

# NOTICE OF INTENT

## Department of Agriculture and Forestry Board of Veterinary Medicine

### Veterinary Practice (LAC 46:LXXXV.Chapter 7)

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq. and the 2022 Louisiana Administrative Code Review, the Louisiana Board (“Board”) of Veterinary Medicine has conducted a comprehensive review of Chapter 7 and intends to notify the public with this repromulgation of the sections below as is. The historical notes shall be updated to reflect this Chapter 7 rule review.

### Title 46 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS Part LXXXV. Veterinarians

#### Chapter 7. Veterinary Practice

##### §703. Consultant

A. The term *consulting* as used in R.S. 37:1514(4) does not include any acts which constitute the practice of veterinary medicine as defined in R.S.37:1513(4).

B. The term *consultant* as used in the definition of a *veterinarian-client-patient relationship* found in §700 may only be applied to a Louisiana licensed veterinarian. To perform a consultation, the consultant veterinarian must speak directly with the patient's primary provider of veterinary care who must also be a licensed veterinarian in Louisiana or in the patient's primary or most recent state of residence.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 6:71 (February 1980), amended by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 16:225 (March 1990), LR 20:1381 (December 1994), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:

##### §706. Labeling of Medications Dispensed

A. It is the responsibility of the veterinarian to label all medications and/or other veterinary products as dispensed. This label must include the following:

1. name, address and telephone number of clinic;
2. name of veterinarian dispensing medications;
3. patient name and client name;

4. name of medication and/or other veterinary product dispensed;
5. quantity and strength of product;
6. directions for administration;
7. date dispensed; and
8. precautionary statements as required by law, i.e., not for human consumption, poisonous, etc.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 16:226 (March 1990), LR 19:1329 (October 1993), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:

##### §708. Anesthesia Services

A. Anesthetic and Drugs. Anesthesia equipment in accordance with the level of surgery performed should be available at all times. The minimum amount of support equipment required for the delivery of assisted ventilation should be:

1. resuscitation bags of appropriate volumes; and
2. an assortment of endotracheal tubes in working condition.

##### B. Examination and Monitoring

1. Every animal shall be given a physical examination within 12 hours prior to the administration of a general anesthetic.
2. Some method of respiratory monitoring is mandatory, such as observing chest movements, watching

the rebreathing bag, or use of a respirometer. Some method of cardiac monitoring is recommended and may include use of a stethoscope or electrocardiographic monitor.

3. The animal under general anesthesia shall be under continual observation until at least the swallowing reflex has returned.

C. No patient should be released from veterinary supervision to the owner/client until it is ambulatory unless it is not ambulatory for reasons unrelated to anesthesia. The only exception to this rule would be the case where the client demands to take the animal home against the advice and judgment of the attending veterinarian. In this case, the veterinarian is recommended to have the client sign a release form stating that the owner/client has been advised to leave the animal, that the owner/client is aware of the risks involved, and that the owner/client is taking the animal against the advice and judgment of the attending veterinarian.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 19:1330 (October 1993), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:

#### **§709. Surgical Services**

A. Aseptic surgery shall be practiced in all cases in which aseptic surgery is demanded by the profession. Aseptic surgery shall be defined as procedures in which aseptic technique is practiced in patient preparation, instrumentation, and surgical attire.

B. Surgical attire and technique for aseptic surgery is defined as:

1. disinfection of surgeon's hands by scrubbing with a disinfecting surgical scrub solution;

2. sterilized surgical gown with long sleeves is recommended but not required. Clean clothing and sterilized gloves must be worn;

3. aseptic surgery requires sterilization of all appropriate equipment. An acceptable method of sterilization sufficient to kill spores must be used on all instruments, packs, and equipment intended for use in aseptic surgical procedures;

4. external use of heat sensitive tape type indicators on surgical gowns, packs, and resterilized gloves or the use of "steam clock" type indicators deep in surgical packs shall be required to monitor sterilization efficiency. The date the items were sterilized should be indicated;

5. ancillary personnel in the surgery room should wear clean clothing and footwear.

