

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-12 MINIMUM STANDARDS
BOARD RULE 700-12-.02 FACILITY STANDARDS, BOARD RULE 700-12-.04
RECORD KEEPING, BOARD RULE 700-12-.08 SURGICAL STANDARDS
AND BOARD RULE 700-12-.11 PATIENT CARE
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**RULE 700-12-.02. FACILITY STANDARDS
RULE 700-12-.04. RECORD KEEPING
RULE 700-12-.08. SURGICAL STANDARDS
RULE 700-12-.11. PATIENT CARE**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine (hereinafter “Board”) proposes amendments to Board Rule Chapter 700-12 Minimum Standards, Board Rules 700-12-.02 Facility Standards, 700-12-.04 Record Keeping, 700-12-.08 Surgical Standards, and 700-12-.11 Patient Care (herein after “proposed rule(s)”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule(s), and a synopsis of the proposed rule(s) are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule(s), and a synopsis of the proposed rule(s) may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 3920 Arkwright Road, Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at <https://sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-board-veterinary-medicine-rules-and-laws>. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule(s) at a public hearing to be held at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, via Webex. Please see Board’s website for information on how to join the hearing.

Interested parties affected by the proposed rule(s) may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Todd Zandrowicz, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, 3920 Arkwright Road, Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210. Written comments may be emailed to PLB-Healthcare2@sos.ga.gov.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

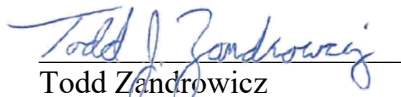
The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meetings on February 10, 2021, February 8, 2023, June 21, 2023, October 15, 2024, and February 11, 2026. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of these proposed rule(s) does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule(s) cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-41, 43-50-55, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-41, 43-50-55, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these proposed rule(s) will impact every licensee in the same manner, and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of veterinary medicine.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine has the authority to adopt the proposed rule(s) pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-41, 43-50-55, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 3rd day of March, 2026.



Todd Zandrowicz

Division Director

Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: 03.03.2026

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-12 MINIMUM STANDARDS,
BOARD RULE 700-12-.02 FACILITY STANDARDS**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed amendment is to prohibit and prevent unsafe practices, carry out policy objectives that are expressed in a statute, and remove information asymmetries for licensees and the public by adding language concerning minimum Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards to this rule as those standards are most relevant to and appropriate for review while maintaining federal, state, and local standards for veterinary facilities. The rule amendments further ensure patient, licensee, and public safety, health, and welfare by making it clear that the minimum national standards outlined within the rule should remain in compliance and such compliance must be reviewed and documented at the facility at least annually and be provided to the Board upon written request.

Rule 700-12-.02. Facility Standards

- (1) A licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician employed at a veterinary facility or mobile clinic is responsible to assure that the following standards created to conform with the current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards are met, but not be 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.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-55, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-12 MINIMUM STANDARDS,
BOARD RULE 700-12-.04 RECORD KEEPING**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed amendment is to ensure continuity of care for patients in the event of untimely demise or incapacitation of the treating veterinarian. This will carry out policy objectives that are expressed in a statute and are in alignment with the patient rights act. Independent support for their recommendations came from other state boards, the medical board, state bar association, and independent support from constituents.

Rule 700-12-.04 Record Keeping

- (1) Complete, accurate and legible records must be maintained on all animals, or animal groups, including but not limited to, animal owner information, animal identification, and veterinary care (hereinafter referred to as "patient records").
 - (a) All patient records must be maintained for a minimum of 3 years from the patient's last office visit (including diagnostic imaging and other patient data) by the veterinary facility where the patient received treatment. If treatment is not performed at a veterinary facility, a patient record must be maintained by the veterinarian who provided treatment of the patient.
 - (b) The veterinarian must furnish clients with an established mailing address for obtaining patient records.
 - (c) The requirements of subparagraphs (a) shall not apply to a veterinarian who has retired or sold his or her professional practice if said veterinarian has notified the client of such retirement or sale and offered to provide the patient records or copies thereof to another veterinarian of the client's choice or has furnished the client with an established mailing address to submit a request for obtaining patient records.
- (2) Each licensed veterinarian must execute and maintain record of an agreement naming an executor, administrator, or temporary administrator who shall be responsible for maintaining patient records for a period of six months from the date a veterinary facility closes or a licensed veterinarian dies, is incarcerated, or is no longer able to practice due to substantial impairment by reason of mental incompetence, illness or the use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material. Such agreement shall:

