

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA
STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-8 UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT,
BOARD RULE 700-8-.01 UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RULE 700-8-.01. Unprofessional Conduct

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 700-8 Unprofessional Conduct, Board Rule 700-8-.01 Unprofessional Conduct (hereinafter “proposed rule”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule 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, and a synopsis of the proposed rule 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, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. 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 at a public hearing to be held at **9:30 a.m., June 4, 2025**, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

Interested parties affected by the proposed rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **May 28, 2025**. 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, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The 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, August 25, 2021, May 10, 2023, June 21, 2023, April 29, 2024, June 26, 2024, and August 21, 2024. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this proposed rule does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§

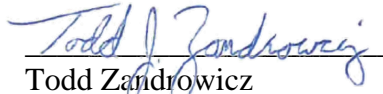
43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-50-3, 43-50-21, 43-50-41, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-50-3, 43-50-21, 43-50-41, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of this proposed rule 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 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-50-3, 43-50-21, 43-50-41, 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 24th day of April, 2025.



Todd Zandrowicz
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: April 24, 2025

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 700-8 UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT,
BOARD RULE 700-8-.01 UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed amendment is to address concerns posed by the public on the impact of the rule on veterinarians who work with kennels, rescues and wild, exotic or non-traditional companion animals. The proposed amendments further define and clarify the information that should be recorded in the patient record as well as clarify the timeframe during which the Board would expect a veterinarian to respond to a request of the Board.

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

~~Within the meaning of Ga. Code subsection 43-50-21(a)(7), u~~Unprofessional conduct means shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (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 or boarded.
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 for each examination;
- (ix) Clinical lab reports, if applicable;
- (x) Medication prescribed or recommended and treatment, including dose, strength, and frequency;
- (xi) Anesthetic, including dose, strength, type, and amount and monitoring of vital signs at frequent intervals, if applicable;
- (xii) Details of surgical procedure including with complications and/or abnormalities noted with documentation of suture materials used, if applicable;
- (xiii) Progress and disposition of the case to include client communications and copies of any written instructions for home care;
- (xiv) Differential diagnoses; and
- (xv) ~~X-rays if applicable~~ Radiographs to include radiographic interpretations.

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. A veterinarian shall respond to an inquiry by the Board within fifteen (15) days and/or provide the Board with evidence that requested records have been released to the client.
 7. 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) ~~a~~An examination of the animal by the veterinarian within the last twelve (12) months, or
 - (ii) ~~m~~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:
 - (I) In person medically necessary examinations; or,
 - (II) 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,

(III) 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.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-1-25, 43-50-3, 43-50-21, 43-50-41, 43-50-90 and 43-50-110.

RULES
OF
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UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
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