C. Hot and cold running water should be readily accessible to the surgery room.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 19:1330 (October 1993), amended LR 23:969 (August 1997), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:

#### **§710. Dental Operations**

A. Dental operations are included in the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine as found in R.S. 37:1513(4).

B. Nothing in these Rules shall prohibit any person from utilizing cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes or similar items to clean an animal's teeth.

C. In branches of veterinary medicine other than equine dentistry and livestock dentistry, with proper training and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, laypeople and registered veterinary technicians employed by a licensed veterinarian may perform supragingival scaling and polishing of teeth, making and developing dental radiographs, taking impressions, production of dental models, and the charting of dental pathology. All other dental operations must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

D. In the branch of veterinary medicine dealing with equine dentistry, with proper training and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, laypeople and registered veterinary technicians employed by a licensed veterinarian may perform the rasping (floating) of molar, premolar, and canine teeth, and the removal of deciduous incisor and premolar teeth (caps). All other dental operations, including but not limited to the extraction of teeth, amputation of large molar, incisor, or canine teeth, the extraction of first premolar teeth (wolf teeth) and repair of damaged or diseased teeth must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

E. In the branch of veterinary medicine dealing with livestock dentistry, with proper training and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, laypeople and registered veterinary technicians employed by a licensed veterinarian may perform rasping (floating) of premolar and molar teeth, and the removal of deciduous incisor teeth (caps). All other dental operations, including but not limited to the extraction of teeth, amputation of incisors, premolars, and molar teeth, and repair of damaged or diseased teeth must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 19:1330 (October 1993), amended LR 25:519 (March 1999), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:

#### **§711. Definitions and Classification of Practice Facilities**

A. In order to be classified as, advertised as, or use the word "hospital" as defined in §700 in the name of a

veterinary facility, all of the following minimum standards and requirements shall be met.

1. Facility shall have a reception room and office, or a combination of the two.

2. An examination room separate from other areas of the facility and of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient and client shall be maintained. This room shall have:

- a. adequate materials and instrumentation to perform a thorough physical examination; and
- b. adequate lighting to perform a thorough physical examination; and
- c. immediate access to a sink with hot and cold running water; and
- d. an examination table with impervious surface which can be easily cleaned and disinfected.

3. Facility shall have a surgery room which is separate and distinct from all other rooms. This room shall have:

- a. lighting adequate to perform surgery;
- b. a surgery table with an impervious surface which can be cleaned and easily disinfected;
- c. appropriate anesthesia equipment;
- d. oxygen readily available;
- e. emergency drugs for cardiac and pulmonary resuscitation; and
- f. walls and floors constructed with materials capable of being cleaned and disinfected.

4. Facility shall have a surgical scrub or preparation area containing pre-anesthetic medications and surgical scrub.

5. Facility shall have access to a diagnostic X-ray machine and development equipment area kept in compliance with state and federal regulations.

6. A clinical laboratory area shall be available containing diagnostic laboratory equipment, test kits and materials to perform necessary tests. This may be an in-house laboratory or an outside diagnostic laboratory facility which is capable of returning diagnostic results in 24 hours.

7. Facility shall have a kennel or housing area where animals can be retained for treatment and post-surgical observation. This area shall have at a minimum:

- a. separate compartments for each animal which provide for comfortable and sanitary conditions; and
- b. exercise areas which provide and allow effective separation of animals and their waste products and appropriate cleaning.

8. Facility shall have adequate indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examining rooms and surgical rooms.

#### B. Clinic

1. In order to be classified as, advertised as, or use the word "clinic" as defined in §700 in the name of the facility, all standards described under §711.A, shall apply.

2. A facility defined as a clinic is not required to meet the requirements for kennels as described in §711.A.7 except where surgery is being performed.

3. A clinic performing surgery shall provide adequate kennel facilities as per §711.A.7 until the patient is discharged.

C. A *mobile clinic* as defined in §700 shall have a permanent base of operations with a published address, telephone facilities for making appointments or responding to emergencies, and the following.

