

VETERINARY MEDICINE BOARD[811]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing rulemaking related to public records and fair information practices and providing an opportunity for public comment

The Board of Veterinary Medicine hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 5, “Public Records and Fair Information Practices,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

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

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 17A, 22, 169 and 252J.

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking updates the Board’s public records and fair information practice rules by removing outdated or redundant provisions that are covered by statute.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

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

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking 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 or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written or oral comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Board no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 29, 2024. 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: 515.518.7609
Email: colin.tadlock@iowaagriculture.gov

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

February 29, 2024
10 a.m.

Second Floor Boardroom
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa

March 8, 2024
10 a.m.

Second Floor Boardroom
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Board and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking 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).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 811—Chapter 5 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 5
PUBLIC RECORDS AND FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICES

The board of veterinary medicine hereby adopts, with the following exceptions and amendments, the Uniform Rules on Agency Procedure relating to fair information practices, which are published at www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/Rules/Current/UniformRules.pdf on the general assembly's website, with the addition of new rules 811—5.9(17A,22) through 811—5.16(17A,22).

811—5.1(17A,22) Definitions. In lieu of “(official or body issuing these rules)”, insert “board of veterinary medicine”.

811—5.3(17A,22) Requests for access to records.

5.3(1) Location of record. In lieu of “(insert agency head)”, insert “state veterinarian as secretary of the board of veterinary medicine”. In lieu of “(insert agency name and address)”, insert “Board of Veterinary Medicine, State Veterinarian, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0053”.

5.3(2) Office hours. In lieu of the parenthetical statement, insert “8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays”.

5.3(7) Fees.

a. When charged. To the extent permitted by applicable provisions of law, the payment of fees may be waived when the imposition of fees is inequitable or when a waiver is in the public interest.

c. Supervisory fee. In lieu of “(specify time period)”, insert “one-half hour”.

811—5.6(17A,22) Procedure by which additions, dissents, or objections may be entered into certain records. In lieu of “(designate office)”, insert “the board of veterinary medicine”.

811—5.9(17A,22) Disclosures without the consent of the subject.

5.9(1) Open records are routinely disclosed without the consent of the subject.

5.9(2) To the extent allowed by law, disclosure of confidential records may occur without the consent of the subject. Following are instances where disclosure, if lawful, will generally occur without notice to the subject:

- a. For a routine use as defined in rule 811—5.10(17A,22) or in any notice for a particular record system.
- b. To a recipient who has provided the agency with advance written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record, provided that the record is transferred in a form that does not identify the subject.
- c. To another government agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if an authorized representative of such government agency or instrumentality has submitted a written request to the agency specifying the record desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record is sought.
- d. To an individual pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of any individual if a notice of the disclosure is transmitted to the last known address of the subject.
- e. To the legislative services agency under Iowa Code section 2A.3.
- f. Disclosures in the course of employee disciplinary proceedings.
- g. In response to a court order or subpoena.

811—5.10(17A,22) Routine use.

5.10(1) “Routine use” means the disclosure of a record without the consent of the subject or subjects, for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which the record was collected. It includes disclosures required to be made by statute other than the public records law, Iowa Code chapter 22.

5.10(2) To the extent allowed by law, the following uses are considered routine uses of all agency records:

- a. Disclosure to those officers, employees, and agents of the agency who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties. The custodian of the record may, upon request of any officer or employee, or on the custodian’s own initiative, determine what constitutes legitimate need to use confidential records.
- b. Disclosure of information indicating an apparent violation of the law to appropriate law enforcement authorities for investigation and possible criminal prosecution, civil court action, or regulatory order.
- c. Disclosure to the department of inspections and appeals for matters in which it is performing services or functions on behalf of the agency.
- d. Transfers of information within the agency, to other state agencies, or to local units of government as appropriate to administer the program for which the information is collected.
- e. Information released to staff of federal and state entities for audit purposes or for purposes of determining whether the agency is operating a program lawfully.
- f. Any disclosure specifically authorized by the statute under which the record was collected or maintained.

811—5.11(17A,22) Consensual disclosure of confidential records.

5.11(1) *Consent to disclosure by a subject individual.* To the extent permitted by law, the subject may consent in writing to agency disclosure of confidential records as provided in rule 811—5.7(17A,22).

5.11(2) *Complaints to public officials.* A letter from a subject of a confidential record to a public official that seeks the official’s intervention on behalf of the subject in a matter that involves the agency may, to the extent permitted by law, be treated as an authorization to release sufficient information about the subject to the official to resolve the matter.

811—5.12(17A,22) Release to subject.

5.12(1) A written request to review confidential records may be filed by the subject of the record as provided in rule 811—5.6(17A,22). The agency need not release the following records to the subject:

- a. The identity of a person providing information to the agency need not be disclosed directly or indirectly to the subject of the information when the information is authorized to be held confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(18) or other provision of law.

b. Records need not be disclosed to the subject when they are the work product of an attorney or are otherwise privileged.

c. Peace officers' investigative reports may be withheld from the subject, except as required by Iowa Code section 22.7(5).

d. Any others authorized by law.

5.12(2) Where a record has multiple subjects with interest in the confidentiality of the record, the agency may take reasonable steps to protect confidential information relating to another subject.

811—5.13(17A,22) Availability of records.

5.13(1) *Open records.* Agency records are open for public inspection and copying unless otherwise provided by rule or law.

