



Exempt Action Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Board of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Health Professions
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	18VAC150-20-10 et seq.
Regulation title	Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine
Action title	Conforming language to Code
Final agency action date	7/20/2010
Document preparation date	7/20/2010

When a regulatory action is exempt from executive branch review pursuant to § 2.2-4002 or § 2.2-4006 of the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), the agency is encouraged to provide information to the public on the Regulatory Town Hall using this form.

Note: While posting this form on the Town Hall is optional, the agency must comply with requirements of the Virginia Register Act, the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*, and Executive Orders 21 (02) and 58 (99).

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of all regulatory changes, including the rationale behind such changes. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

The Board of Veterinary Medicine has amended its regulations relating to unprofessional conduct for conformity to the change made in the Code of Virginia by Chapter 574 of the 2010 Acts of the Assembly. Section 54.1-3812.1 of the Code of Virginia specifies that:

§ [54.1-3812.1](#). *Reporting of animal cruelty.*

Any veterinarian who makes a report of suspected animal cruelty or who provides records or information related to a report of suspected cruelty or testifies in any judicial proceeding arising from such report, records, or information shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability or administrative penalty or sanction on account of such report, records, information, or testimony, unless such veterinarian acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

Section 140, which sets out grounds for unprofessional conduct, refers to reporting “animal abuse.” For consistency with the Code and the provision of immunity for such reports, the regulation is amended to use the terminology found in § 54.1-3812.1 on reports of “suspected animal cruelty.”

Statement of final agency action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including (1) the date the action was taken, (2) the name of the agency taking the action, and (3) the title of the regulation.

On July 20, 2010, the Board of Veterinary Medicine acted to amend its regulations in Chapter 20 *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine* to conform requirements for reports of suspected animal cruelty to § 54.1-3812.1 in the Code.

Family impact

Assess the impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.

This action has no impact on the institution of the family and family stability.