1. A veterinarian operating or working in a mobile clinic must have a written agreement with a local veterinary hospital or clinic to provide hospitalization, surgery, and radiology if these services are not available at the mobile clinic. *Local* means within a 30-mile radius.

2. A veterinarian operating or working in a mobile clinic must have a written agreement with a local veterinary hospital or clinic to provide emergency services and must display a notice to that effect in public view. The phone number and address for this emergency service provider must be provided to each patron of the mobile clinic. *Local* means within a 30-mile radius.

3. A veterinarian operating or working in a mobile clinic must remain on site until all patients are discharged to their owners and must maintain autonomy for all medical decisions made.

4. A physical examination and history must be taken for each patient at a mobile clinic and the medical records for such patients must meet the requirements for record keeping in §701. These records must be maintained by the veterinarian for five years and must remain accessible to the client for that period.

5. The veterinarian operating or working in a mobile clinic is responsible for consultation with clients and referral of patients when disease is detected or suspected. The veterinarian is also responsible for information and recommendations given to the client by the mobile clinic's staff.

6. The veterinarian operating or working in a mobile clinic must have his current Louisiana veterinary license on display to the clients.

7. Operation of the veterinary medical mobile clinic requires the following:

- a. a clean, safe location;

- b. the mobile clinic must meet local sanitation regulations;
- c. lined waste receptacles;
- d. fresh, running water for cleaning and first aid;
- e. examination areas with good lighting and smooth, easily disinfected surfaces;
- f. examination and surgery preparation areas;
- g. surgical area must be sterile, and the surgery table must have an impervious surface which can be cleaned and easily disinfected;
- h. drugs must be kept according to federal, state, and local laws. If controlled drugs are kept on the premises, they must be kept in a locking, secure cabinet for storage and an accurate controlled substance log must be maintained and available for inspection;
- i. all equipment must be kept clean and in working order;
- j. the mobile clinic must have the capability to deal with sudden emergencies and should have oxygen, resuscitation drugs and equipment, treatment for shock, and fluid administration materials readily available;
- k. the mobile clinic must have all biomedical waste properly disposed of and must have documentation to prove that fact on the premises for inspection.

#### D. Emergency Facilities

1. An *emergency facility* as defined in §700 shall have the following:
  - a. doctors;
  - b. support staff;
  - c. instrumentation;
  - d. medications; and
  - e. diagnostic equipment sufficient to provide an appropriate level of emergency care during all hours of operation.
2. If an emergency facility offers surgery services and retains patients in the emergency facility, all facility standards pertaining to *hospital facilities* as defined in §711.A shall be furnished and maintained.

E. A wellness or preventative care clinic shall have a published physical address for the specific location, telephone facilities for responding to emergency situations, and the following.

1. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall have a prior written agreement with a local veterinary hospital or clinic, within a 30 mile or 30 minutes travel time, to provide laboratory services, hospitalization, surgery, and/or radiology, if these services are not available at the wellness or preventative care clinic.

2. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall have a prior written agreement with a local veterinary hospital or clinic, within a 30 mile or 30 minutes travel time, to provide emergency care services. A notice of available emergency care services, including the telephone number and physical address of the local veterinary hospital or clinic, shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the wellness or preventative care clinic, and a copy of the notice or information shall be given to each client prior to the administration of a vaccine, the performance of an examination and/or a diagnostic procedure to promote good health.

3. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall physically remain on site until all patients are discharged to their respective owners, or authorized agents.

4. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall comply with the requirements for record keeping regarding the storage, maintenance and availability to the client of the medical records for the patients as set forth in the board's rules on record keeping. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall be the owner of the medical records of the patients.

5. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall be responsible for consultation with clients and the prompt referral of patients when disease, illness or a medical condition is diagnosed.

6. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall be responsible for the information and representations provided to the clients by the staff at the wellness or preventative care clinic.

7. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall have his license or current renewal, in good standing, to practice veterinary medicine in Louisiana on display in a conspicuous place at each location of a wellness or preventative care clinic.

8. Operation of a wellness or preventative care clinic shall also have the following on site at each location:

- a. a clean, safe location;
- b. meet local and state sanitation requirements;
- c. lined waste receptacles;
- d. fresh, running water for cleaning purposes and first aid;
- e. an examination area with good lighting and smooth, easily disinfected surfaces;
- f. all drugs, medicines, or chemicals shall be stored, inventoried, prescribed, administered, dispensed,

and/or used in accordance with federal, state and local laws and rules;

g. all equipment shall be kept clean and in proper working order;

h. the ability to address sudden life-threatening emergencies which may arise, including the availability, on site, of oxygen, resuscitation drugs, treatment for shock, and fluid administration materials; and

i. the proper disposal of biomedical waste and the required facilities, on site, for such disposal, as well as documentation on site to verify the proper disposal of biomedical waste.

9. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall make all decisions which involve, whether directly or indirectly, the practice of veterinary medicine and will be held accountable for such decisions in accordance with the Veterinary Practice Act, the board's rules, and other applicable laws.

10. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall be responsible for compliance with all standards and requirements set forth in the Veterinary Practice Act, the board's rules, and other applicable laws.

11. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall provide a copy of any signed written agreement, including renewal, extension or amendment, required by this rule to the board prior to commencement of the terms of the agreement.

12. The veterinarian operating or providing permissible services in a wellness or preventative care clinic shall provide the board, upon written demand, a copy of the written agreement with the local veterinary hospital or clinic required by this rule.

F. A mobile practice vehicle shall comply with the following requirements.

1. A mobile practice vehicle shall provide veterinary care where the patient is not taken into the vehicle.

2. A mobile practice vehicle may be an extension of an existing hospital and/or clinic defined in §700. The hospital or clinic associated with the mobile practice vehicle shall operate in compliance with Subsections 711.A and B.

3. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle which does not have the capabilities of providing aftercare and/or emergency care services, and/or which is not an extension of an existing hospital or clinic, shall have a prior written agreement with a local veterinary hospital or clinic, within a 30 mile or 30 minutes travel time, to provide aftercare and/or emergency care services. The written agreement to provide aftercare and/or emergency care services in this

Rule shall not be required if the mobile practice vehicle is an extension of an existing hospital or clinic, and/or has the capabilities of providing aftercare and/or emergency care services.

4. A notice of available aftercare and/or emergency care services, including the telephone number and physical address of the local veterinary hospital or clinic, or hospital or existing clinic associated with the mobile practice vehicle if applicable, shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or on the mobile practice vehicle, and a copy of the notice or information shall be given to each client prior to the provision of veterinary care.

5. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle shall physically remain on site until all patients are discharged to their respective owners, or authorized agents.

6. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle shall comply with the requirements for record keeping regarding the storage, maintenance and availability to the client of the medical records for the patients as set forth in the board's rules on record keeping.

7. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle shall comply with the requirements for maintaining, administering, dispensing, and prescribing any drug, medicine, chemical, and/or biological agent as set forth in the board's rules.

8. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle shall be responsible for the information and representations provided to the clients by the staff of the mobile practice vehicle.

9. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle shall have his license or current renewal, in good standing, to practice veterinary medicine in Louisiana on display in a conspicuous place on or in the mobile practice vehicle.

10. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle shall make all decisions which involve, whether directly or indirectly, the practice of veterinary medicine and will be held accountable for such decisions in accordance with the Veterinary Practice Act, the board's rules, and other applicable laws.

11. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle shall be responsible for compliance with all standards and requirements set forth in the Veterinary Practice Act, the board's rules, and other applicable laws.

