

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Rules Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 31, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, Rules Committee, met via WebEx on Tuesday, October 31, 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

**Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

**Committee Members Absent**

No Committee Member absent.

**Attorney General's Office**

No Assistant Attorney General present.

**Visitors Present**

Keri Riddick, DVM, Executive Director, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)  
Call-In User\_2

**Call to Order:** Dr. Wright called the Committee meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** The Committee accepted the agenda as presented.

**Discussion – Board Rules**

**1. Board Rule 700-7-.03. Continuing Veterinary Education**

During the June 21, 2023 meeting of the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, the Board referred Board Rule 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education and Board Rule 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education to the Rules Committee to draft amendments to allow for the acceptance of pre-recorded Georgia laws, rules and professionalism (LEAP) sessions for courses where passage of a post-test is required.

The Committee made the following suggested amendments to Board Rule 700-7-.03. Continuing Veterinary Education for the purpose of allowing ease of access to LEAP CE and providing an opportunity for increased compliance for licensees. The Committee discussed that the policy purpose of the rule amendment is to ensure competent practitioners through the expansion of access to continuing education. The amendments carry out the policy objectives that are expressed in statute by enabling licensed veterinarians to remain competent and cognizant of the laws, rules and standards of professionalism in Georgia.

The Committee considered multiple variations of the rule amendment and determined this is the best choice and least restrictive way in which to accomplish the State's policy as it's the most efficient change for practitioners. The amendments provide the best protection for the public as it is not restrictive and makes obtaining required CE easier for the renewal biennium. The Committee considered how other states are handling this issue. The independent support for the rule amendment stems from comments and input from stakeholders, more specifically Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA), as well as reviewing national American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) standards and allowing for changes in technology.

The rule amendments will affect veterinary medicine practitioners by allowing ease of access to LEAP courses. The recommended amendments may decrease the financial burden on the licensee by allowing more access to pre-recorded content online and potentially decreasing the need to attend large conferences.

There could potentially be a small economic impact on the CE program provider in creating and managing the post-test, as well as in the creation of its questionnaire. Additionally, survey platforms may incur an additional fee for the application of a post-test. This financial impact may be nominal depending on the platform used for quiz testing post-test. Subsequently, the cost of post-test may be

passed on to the licensee which would potentially incur a small economic impact to the person signing up for course. GVMA members would not incur any cost as LEAP CE is included in the membership fee.

**Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education**  
**Georgia Administrative Code**  
**Department 700. RULES OF GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Chapter 700-7. RENEWAL OF LICENSE**

*Current through Rules and Regulations filed through October 16, 2023*

**Rule 700-7-.03. Continuing Veterinary Education**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine in accordance with the provisions of State Law and for the purpose of establishing certain minimum standards for continuing education in the best interest of and for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare hereby adopts the following rule:

(a) General Requirements:

1. Each veterinarian and veterinary faculty member licensed to practice in the State of Georgia must obtain thirty (30) hours of Board approved continuing education per biennium for license renewal.
  - (i) Of the thirty (30) hours required, two (2) per renewal period must be acquired in Georgia laws, rules and professionalism (LEAP). Continuing education hours may be acquired in person, by live interactive webinars or pre-recorded, non-interactive webinars that incorporate measures to ensure active participation throughout the course, to include but not limited a content based post-course test with a minimum of five questions per CE credit. Georgia licensees who do not practice in the State of Georgia are not required to meet the two (2) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism; and
  - (ii) Eighteen (18) of the thirty (30) hours must include scientific subject matter. Scientific subject matter includes all conventional medical and surgical sub-categories that are evidence based in addition to the science of diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease as it relates directly to patients and includes a comprehensive range of the practice of veterinary medicine.
2. At the time of license renewal, each veterinarian shall certify to the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine that he/she has completed the continuing education required for license renewal.
3. Veterinarians and veterinary faculty member licensed during the first year of a biennium must obtain fifteen (15) hours of continuing education and is not required to meet the two (2) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism. Veterinarians and veterinary faculty members licensed during the second year of a biennium is exempt from obtaining continuing education for that renewal period. After this time period, the entire thirty (30) hours is required for each renewal.
4. In the event that a veterinarian or a veterinary faculty member fails to verify or submit documentation of continuing education credits at the same time of renewal of his/her license, the Board will not process his/her renewal until continuing education requirements have been met and proof of such has been received and approved by the Board.
5. If documentation of continuing education is requested in conjunction with any audit and not received by the Board on or before the deadline date provided, the licensee will be subject to disciplinary action.
6. A veterinarian or veterinary faculty member may not carry over continuing education credits from one biennium license renewal period to the next.
7. Each veterinarian or veterinary faculty member must maintain a record of credit hours earned and proof of attendance of such hours for a period of three years from the date of the preceding renewal period and must provide the Board with said documentation upon request.
8. Veterinarians or veterinary faculty members who attend programs where more than one course is taught must maintain proof of the courses attended and the number of hours awarded for each course.

