976; eff. May 6, 1976.

Amended: F. Mar. 18, 1980 eff. Apr. 7, 1980.

Amended: F. Aug. 4, 1982; eff. Aug. 24, 1982.

Amended: F. Apr. 23, 1984; eff. May 13, 1984.

Amended: F. July 31, 1984; eff. August 20, 1984.

Amended: F. Oct. 5, 1992; eff. Oct. 25, 1992.

Repealed: New Rule entitled "Application for Licensure" adopted. F. Dec. 9, 2002; eff. Dec. 29, 2002.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2010; eff. Apr. 28, 2010.

Amended: New title "Application for Licensure for Veterinarians." F. Mar. 24, 2021; eff. Apr. 13, 2021.

2. Rule 700-2-.04. Licensure by Endorsement

The Committee entered into a discussion of HB 155 that was signed by Governor Kemp. The bill amends O.C.G.A. §43-1-35 to require that there be a mechanism to issue licenses by endorsement to any individual seeking licensure for a profession other than a healthcare provider or other professions, if the individual meets the criteria outlined within the statute. Based upon the new definition of 'healthcare provider' within O.C.G.A. §43-1-35, veterinarians and veterinary technicians are not considered 'healthcare providers.' As a result, the Committee created a Licensure by Endorsement rule using Rule Number 700-2-.04 which was repealed October 28, 1974. Although it is not necessary to restate the law in a rule, the Committee thought it was prudent to do so since the language of the law resides in O.C.G.A. § 43-1-35 instead of the Georgia Veterinary Practice Act, where applicants are not likely to look. The new

rule carries out policy objectives of the statute and no additional variations in language were considered since it is essentially a restatement of law. The Committee voted to refer BR 700-2-.04 Licensure by Endorsement to the full Board as presented.

Rule 700-2-.04. Licensure by Endorsement.

- (1) An applicant is eligible for a license by endorsement when such applicant has submitted a complete application, as established by the Board, with the required fee, proof of lawful presence in the United States, and:
 - (a) Moved from another state and established residency in this state;
 - (b) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another state prior to establishing residency in this state for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in qualifications and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license;
 - (c) Is in good standing in such other state and is not the subject of an investigation or a disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other board in such other state; and
 - (d) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession, business, or trade for which such license by endorsement is being sought.

3. Rule 700-4-.01. Expedited License by Endorsement: for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members

In reviewing how HB 155 further amends O.C.G.A. §43-1-35, the Committee noted that the statute was changed to require an expedited license by endorsement or license by endorsement for military spouses and transitioning service members and altered the criteria for those applicants to receive that license. The current veterinary rule for that group of applicants provides for a temporary license as well as additional criteria which are no longer supported by the statute. The language was amended to strike any references to temporary licenses and was changed to expedited license by endorsement and the former criteria were struck out and amended to reflect the current language of the statute. As the proposed amendments carry out policy objectives in the statute, no further variations were considered. The Committee recommended to refer the following amendments to BR 700-4-.01 Expedited License by Endorsement for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members to the full Board for review.

Rule 700-4-.01. Expedited License by Endorsement for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members

- (1) An applicant is eligible for an expedited license by endorsement when such applicant:
 - (a) Is identified as a military spouse or transitioning service member, as defined in O.C.G.A. § [43-1-34](#) and stationed within the State of Georgia;
 - (b) Has submitted a complete application, as established by the board, along with a fee, and proof of lawful presence in the United States along with an approved secure and verifiable document;
 - (c) Is a holder of a current veterinary or veterinary technician license in good standing in another state for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in qualifications and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license.

- (2) For the purposes of this rule, an applicant's training, experience and testing is substantially equivalent if the applicant:
 - (a) Has attained the age of eighteen (18);
 - (b) Submits proof of an active license in good standing from another state, which is not currently suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted for any reason and is not the subject of an investigation or disciplinary proceeding being conducted by a professional licensing board or other board in such other state.

- (3)

The license will be issued no later than 90 days from the date of receipt of the application and information and documentation that which show that all the requirements of this rule have been met.