12. The veterinarian operating or providing veterinary care in a mobile practice vehicle shall provide the board, upon written demand, a copy of the written agreement with the local veterinary hospital or clinic required by this rule, if such is not the hospital or clinic

associated with the mobile practice vehicle and/or the mobile practice vehicle does not have the capabilities of providing aftercare and/or emergency care services.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518 et seq.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 19:1330 (October 1993), amended LR 23:969 (August 1997), LR 24:2123 (November 1998), LR 31:3162 (December 2005), LR 33:2424 (November 2007), LR 35:244 (February 2009), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:

### **§713. Microchip Implantation**

A. The implantation of a microchip device into an animal shall be performed only by a licensed veterinarian or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, except that no unlicensed person may perform surgery, diagnosis, prognosis, or prescribe drugs, medicines, or appliances as stated in §702.A.2. The following are exempt from this provision:

1. an animal control agency which is operated by a state or local governmental agency; or
2. a duly incorporated humane society which has a contract with a local governmental agency to perform animal control services on behalf of the local governmental agency.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 23:1686 (December 1997), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:

### **§714. Student/Shelters and Faculty Veterinarian**

A. A person who is a regular student in an accredited veterinary school who is performing duties or actions assigned by his instructors as part of his curriculum under the direct supervision of a faculty veterinarian who is licensed by the board; however, the student's role shall be limited to assisting the licensed faculty veterinarian in a support capacity during assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and surgery in the shelters pre-approved by the board on shelter animals only. For example, observation of procedures and services by the student and the performance of menial support tasks to assist the licensed faculty veterinarian are legally permissible. However, the licensed faculty veterinarian must be the primary veterinarian, or surgeon of record, in all situations. To allow the student to perform beyond the support capacity as defined in this rule would, in effect, permit the student to enter into the realm of veterinary practice without first having to meet the requirements necessary to have a license as established by the Louisiana Veterinary Practice Act and the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine rules.

B. Direct supervision is defined as "continuous, visual, and on-site supervision" which shall only be performed by a faculty veterinarian licensed by, and accountable to, the

Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine as per its regulatory authority. Accordingly, the licensed faculty veterinarian and the program shall comply with all requirements established by the Veterinary Practice Act and the board's rules regarding the practice of veterinary medicine including, but not limited to, such practice standards as a proper surgical facility, record keeping, aftercare, prescriptions, drug/device maintenance, etc. The faculty veterinarian as a licensed veterinarian shall be ultimately responsible, and accountable to the board, for the duties, actions, or work performed by the student; however, at no time shall the student's role extend beyond assisting the licensed faculty veterinarian in a support capacity during assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and surgery in the shelters pre-approved by the board on shelter animals only.

C. The tasks assigned to a student is at the discretion of the supervising faculty veterinarian licensed by the board who shall be ultimately responsible and held accountable by the board for the duties, actions, or work performed by the student, however, at no time shall the student's role extend beyond assisting the licensed faculty veterinarian in a support capacity during assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and surgery. In addition, the tasks assigned to the student shall encompass the care, treatment, and/or surgery of one shelter animal at a time at a shelter pre-approved by the board. Again, the licensed faculty veterinarian must be the primary veterinarian, or surgeon of record, in each individual situation.

D. Prior to commencement of a student's participation in a program, the supervising faculty veterinarian licensed by the board must first notify the board of such on board approved forms.

E. A student shall not be permitted to perform supervision of any nature, as defined in §§ 700 and 702, of the tasks or procedures performed by other personnel of the shelter at issue.

F. A student extern who is working during a school vacation for a licensed veterinarian shall be under continuous, visual, and on-site supervision of a veterinarian licensed by the board. The supervising veterinarian shall be ultimately responsible and held accountable by the board for the duties, actions, or work performed by such person; however, at no time shall the student's role extend beyond observing the supervising veterinarian in a support capacity during assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and surgery. The student extern shall not perform supervision of any nature, as defined in §700 and §702, of the tasks or procedures performed by other personnel of the facility at issue.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 29:1479 (August 2003), amended LR 34:1029 (June 2008), amended LR 49:640 (April 2023), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50: