



## Radiographs

The issue of re-production (copying) of a radiograph as requested by the client has presented itself. Pursuant to Rule 701 promulgated and interpreted by the Board, a medical record, including a radiograph, shall be maintained for a period of five (5) years from the date of last treatment and is the responsibility and property of the veterinarian. A copy or synopsis of a patient's record shall be provided to the client or the client's authorized representative upon request of the client. A reasonable charge for copying and providing a patient's record may be required by the veterinarian. The veterinarian shall not release a copy of the record to any person other than the client or a person authorized to receive the copy for the client. Such preserves the confidentiality of the veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

Unfortunately, the re-production (copying) of a radiograph is becoming more unavailable to veterinarians for reasons beyond their control. Therefore, while the veterinarian owns and must legally maintain a patient's original radiograph for a certain period of time, the possibility of having a re-production (or copy) made at the client's request and cost is no longer a reasonable reality. It is noted that some veterinary facilities have the technology to re-produce (or copy) a radiograph onto a DVD. The provision of a DVD to the client would be a proper response if the technology is available to the veterinarian. However, as set forth in Rule 701, a synopsis of the radiograph's findings, as part of the written medical record, is permissible.

Should a subsequent veterinarian need the original radiograph, then with the client's written authorization and direction, as well as the consent of the subsequent veterinarian, the original radiograph may be submitted to the subsequent veterinarian. The client's written authorization and subsequent veterinarian's consent, as with any agreement or contract in Louisiana, is legal as long as it does not otherwise violate the law or is against public policy. However, should the Board request the production of the original radiograph from the veterinarian (who owns and must maintain the radiograph as per the law), he must be able to submit the original radiograph to the Board, or is subject to being held accountable for the failure to do so. In short, the risk of maintaining the original radiograph rests with the veterinarian who orders the diagnostic test and properly owns the radiograph. The Board does not want to jeopardize the health of an animal by prohibiting the temporary use (review) of a radiograph if authorized and consented to by the proper persons.

It is hoped that this article will be of assistance to you. If you have any questions or comments, please submit them in writing to the Board office for review and response.

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**Please Take Note...Per Rule 305D:** "It is the duty of the licensee to maintain a current address with the office of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and to notify the board's office if an annual re-registration form is not received."



**REMINDER: *All License and Certificate  
Renewals Due On/Before September 30, 2010!!***

**Board Office**

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