Based upon a vote of the Board, the Committee reviewed correspondence from the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) and Claudine Wilkins, as incorporated at the end of these minutes, in which they suggested further amendments to multiple board rules that were recently adopted. The basis of their suggestions were that they felt the new language may have some unintended consequences for licensed veterinarians who work with kennels, rescues and wild, exotic or non-traditional companion animals. The following recommendations will be presented to the full Board during their next meeting, June 21, 2023.

4. Rule 700-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct

The Committee recommended tabling the discussion on BR 700-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct for the upcoming full Board meeting in consideration of the recommendations made by GVMA and Claudine Wilkins on (4)(f) – cooperating with an investigation of the Board. After much discussion, the Committee determined that whereas they agree that a failure to cooperate is problematic when attempting to resolve an investigation and whereas the Board has the legal authority by way of review by the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office to require such cooperation, it may be helpful to licensees to further define or provide examples of what the Board would consider to be a failure to cooperate, particularly since a licensee's attorney may advise against cooperation.

Rule 700-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct

Within the meaning of Ga. Code subsection [43-50-21\(a\)\(7\)](#), unprofessional conduct means:

- (a) Advertising - defined: Advertising shall mean any information communicated in a manner designed to attract public attention to the practice of the licensee or registrant. Advertising shall include but not be limited to, a communication, published or displayed through the use of newspaper, internet, telephone directory, pamphlets or handouts, radio, television, signs, billboard, window display or any other means of medium.
 - 1. A licensee or registrant shall not make any false, misleading or deceptive communication in any form of advertising.
 - 2. Advertisement of prices must contain a complete description of veterinary services included in any advertised price and disclosure of any extra charges that may be required to serve the consumer's needs.

- (b) Professional Relationships:
 - 1. It shall be unprofessional conduct for a licensee or registrant without just cause and in bad faith or for the purpose of soliciting patronage or personal pecuniary gain to disparage the profession or professional capabilities of another licensee or registrant.
 - 2. It shall be unprofessional conduct to aid any person, firm, or corporation to engage in the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine.
 - 3. It shall be unprofessional conduct for a licensee or registrant to guarantee a cure or to offer his name in a commercial setting in a testimonial as to virtues of proprietary remedies or foods.
 - 4. Consultation by an attending veterinarian with other veterinarian expert in the particular matter on which consultation is sought is in the public interest and thus is expected of the attending veterinarian when the need arises. But such consultation is discouraged if the consulting veterinarian employs the relationship so created to disparage the attending veterinarian or to solicit business; such practices are not in the public interest.
 - (i) It shall therefore be unprofessional conduct for a licensee called as a consulting veterinarian to disparage in the presence of the client the competence of the attending veterinarian. The Board does, however, expect any incompetence or negligence to be reported to it and nothing in this rule prohibits such reports or the giving of testimony in public or private litigation.
 - (ii) It shall be unprofessional conduct for a consulting veterinarian to assume unauthorized control of the case or to utilize the consulting relationship to solicit business for himself or others.

5. It shall be unprofessional conduct for a licensee employed to render professional advice by one party in negotiations concerning the sale of an animal to accept a fee from the other party.

(c) Failure to Maintain Patient Records:

1. A veterinarian shall prepare and maintain a record reflecting the care and treatment of animals treated.
2. These records shall contain clinical information sufficient to justify the diagnosis and warrant treatment and shall, if applicable, include but not be limited to the following information:
 - (i) Name, address, and telephone number of the animal's owner;
 - (ii) Name of attending veterinarian and staff rendering care;
 - (iii) Patient identification, including name, ages, sex and breed;
 - (iv) Dates of examination, treatment and custody of the animal;
 - (v) Patient history;
 - (vi) Presenting complaint;
 - (vii) Vaccination history;
 - (viii) Findings from physical examination, including temperature and weight;
 - (ix) Clinical lab reports, if applicable;
 - (x) Medication and treatment, including frequency;
 - (xi) Anesthetic, including type and amount, if applicable;
 - (xii) Details of surgical procedure with complications and/or abnormalities noted, if applicable;
 - (xiii) Progress and disposition of the case;
 - (xiv) Differential diagnoses; and
 - (xv) X-rays if applicable.
3. All records shall be kept in a readily retrievable form, shall be recorded contemporaneously, and shall be filed promptly following treatment.
4. Patient records shall be kept by a veterinarian for three (3) years after a patient's last visit, notwithstanding any other provisions of law.
5. Copies of patient records must be made available to the owner of the animal upon written request to the veterinarian who treated the animal or to the veterinarian facility where the treatment was provided. Such records must be made available within ten (10) business days from request. The veterinarian may charge a reasonable charge for the search, retrieval, duplication and, if applicable, mailing of the patient records.
6. Failure to keep records as required by this subparagraph shall constitute a failure to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing veterinary medical practice.

(d) Failure to have an appropriate Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship. An appropriate veterinarian/client/patient relationship will exist when:

1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client (owner or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian;

2. There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of:
 - (i) an examination of the animal by the veterinarian within the last twelve (12) months, or
 - (ii) medically appropriate and timely visits by the veterinarian to the premises where the patient is kept.;
 3. A veterinarian/client/patient relationship cannot be established solely by telephone, computer, or other electronic means; however,
 - (i) Once a veterinarian/client/patient relationship is established, it may be maintained telephonically, electronically, or by any other method of communication between:
 - A. In person medically necessary examinations; or,
 - B. Visits to the premises where the animal is kept, provided that it is within the periods of time that are appropriate for the medical issue in question and the species and age of the animal; and,
 - C. A failure to require in person examinations or visits in accordance with the minimum standard of care for the diagnosis, treatment, or other practice of veterinary medicine for an animal shall be considered unprofessional conduct.
 - i. A licensed veterinarian may provide advice and recommendations via electronic means in an emergency where death is imminent if an in-person examination of the patient will be conducted within 60 minutes of the provision of such advice or recommendations; and,
 4. A licensed veterinarian is readily available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy.
- (e) Prescription Drugs:
1. It is unlawful for a veterinarian to release, prescribe, and/or dispense any prescription drugs without having established a valid veterinary/client/patient relationship.
 2. After a valid veterinary/client/patient relationship has been established, a veterinarian must make available, upon request, at a reasonable cost, a written prescription.
- (f) Failure to cooperate with an investigation of the board to include but not limited to allowing agents of the Board to inspect veterinary premises and equipment, including mobile veterinary clinics.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-8-.01

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-19](#); [43-1-25](#), [43-50-21](#), [43-50-41](#), [43-50-90](#), [43-50-110](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Unprofessional Conduct" adopted. F. Oct. 8, 1974; eff. Oct. 28, 1974.

Amended: F. Feb. 15, 1983; eff. Mar. 7, 1983.

Amended: F. July 9, 1984; eff. July 29, 1984.

Amended: F. Aug. 31, 1984; eff. Sept. 20, 1984.

Amended: F. Nov. 8, 1995; eff. Nov. 28, 1995.

Amended: F. Sept. 11, 1998; eff. Oct. 1, 1998.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2002; eff. Apr. 28, 2002.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 29, 2003; eff. Feb. 18, 2003.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2004; eff. Apr. 28, 2004.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 24, 2007; eff. Sept. 13, 2007.

Amended: F. Dec. 8, 2011; eff. Dec. 28, 2011.

Amended: F. Mar. 1, 2013; eff. Mar. 21, 2013.

Amended: F. Sep. 15, 2015; eff. Oct. 7, 2015.

Amended: F. Mar. 11, 2016; eff. Mar. 31, 2016.

Amended: F. Dec. 9, 2022; eff. Dec. 29, 2022.

5. Rule 700-12-.08. Surgical Standards

The Committee reviewed the concerns outlined within the two pieces of correspondence received and accepted some of the rationales provided for amending 700-12-.08(e), (g), (i) and (j) but recommended tabling any additional amendments to BR 700-12-.08. Surgical Standards for the upcoming full Board meeting to further discuss suggested amendments to paragraphs (1)(c) and (h).