(b) Approved Continuing Education Programs and Hours:

1. Blanket approval is awarded to any National, State and International veterinary association meetings, United States Department of Agriculture and Georgia Department of Agriculture sponsored meeting, Board Certified Specialties programs recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, all AVMA accredited veterinary college or school sponsored classes and programs, all AAVSB RACE approved programs, any GVMA constituent organization programs, AAHA programs, programs sponsored by the United States or Southern Animal Health Association and any course approved by another state board.
2. Blanket approval does not apply to any continuing education programs on Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism (LEAP).
  - a. All LEAP courses and any other (non-LEAP) continuing education course which is not offered by a blanket approved organization must be awarded Board approval before the course is offered.
  - b. If the LEAP course is a pre-recorded, non-interactive webinar, the provider must ensure that a passing score of 80% is achieved on the content-based post course test before awarding credit for the course.
3. Providers may be awarded Board approval for a continuing education course by submitting the following for consideration by the Board:
  - (i) A continuing education application form;
  - (ii) A detailed course outline or syllabus;
  - (iii) A current curriculum vitae or resume must be provided for each speaker or lecturer;
  - (iv) The procedure to be used for recording attendance; and,
  - (v) The number of continuing education hours for which the course sponsor requests approval.
4. In addition to the LEAP requirements, the remaining credit hours may be earned as follows:
  - (i) One (1) hour may be given for each 50 minutes of contact time. Seminars are composed of lectures or labs; welcoming remarks, business sessions, unstructured demonstrations or degree programs are not considered seminars.
  - (ii) Three (3) hours can be for journal studies where follow-up testing is required. Fifteen (15) hours of interactive computer-generated courses will be allowed. Follow-up testing is required.
  - (iii) A maximum of twelve (12) hours will be allowed per calendar day.
  - (iv) A maximum of six (6) hours for veterinarians can be acquired through in house training at the licensee's place of employment.
  - (v) A maximum of ten (10) hours can be acquired through in-house training for veterinary faculty at AVMA accredited institutions. For the purposes of this rule, "in house training" refers to programs that are only offered to employees of the institution.
  - (vi) A maximum of three (3) hours can be acquired by licensees who conducted peer reviews for the Board.
  - (vii) Two (2) hours of continuing education credit per lecture for a subject area, regardless of the number of times the licensee presents the course, for a maximum of five different subjects.

(c) Continuing Education Audit:

1. During the renewal period, the Board staff will randomly select a percentage of its licensees to audit for continuing education compliance.

2. If selected for continuing education audit, each licensee must submit continuing education records to meet the renewal requirements for that license renewal period.
- (d) Provider and Sponsor Criteria: All providers and sponsors must provide the following information to the Board if they have not been awarded blanket approval:
1. Each sponsor or provider shall have an administrator whose responsibility is to maintain the criteria for quality in programming.
  2. Providers shall use qualified personnel to develop and present the programs, which shall utilize appropriate instructional materials and resources.
  3. Providers shall provide to the Board adequate advanced promotional information, material about target audiences, program content, faculty credentials and fees.
  4. Providers shall provide a means of registration of the participants at each program and maintain a record of attendance for a period of three years from the date of the program.
  5. Providers shall develop policies and procedures for the management of grievances.
  6. Providers shall provide each participant with adequate documentation of his/her successful completion of the program. The documentation shall include:
    - (i) Name and license number of participant;
    - (ii) Name of provider;
    - (iii) Name and title of program to include the date and time each individual course was offered;
    - (iv) Hours/CEU's completed;
    - (v) Date of completion; and
    - (vi) Authorizing signature.
  7. All continuing education providers seeking approval of the continuing education program by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary shall submit a current Program Approval Form for each program presented to include all program materials requested. These forms must be complete and should be submitted 60 days in advance in order to be considered by the Board.

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-7-.03**

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-50-21](#), [43-50-40](#), [43-50-52](#); [43-50-110](#).

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Continuing Veterinary Education" was filed November 4, 1988; effective November 24, 1988.

**Amended:** F. Dec. 19, 1990; eff. Jan. 8, 1991.

**Amended:** F. Jun. 20, 1997; eff. July 10, 1997.

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

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Feb. 6, 2005; eff. Feb. 26, 2005.

**Amended:** F. Aug. 24, 2007; eff. Sept. 13, 2007.

**Amended:** F. Sept. 2, 2008; eff. Sept. 22, 2008.

**Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. Aug. 12, 2010; eff. Sept. 1, 2010.

**Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. Jun. 19, 2012; eff. July 9, 2012.

**Amended:** F. Nov. 5, 2014; eff. Nov. 25, 2014.

**Amended:** F. May 26, 2017; eff. June 15, 2017.

**Amended:** F. Mar. 16, 2018; eff. Apr. 5, 2018.

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

## **2. Board Rule 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education**

The Committee made the following suggested amendment to 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education increasing the number of CE hours necessary to meet renewal requirements which increases knowledge-based learning and compliance for licensees. The Committee discussed that the policy purpose of the rule amendment prohibits/prevents unsafe practices and/or fraud by ensuring increasing knowledge thus increasing patient safety and public protection. It ensures competent practitioners by educating them on the rules and laws for veterinary technicians in the state of Georgia. The rule amendment expands access to continuing education courses by allowing veterinary technicians to obtain CE Hours in-person, via interactive webinar or pre-recorded content. The amendments carry out policy objectives that are expressed in a statute by enabling the licensed veterinarian technicians to remain competent and cognizant of the laws, rules and standards of professionalism in Georgia.

The rule amendment will affect veterinary technicians licensed in the state of Georgia by adding one (1) hour CE to existing CE requirements. The Committee considered multiple variations of the rule amendment and determined this is the best choice and least restrictive way in which to accomplish the State's policy as it's the most efficient change for practitioners which provides the best protection for the public as the rule amendment is not restrictive and makes obtaining required CE easier for the renewal biennium. The Committee also took into consideration how other states are handling this issue. The independent support for the rule amendment stems from comments and input from stakeholders, more specifically Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA), Georgia Veterinary Technician and Assistant Association (GVTAA), as well as reviewing national American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) standards and allowing for changes in technology.

The rule amendment will affect veterinary technician practitioners by allowing ease of access to LEAP courses. The recommended amendments may decrease the financial burden on the licensee by allowing more access to pre-recorded content and potentially decreasing the need to attend large conferences. There could be a small economic impact may be on the CE program provider in creating and managing the post test, as well as in the creation of its questionnaire. Additionally, survey platforms may charge. This financial impact may be nominal depending on the platform used for quiz testing post-test. Subsequently, the cost of post-test may be passed on to the licensee which would potentially incur a small economic impact to the person signing up for course.

