



# MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	April 17, 2019
<b>TO</b>	Veterinary Medical Board
<b>FROM</b>	Amanda Drummond, Administrative Programs Coordinator
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Agenda Item 6B. MDC Recommendations to Amend Sections 2035.5 and 2030.6, Article 4, Division 20, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Regarding Minimum Standards and Protocols for Shelter Medicine</b>

**Background:**

The Veterinary Medical Board (Board) requested the MDC develop minimum standards for various premise types, including public and private shelters. The MDC has discussed minimum shelter standards at multiple meetings since 2015; all historical webcasts, materials and minutes can be viewed on the Board’s website [here](#).

In December 2017, the MDCA held a stakeholder meeting with the State Humane Association of California, the California Animal Control Director's Association (CACDA), the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). Four issues were identified as needing resolution to specifically address shelter needs:

1. Prevention and treatment of infectious disease
2. Animal shelter definition
3. Authority of RVTs and Staff in Shelters
4. Rabies Vaccinations

Once the recommendations were presented to the MDC, members discussed and developed language throughout 2018 and in January of 2019:

**February**  
[Webcast](#)  
[Materials](#)  
[Minutes](#)

**May**  
[Webcast](#)  
[Materials](#)  
[Minutes](#)

**August**  
[Webcast](#)  
[Materials](#)  
[Minutes](#)

**January**  
[Webcast](#)  
[Materials](#)  
[Minutes](#)

At the January 2019 MDC meeting, the MDC members made additional changes to the proposed language and voted to submit the approved language for CCR sections 2035.5 and 2030.6 forward to the Board for their review and consideration.

**Attachments:**

1. [Proposed](#) Shelter Minimum Standards

**California Code of Regulations**  
**Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations**  
**Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board**

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

Proposed amendments to the regulatory language are shown in single underline for new text and ~~single strikethrough~~ for deleted text.

{Text in brackets indicates the existing CCR section/subsection on which the language is based.}

**CCR 2030.6. Minimum Standards – Animal Shelter Medicine in Fixed Facility**

For purposes of these regulations, “animal shelter facility” shall mean a building, or part of a building, where veterinary medicine and its various branches are being practiced on stray, unwanted, or seized animals that are deposited with or impounded by a privately or publicly operated agency or organization. An animal shelter facility shall meet the following standards:

- (a) All instruments, apparatus, and apparel shall be kept clean and sanitary at all times. **{2030}**
- (b) Indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, and examining and surgical rooms shall be adequate for their intended purpose. **{2030 (a)}**
- (c) Fire precautions shall meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes. **{2030 (f)(1)}**
- (d) The facility, temperature, and ventilation shall be maintained so as to assure the comfort of all patients. **{2030 (f)(2)}**
- (e) The floors, table tops, and counter tops in areas where animals are being treated shall be made of a material suitable for regular disinfecting and cleaning and shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly. **{2030 (g)(7)}**
- (f) The animal shelter facility ~~where public spay and neuter services are provided~~ shall have a reception area or office. **{2030(b)}**
- (g) The animal shelter facility shall have an examination room separate from other areas of the facility. **{2030(c)}**
- (h) Current veterinary reference materials shall be readily available at the facility. **{2030(f)(9)}**
- (i) All drugs and biologicals shall be stored and maintained according to the manufacturer’s recommendations and administered, prescribed, and dispensed in compliance with state and federal laws. **{2030(f)(6)}**
- (j) The animal shelter facility shall have the ability to provide diagnostic radiological services either on the premises or through outside services. Radiological procedures shall be conducted in accordance with Health and Safety Code standards. **{2030 (f)(4)}**
- (k) The animal shelter facility shall have the ability to provide clinical pathology and histopathology diagnostic laboratory services either on the premises or through outside services. **{2030 (f)(5)}**

(f) For animals surrendered to a shelter with valid prescription medication, an R.V.T., VACSP holder, or veterinary assistant may continue administration of the prescription medication prior to veterinarian examination.]

(g) Rabies vaccines may be administered to an owned animal upon redemption from an animal shelter and pursuant to the direct order, written order, or telephonic order of a veterinarian licensed in this state.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4836, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4836, 4836.1, and 4840, Business and Professions Code.

## CCR 2030.6 Minimum Standards – Animal Shelter Medicine in Fixed Facility

For purposes of these regulations, “animal shelter facility” shall mean a building, or part of a building, where veterinary medicine and its various branches are being practiced on stray, unwanted, or seized animals that are deposited with or impounded by a privately or publicly operated agency or organization. An animal shelter facility shall meet the following standards:

