

VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD[811]

Notice of Intended Action

**Proposing rule making related to veterinarian/client/patient relationships
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Board of Veterinary Medicine hereby proposes to amend Chapter 1, “Description of Organization and Definitions,” and Chapter 12, “Standards of Practice,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 169.5.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 169.5.

Purpose and Summary

Some of the requirements for a veterinarian/client/patient relationship (VCPR), including a veterinarian’s responsibilities in an emergency setting, were previously set forth in the American Veterinary Medical Association’s document, referenced in the rules, titled Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics. The Board removed references to the document and adopted its own ethics rules in a separate rule making, **ARC 6212C**, IAB 2/23/22, which became effective on March 30, 2022. The rule requires a VCPR before a veterinarian may provide medical care or prescribe medications to a patient.

The Board adopted additional amendments to the VCPR requirements on December 30, 2021, in **ARC 6171C**, IAB 2/9/22, which require a physical examination of the patient or visits to the premises within the past 12 months to establish a VCPR. The Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC), at its March 7, 2022, meeting, delayed the effective date of that rule making by 70 days from April 1, 2022, to June 10, 2022.

This rule making addresses public comments made during these previous two rule makings and at Board meetings. Currently, a VCPR is established when three criteria are met. This rule making clarifies and addresses the responsibilities of veterinarians who provide services in an emergency setting, which were previously explained in the rule-referenced document. This rule making defines “emergency,” “physical examination,” and “premises.” It also clarifies and revises two of the criteria to allow a VCPR for groups of animals and allows a licensed veterinarian with a VCPR to designate another licensed veterinarian to consult or provide back-up care. This rule making establishes an applicability date to avoid retroactive application of the 12-month requirement as required in **ARC 6171C**.

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Board for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 811—Chapter 14.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Board no later than 4:30 p.m. on August 2, 2022. Comments should be directed to:

Colin Tadlock
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Building
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.281.7808
Email: colin.tadlock@iowaagriculture.gov

Public Hearing

No public hearing is scheduled at this time. As provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b,” an oral presentation regarding this rule making may be demanded by 25 interested persons, a governmental subdivision, the Administrative Rules Review Committee, an agency, or an association having 25 or more members.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee’s meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Emergency Rule Making Adopted by Reference

This proposed rule making is also published herein as an Adopted and Filed Emergency rule making (see **ARC 6397C**, IAB 7/13/22). The purpose of this Notice of Intended Action is to solicit public comment on that emergency rule making, whose subject matter is hereby adopted by reference.