### **Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education**

#### **Georgia Administrative Code**

#### **Department 700. RULES OF GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

#### **Chapter 700-7. RENEWAL OF LICENSE**

*Current through Rules and Regulations filed through October 16, 2023*

#### **Rule 700-7-.04. Veterinary Technician Continuing Education**

Effective January 1, 2010, the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine in accordance with the provisions of State Law and for the purpose of establishing certain minimum standards for continuing education in the best interest of and for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare hereby adopts the following rule:

**(a) General Requirements:**

1. Each veterinary technician licensed to practice in the State of Georgia must obtain eleven (11) hours of Board approved continuing education per biennium for license renewal. Of the eleven (11) hours required, one (1) per renewal period must be acquired in Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism (LEAP). Continuing education hours may be in person, live interactive webinars, or pre-recorded non-interactive webinars that incorporate measures to ensure active participation throughout the course, to include but not limited a content based post-course test with a minimum of five questions per CE credit. Georgia licensees who do not practice in the State of Georgia are not required to meet the one (1) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism.
2. At the time of license renewal, each veterinary technician shall certify to the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine that he/she has completed the continuing education required for license renewal.
3. A veterinary technician licensed during the first year of a biennium must obtain five (5) hours of continuing education and is not required to meet the one (1) hour requirement in Georgia laws, rules, and professionalism. A veterinary

technician licensed during the second year of a biennium is exempt from obtaining continuing education for that renewal period. After this time period, the entire ten (10) hours is required for each renewal.

4. In the event that a veterinary technician fails to verify or submit documentation of continuing education credits at the same time of renewal of his/her license, the Board will not process his/her renewal until continuing education requirements have been met and proof of such has been received and approved by the Board. If documentation of continuing education is requested and not received by the Board prior to the expiration date, the license will expire.
5. A veterinary technician may not carry over continuing education credits from one biennium license renewal period to the next.
6. Each veterinary technician must maintain a record of credit hours earned and proof of attendance of such hours for a period of three years from the date of the preceding renewal period and must provide the Board with said documentation upon request.
7. Veterinary technicians who attend programs where more than one course is taught must maintain proof of the courses attended and the number of hours awarded for each course.

(b) Approved Continuing Education Programs and Hours:

1. Blanket approval is awarded to any National, State and International veterinary association meetings, United States Department of Agriculture and Georgia Department of Agriculture sponsored meeting, Board Certified Specialties programs recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, all AVMA accredited veterinary college or school sponsored classes and programs, all AAASB RACE approved programs, any GVMA constituent organization programs, AAHA programs, programs sponsored by the United State or Southern Animal Health Association and any course approved by another state board. Blanket approval does not apply to any continuing education programs on Georgia laws, rules and professionalism.
2. All continuing education courses on Georgia laws, rules and professionalism (LEAP) or any continuing education course which is not offered by a blanket approved organization must be awarded Board approval. If the LEAP course is a pre-recorded, non-interactive webinar, the provider must ensure that a passing score of 80% is achieved on the content-based post course test before awarding credit for the course.

Providers may be awarded Board approval for a continuing education course by submitting the following:

3.
  - (i) A continuing education application form;
  - (ii) A detailed course outline or syllabus;
  - (iii) A current curriculum must be provided for each speaker or lecturer;
  - (iv) The procedure to be used for recording attendance;
  - (v) The number of continuing education hours for which the course sponsor requests approval.
4. Of the required eleven (11) hours of continuing education, a minimum of 8 hours must be in scientific subject matter to include the science of treatments, interventions, and disease prevention as it relates to the patients. The remaining 2 hours may be on scientific subject matter or non-medical content. These hours may be earned as follows:
  - (i) One (1) hour may be given for each 50 minutes of contact time. Seminars are composed of lectures or labs; welcoming remarks, business sessions, unstructured demonstrations or degree programs are not considered seminars.
  - (ii) Not more than four (4) hours can be obtained from veterinary journal studies or interactive computer-generated courses where follow-up testing is required.