- (a) All instruments, apparatus, and apparel shall be kept clean and sanitary at all times. {2030}
- (b) Indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, and examining and surgical rooms shall be adequate for their intended purpose. {2030 (a)}
- (c) Fire precautions shall meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes. {2030 (f)(1)}
- (d) The facility, temperature, and ventilation shall be maintained so as to assure the comfort of all patients. {2030 (f)(2)}
- (e) The floors, table tops, and counter tops in areas where animals are being treated shall be made of a material suitable for regular disinfecting and cleaning and shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly. {2030 (g)(7)}
- (f) The animal shelter facility shall have a reception area ~~and an office, or a combination of the two.~~ {2030(b)}
- (g) The animal shelter facility shall have an examination room separate from other areas of the facility ~~and be of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient, and client.~~ {2030(c)}
- (h) Current veterinary reference materials shall be readily available at the facility. {2030(f)(9)}
- (i) All drugs and biologicals shall be stored and maintained according to the manufacturer’s recommendations and administered, prescribed, and dispensed in compliance with state and federal laws. {2030(f)(6)}
- (j) The animal shelter facility shall have the ability to provide diagnostic radiological services either on the premises or through outside services. Radiological procedures shall be conducted in accordance with Health and Safety Code standards. {2030 (f)(4)}
- (k) The animal shelter facility shall have the ability to provide clinical pathology and histopathology diagnostic laboratory services either on the premises or through outside services. {2030 (f)(5)}
- (l) The animal shelter facility shall have appropriate drugs, including oxygen, and equipment to provide immediate emergency care. {2030 (f)(12)}
- (m) The disposal of waste material shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. {2030 (f)(3)}
- (n) If animals are housed or retained in the animal shelter facility for treatment, the following shall be provided: {2030 (d)}
  - (1) Compartments or exercise runs or areas for animals shall be consistent with husbandry standards and shall be comfortable, sanitary, and provide for effective separation of animals and waste products. {2030 (d)(1)}
  - (2) Effective separation of known or suspected contagious animals. {2030 (d)(2)}

- (3) When medically, safely, and/or species appropriate for a given species, where animals are kept on the veterinary premises for 24 hours or more, the animals shall be provided with an opportunity for proper exercise. Compliance with this paragraph may be achieved by the use of exercise runs/areas or by providing the animal with the opportunity for outdoor walks. {2030.1 (a)}
- (o) When the facility is closed, a sign shall be posted and visible outside the primary entrance with a telephone number and location where emergency care is available. An answering machine or service shall be used to notify the public when the facility will be re-opened and where after-hours emergency care is available. If no after-hours emergency care is available, full disclosure shall be provided to the public prior to rendering services. {2030 (e)}
- (p) Anesthetic equipment in accordance with the procedures performed shall be maintained in proper working condition and available at all times. {2030 (f)(10)}
- (q) Sanitary methods for the disposal of deceased animals shall be provided. {2030 (f)(7)}
- (r) If aseptic surgery is performed, the following shall be provided: {2030 (g)}
- (1) A room, separate and distinct from all other rooms, shall be reserved for aseptic surgical procedures that require aseptic preparations. A veterinarian may perform emergency aseptic surgical procedures in another room when the room designated for aseptic surgery is occupied or temporarily unavailable. {2030 (g)(1)}
  - (2) Storage in the surgery room shall be limited to items and equipment normally related to aseptic surgery and surgical procedures. Equipment not normally related to surgery and surgical procedure includes, but is not limited to, equipment used for dental prophylaxis, autoclaves, and non-surgical radiographic equipment. {2030 (g)(2)}
  - (3) Open shelving is prohibited in the surgical room. {2030 (g)(3)}
  - (4) The surgical room shall not contain a functional sink with an open drain. {2030 (g)(4)}
  - (5) Surgery room doors shall be able to be fully closed, fill the entire door space, be made of a material suitable for regular disinfecting and cleaning, and be cleaned and disinfected regularly, and not provide access from outside the facility when aseptic surgery services are provided. {2030 (g)(5)}
  - (6) The surgery room shall be well-lighted, have equipment for viewing radiographs, and have effective emergency lighting with a viable power source. {2030 (g)(6)}
  - (7) Surgical instruments and equipment shall be:
    - a. Adequate for the type of surgical procedures performed. {2030 (g)(8)(A)}
    - b. Sterilized as required by the surgical procedure performed and instruments used. {2030 (g)(8)(B)}
  - (8) In any sterile procedure, a separate sterile pack shall be used for each animal. {2030 (g)(9)}
  - (9) All instruments, packs, and equipment shall be sterilized and have an indicator that reacts to and verifies sterilization. {2030 (g)(10)}
  - (10) The following attire shall be required for aseptic surgery: {2030 (g)(11)}
    - (A) Each member of the surgical team shall put on an appropriate sanitary cap and sanitary mask that covers his or her hair and mouth, nose, and any facial hair,

except for eyebrows or eyelashes. All members of the surgical team who will be handling the instruments or touching the surgical site shall wear sterilized surgical gowns with long sleeves and sterilized gloves. {2030 (g)(11)(A)}

(B) Ancillary personnel in the surgery room shall wear clean clothing, footwear, sanitary cap, and mask. {2030 (g)(11)(B)}

(s) When performing clean surgery, the instruments used to perform such surgery shall have been sterilized, and the surgeon(s) and ancillary personnel shall wear appropriate apparel. {2030 (h)} For purposes of this subsection, “clean surgery” shall mean the performance of a surgical procedure for the treatment of a condition and under circumstances that, consistent with the standards of good veterinary medicine, do not warrant the use of aseptic surgical procedures. {2030 (h)}

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4854, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4854 and 4883, Business and Professions Code.