Rule 700-12-.08. Surgical Standards

- (1) A licensed veterinarian employed at a veterinary facility must ensure that the following criteria pertaining to surgical standards are met if surgical procedures are performed in the facility:
 - (a) Dose, type and strength of anesthesia, and weight and physical exam findings must be recorded in the patient record.
 - (b) Name of licensed veterinarian performing the surgery must be recorded in the patient record.
 - (c) A surgery table must be used for non-ambulatory procedures. Such table must have an impervious surface suitable for cleaning and disinfecting. The surgical area must be clean, orderly, and well illuminated. If the practitioner does not use a surgery table, the rationale for foregoing its use must be documented within the patient record.
 - (d) All surgery must be performed by a licensed veterinarian utilizing aseptic technique as appropriate for the procedure.
 - (e) Surgical equipment must be sterilized in the following manner:
 1. Cold sterilization must be limited to instruments used in minor procedures or limited to those instruments that cannot be sterilized otherwise.
 2. Surgical instruments other than those applicable to (e)(1). above must be sterilized utilizing autoclave, gas, or any techniques which may be developed in the future that are acceptable to the Board.
 - (f) Oxygen and equipment for administration must be available.
 - (g) For canine and feline patients reasonably expected by the licensed veterinarian to undergo general anesthesia, an endotracheal tube must be utilized as appropriate for the procedure. Such intubation, extubation, and time of anesthesia shall be recorded in the medical record. Where a patient has not been intubated, it shall be documented in the patient record.
 - (h) For patients under general anesthesia, monitoring and vital signs must be recorded in the medical record at intervals as appropriate.
 - (i) Warming devices for patients undergoing general anesthesia are required as appropriate. Where a warming device is not appropriate, it shall be documented in the medical record.
 - (j) Pain management is required for patients undergoing surgical procedures and it shall be documented in the medical record.
 - (k) Facilities and equipment for resuscitation must be readily available as appropriate.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-12-.08

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-50-21\(a\)\(8\)](#), [43-50-90\(a\)](#), [43-50-110](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Surgical Standards" adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2004; eff. Apr. 28, 2004.

Amended: F. Dec. 9, 2022; eff. Dec. 29, 2022.

6. Rule 700-12-.09. Examination Area

The Committee reviewed the comments provided BR 700-12-.09. Examination Area and recommended removing subparagraph (3) from this rule and add language concerning minimum Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards to BR 700-12-.02 Facility Standards. The rationale for this change is that the referenced safety standards are applicable to the entire facility and not just the examination area. No other changes were recommended to BR 700-12-.09. The Committee voted to refer the following recommended amendments to BR 700-12-.09 and 700-12-.02 to the full Board as presented.

Rule 700-12-.09. Examination Area

- (1) A licensed veterinarian employed at a veterinary facility must ensure that the following criteria pertaining to the examination area are met:
 - (a) Area must be maintained in a clean and orderly manner.
 - (b) Impervious waste receptacle must be provided.
 - (c) Disposable towels and a sink must be readily accessible as appropriate. A sink in a restroom is not considered acceptable.
 - (d) The examination table must have an impervious surface suitable for cleaning and disinfecting.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-12-.09

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-50-21\(a\)\(8\)](#), [43-50-41](#), [43-50-90\(a\)](#), [43-50-110](#).

History. Original Rule entitled "Examination Area" adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2004; eff. Apr. 28, 2004.

Amended: F. Dec. 9, 2022; eff. Dec. 29, 2022.