- (iii) A maximum of three (3) hours for veterinary technicians can be acquired through in house training at the licensees' place of employment.
- (iv) A maximum of five (5) hours can be acquired through in house training for veterinary technicians at AVMA accredited institutions.

(c) Continuing Education Audit:

1. During the renewal period, the Board staff will randomly select up to 25% of its licensees to audit for continuing education compliance. If selected for continuing education audit, each licensee must submit continuing education records to meet the renewal requirements for that license renewal period.

(d) Provider and Sponsor Criteria: All providers and sponsors must provide the following information to the Board if they have not been awarded blanket approval:

1. Each sponsor or provider shall have an administrator whose responsibility is to maintain the criteria for quality in programming.
2. Providers shall use qualified personnel to develop and present the programs, which shall utilize appropriate instructional materials and resources.
3. Providers shall provide to the Board adequate advanced promotional information, material about target audiences, program content, faculty credentials and fees.
4. Providers shall provide a means of registration of the participants at each program and maintain a record of attendance for a period of three years from the date of the program.
5. Providers shall develop policies and procedures for the management of grievances.
6. Providers shall provide each participant with adequate documentation of his/her successful completion of the program.

The documentation shall include:

- (i) Name and license number of participant;
  - (ii) Name of provider;
  - (iii) Name and title of program;
  - (iv) Hours/CEU's completed;
  - (v) Date of completion; and
  - (vi) Authorizing signature.
7. All continuing education providers seeking approval of the continuing education program by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary shall submit a Program Approval Form for each program presented. These forms should be submitted 60 days in advance.

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 700-7-.04**

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-50-2](#), [43-50-21](#), [43-50-40](#), [43-50-52](#).

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Veterinary Technician Continuing Education" adopted. F. Sept. 2, 2008; eff. Sept. 22, 2008.

**Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. Aug. 12, 2010; eff. Sept. 1, 2010.

**Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. Jun. 19, 2012; eff. July 9, 2012.

**Amended:** F. Nov. 5, 2014; eff. Nov. 25, 2014.

**Amended:** F. Apr. 13, 2017; eff. May 3, 2017.

**Amended:** F. Mar. 16, 2018; eff. Apr. 5, 2018.

The Committee recommended to refer Board Rule 700-7-.03 Continuing Veterinary Education and Board Rule 700-7-.04 Veterinary Technician Continuing Education to the full Board to review their rule amendments during the December 13, 2023 WebEx meeting.

### **3. Board Rule 700-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct**

During the June 21, 2023 Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, the Board referred Board Rule 700-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct to the Rules Committee to discuss allowing for the establishment of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) that covers the entire veterinary facility).

After much discussion, the Committee recommends notifying the Board that an amendment to the “Veterinarian-client-patient relationship” (VCPR), as defined in the Georgia Veterinary Practice Act, would be required in order to amend board rules to extend the VCPR to all licensees within the same veterinary facility as recommended within the AAVSB *Model Regulations for Establishment and Maintenance of the VCPR*.

#### **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.

**Miscellaneous Discussion**

Dr. Wright reported having spoken to Commissioner Tyler Harper at the GVMA Baby Barn (an event that demonstrates and teaches about the birthing process and the importance of animal agriculture and veterinary science). Commissioner Harper reported that the Georgia Department of Agriculture has reinstalled the policy arm that enforces action against those practicing veterinary medicine

without a license. Commissioner Harper stated that stopping these practices is a matter that is near and dear to his heart and since the powers of the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine do not extend beyond issuing a Cease-and-Desist Order, the Board can refer those matters to the new Director of Law Enforcement, Inspector General, Harlan Proveaux to enforce action. He further stated that if the Board cannot reach Mr. Proveaux, feel free to contact him.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed, and the Committee meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed by:** Megan Doss, Licensing Analyst & Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** December 13, 2023

WILLIAM WRIGHT, DVM  
**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

WILLIAM WRIGHT, DVM  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**