- (a) Provide the name of the executor, administrator, or temporary administrator, the address where the records will be maintained, a phone number, and an email address and an acknowledgement that this information will be shared with the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine and posted in the veterinary facility;
 - (b) Grant the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine permission to post the contact information for the executor, administrator, or temporary administrator on the Board's website for a period of six months from the date of occurrence for public access;
 - (c) Hold the executor, administrator, or temporary administrator responsible for notifying clients of the basis for their possession of the records and how the records may be obtained; and
 - (d) Entitle the executor, administrator, or temporary administrator to release any information contained in the files and records to the client, with an acknowledgement of receipt from the client for the record, and to charge a reasonable fee to reimburse their cost to mail or produce the records to the client.
- (3) On the 2026 renewal application and each renewal application thereafter, licensed veterinarians will be required to provide the name, address, contact number and email address for the executor, administrator, or temporary administrator who is identified in the executed agreement as being responsible for the maintenance of patient records when the licensed veterinarian is no longer able.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21 and 43-50-41.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-12 MINIMUM STANDARDS,
BOARD RULE 700-12-.08 SURGICAL STANDARDS**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed amendment is to carry out policy objectives that are expressed in a statute and clarify the minimum surgical standards for licensed veterinarians and facilities.

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 other 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. For patients under general anesthesia for more than five minutes an endotracheal tube must be utilized as appropriate for the procedure.

- (h) For patients under general anesthesia, monitoring and vital signs must be recorded in the medical record at intervals as appropriate in accordance with minimal standards.
- (i) Warming devices for patients undergoing general anesthesia ~~is~~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.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-12 MINIMUM STANDARDS,
BOARD RULE 700-12-.11 PATIENT CARE**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed amendment is to be consistent with national standards established by the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Anesthesiologists by ensuring licensees understand the need to monitor and observe hospitalized and sick patients at intervals consistent with the animal species and document the assessments within the medical record. Although the standard for some animals is 5-to-10-minute intervals, the Board did not specify that interval within the rule to allow for mitigating circumstances which minimize the feasibility of monitoring at that interval. The language of the rule establishes the importance of licensees documenting that they are monitoring the patient at intervals appropriate for that animal to ensure patient safety. The rule amendment further defines 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 whereas a veterinarian may delegate the task of monitoring the patient animal to a designee, the veterinarian is ultimately responsible for supervising the care they provide. The amendments further clarify the regulatory designators authorized by the statute and rules to ensure that persons are using the proper terminology when referencing veterinary technicians and their scope of practice.

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 ~~hospitalized and sick~~ 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-comfort 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.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110.

RULES
OF
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
CHAPTER 700-12
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Rule 700-12-.02 Facility Standards

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- (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.
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 - (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.
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 - (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.
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- (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.

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 - (b) The veterinarian must furnish clients with an established mailing address for obtaining patient records.
 - (c) The requirements of subparagraphs (a) shall not apply to a veterinarian who has retired or sold his or her professional practice if said veterinarian has notified the client of such retirement or sale and offered to provide the patient records or copies thereof to another veterinarian of the client's choice or has furnished the client with an established mailing address to submit a request for obtaining patient records.
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- (c) Hold the executor, administrator, or temporary administrator responsible for notifying clients of the basis for their possession of the records and how the records may be obtained; and
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 - (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.

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- (j) Pain management is required for patients undergoing surgical procedures and it shall be documented in the medical record.
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Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-50-21, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110.

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- (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.

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