7. Rule 700-12-.02. Facility Standards

Rule 700-12-.02. Facility Standards

- (1) A licensed veterinarian [and veterinary technician](#) employed at a veterinary facility or mobile clinic is responsible to assure that the [minimum Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) safety standards are met, to include but not limited to the following ~~criteria pertaining to facilities are met:~~](#)
 - (a) Facility must maintain appropriate federal, state, and local permits.
 - (b) Facility must be appropriately secured.
 - (c) Facility must be sanitary.
 - (d) Facility must be well ventilated.
 - (e) Facility must be appropriately illuminated.
 - (f) Facility must be in a good state of repair.
 - (g) Facility walls and floors must be easily sanitized.
 - (h) Facility must have means for disposal of dead animals, tissue, hazardous materials, medical waste which must meet local and state requirements.
 - (i) Facility must have exterior legible sign.
 - (j) Facility must keep grounds clean and orderly, if applicable.
 - (k) Facility must have a restroom in working order which is maintained in a clean and orderly manner. Mobile clinics are exempt from this requirement.
 - (l) Facility must have clean and orderly receiving area.
 - (m) Facility must have a telephone answering machine or answering service available after business hours.
 - (n) Facility must have a holding or housing area with proper sanitation, ventilation, lighting, size, and temperature appropriate for the animal species. Each animal must be contained in a secure manner identified as appropriate and any contagious animals must be isolated as appropriate.
 - (o) Facility must have appropriate waste receptacles available.

- (p) Facility must have effective insect and rodent control.
- (q) Facility must store pharmaceuticals, biologicals, reagents and lab samples in accordance with label directions or other instructions.
- (r) Facility must have fire extinguisher with current annual inspection.
- (s) Facility must post in a prominent public area a copy of the current license issued by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine or current online verification of licensure from the Board website for each veterinarian and veterinary technician working at the facility.

(2) A review of compliance with the requirements of this rule must be documented at least annually and be available to the board upon written request.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-12-.02

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-50-21](#), [43-50-55](#), [43-50-90\(a\)](#), [43-50-110](#).

History: Original Rule entitled "Facility Standards" adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2004; eff. Apr. 28, 2004.

Amended: F. Sep. 22, 2014; eff. Oct. 12, 2014.

Amended: F. Mar. 24, 2021; eff. Apr. 13, 2021.

8. Rule 700-12-.11. Patient Care

In reviewing the suggested amendments to Rule 700-12-.11 Patient Care, the Committee entered into a discussion concerning the national standards for comfort and whether a caveat should be added to the rule to allow for those situations where pain management is not appropriate or feasible. The Board referenced the national standards established by the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Anesthesiologists and noted that standard intervals to monitor, observe, and record an anesthetized patient's condition is 5 to 10 minutes. Although the standards is 5 to 10 minute intervals, the Committee opted not to specify the interval within the rule as there may be mitigating circumstances as to why that interval may not always be feasible and what was more important is that the licensees document that they are monitoring the patient in intervals and documenting it. The Committee also felt it was necessary to further define the level of comfort that licensees are expected to achieve when caring for hospitalized patients as well as the need for it to be clear that regardless of who visits a boarded animal, they will be operating under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The Committee recommended to refer the following amendments on BR 700-12-.11. Patient Care to the full Board for review.

Rule 700-12-.11. Patient Care

- (1) For hospitalized or sick patients that are maintained in a veterinary facility, a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician must physically evaluate each patient daily.
 - (a) Patients recovering from anesthesia must be properly monitored and such recovery intervals documented in the medical record.
 - (b) For patients in the hospital, the licensed veterinarian and veterinary technician must have appropriate measures in place to ensure the patient is in a state of physical ease to include but not limited to a clean and orderly location.
- (2) For boarded animals that are maintained in a veterinary facility, a licensed veterinarian or his or her designee, under proper supervision of a licensed veterinarian, must physically visit the facility and see each animal daily.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-12-.11

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-50-21\(a\)\(8\)](#), [43-50-90\(a\)](#), [43-50-110](#).

History: Original Rule entitled "Patient Care" adopted. F. Apr. 8, 2004; eff. Apr. 28, 2004.

Amended: F. Dec. 9, 2022; eff. Dec. 29, 2022.

Adjournment No further business was discussed, and the Committee meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed by: Megan Doss, Licensing Analyst & Adrienne Price, Executive Director

Minutes approved on: June 21, 2023

WILLIAM WRIGHT, DVM
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MATTHEW BRADLEY, DVM
BOARD CHAIRPERSON