5.13(2) *Confidential records.* The following records may be withheld from public inspection. Records are listed by category, according to the legal basis for withholding them from public inspection:

a. Sealed bids received prior to the time set for public opening of bids. (Iowa Code section 72.3)

b. Tax records made available to the agency. (Iowa Code sections 422.20 and 422.72)

c. Records that are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7.

d. Minutes of closed meetings of a government body. (Iowa Code section 21.5(4))

e. Identifying details in final orders, decisions and opinions to the extent required to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or trade secrets under Iowa Code section 17A.3(1) "d."

f. Those portions of agency staff manuals, instructions or other statements issued that set forth criteria or guidelines to be used by agency staff in circumstances authorized by Iowa Code sections 17A.2 and 17A.3.

g. Records that constitute attorney work product, constitute attorney-client communications, or are otherwise privileged. Attorney work product is confidential under Iowa Code sections 22.7(4), 622.10 and 622.11, Iowa R.C.P. 122(c), Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3), and case law. Attorney-client communications are confidential under Iowa Code sections 622.10 and 622.11, the rules of evidence, the Code of Professional Responsibility, and case law.

h. Any other records considered confidential by law.

5.13(3) *Authority to release confidential records.* The agency may have discretion to disclose some confidential records that are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7 or other law. Any person may request permission to inspect records withheld from inspection under a statute that authorizes limited or discretionary disclosure as provided in rule 811—5.4(17A,22). If the agency initially determines that it will release such records, the agency may, where appropriate, notify interested parties and withhold the records from inspection as provided in subrule 5.4(3).

811—5.14(17A,22) Personally identifiable information. The agency maintains systems of records that contain personally identifiable information. Unless otherwise stated, the authority for this agency to maintain the record is provided by Iowa Code chapter 169. The record systems maintained by the agency are:

5.14(1) *Personnel files.* Employees of the agency are employed through the department of agriculture and land stewardship. Through the department of agriculture and land stewardship, the agency maintains files containing information about employees, families and dependents, and applicants for positions with the agency. The files include payroll records, biographical information, medical information relating to disability, performance reviews and evaluations, disciplinary information, information required for tax withholding, information concerning employee benefits, affirmative action reports, and other information concerning the employer-employee relationship. Some of this information is confidential under Iowa Code section 22.7(11).

5.14(2) *Litigation files.* These files or records contain information regarding litigation or anticipated litigation, which include judicial and administrative proceedings. The records include briefs, depositions, docket sheets, documents, correspondence, attorneys' notes, memoranda, research materials, witness information, investigation materials, information compiled under the direction of the attorney, and case management records. The files contain materials that are confidential as attorney work product and

attorney-client communications. Some materials are confidential under other applicable provisions of law or because of a court order. Persons seeking copies of pleadings and other documents filed in litigation should obtain these from the clerk of the appropriate court that maintains the official copy.

5.14(3) *Contested case matters.* These records are collected and maintained pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.3(1)“d,” 17A.3(2), and 17A.12, and the Iowa Code sections noted in subrule 5.14(4). Contested case matters include all pleadings, motions, briefs, orders, transcripts, exhibits, and physical evidence utilized in the resolution of the matter, and may, unless released by the credential holder, be confidential as stated in subrule 5.14(4). These records are primarily maintained in paper copy, with some material generated or maintained in a data processing system.

5.14(4) *Credential records.* Under Iowa Code chapter 169, the board regulates by license veterinarians, and regulates by certificate veterinary technicians, assistants and veterinary students, and regulates by temporary permit veterinarians credentialed under Iowa Code section 169.11 and rule 811—9.1(169). Credential records include, but are not limited to, information identifying the credential holder by name or code, location, and form of business entity, including the names of corporate principals. These records may include examinations, complaints, compliance activities and investigatory reports that are confidential. These records may include confidential information protected from disclosure under Iowa Code sections 22.7, 169.6 and 272.6. These records are maintained jointly with the department of agriculture and land stewardship. These records are primarily maintained in paper copy, with some material generated or maintained in a data processing system.

5.14(5) *Laboratory reports.* In furtherance of licensure and certification regulation under subrule 5.14(4), the board may procure laboratory reports consisting of analytical results of samples. These records may include confidential information protected from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7(3), 22.7(6), or 22.7(18), as well as those provisions stated in subrule 5.14(4). These records are primarily maintained in paper copy, with some material generated or maintained in a data processing system. These records are identified by the name or code of the subject of the investigation.

811—5.15(17A,22) Other groups of records. Other groups of records are maintained by the agency other than the records defined in rule 811—5.1(17A,22). These records are routinely available to the public. However, the agency’s files of these records may contain confidential information as discussed in rule 811—5.13(17A,22). The records listed may contain information about individuals.

5.15(1) *Administrative records.* This includes documents concerning budget, property inventory, purchasing, yearly reports, office policies for employees, time sheets, printing and supply requisitions.

5.15(2) *Publications.* The office receives a number of books, periodicals, newsletters, government documents, etc. These materials would generally be open to the public but may be protected by copyright law. Most publications of general interest are available in the state law library.

5.15(3) *Rulemaking records.* Rulemaking records may contain information about individuals making written or oral comments on proposed rules. This information is collected pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.4. This information is available for public inspection.

5.15(4) *Board records.* Agendas, minutes, and materials prepared or maintained by the board are available from the office, except those records concerning closed sessions that are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 21.5 or that are otherwise confidential by law. Board records contain information about people who participate in meetings. This information is collected pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.3. This information is not stored on an automated data processing system.

5.15(5) *Other records.* All other records that are not exempted from disclosure by law.

811—5.16(17A,22) Data processing systems. None of the data processing systems used by the agency permit the comparison of personally identifiable information in one record system with personally identifiable information in another record system.

811—5.17(169,252J,272D) Release of confidential licensing information for collection purposes. Notwithstanding any statutory confidentiality provision, the board may share information with the child support recovery unit or with the centralized collection unit of the department of revenue

through manual or automated means for the sole purpose of identifying applicants or credential holders subject to enforcement under Iowa Code chapter 252J, 598 or 272D.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 22, 169 and 252J.