

MEMORANDUM

DATE	October 8, 2025
TO	California Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
FROM	Justin Sotelo, Policy Specialist
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 10.B. Previously Approved Text to Amend California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Sections 2030, 2030.05, 2030.1, 2030.2, and 2030.3 (Minimum Standards for Alternate Veterinary Premises)

Summary: As noted in the previous agenda item, the Board is in the final filing phase of its regulatory proposal to amend sections 2030, 2030.05, 2030.1, 2030.2 and 2030.3 of article 4 of division 20 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The proposed amendments would:

- Consolidate existing and newly proposed minimum veterinary premises requirements for all locations/types and repeal outdated or unnecessary standards for all locations/types.
- Provide new categories of exemptions from the minimum standards provided in section 2030.
- Standardize various existing veterinary naming conventions of clinics, facilities, and hospitals to the consistent use of the term “veterinary premises” throughout, and set minimum standards and definitions for the following veterinary premises types: small animal fixed veterinary premises, large animal fixed veterinary premises, mobile veterinary premises, and animal vaccination veterinary premises.
- Amend the title of section 2030.3 to “Minimum Standards – Animal Vaccination Veterinary Premises” and specify the minimum standards for, and describe the services provided at, this type of location.
- Remove all apparent building standards, including any exemptions to those standards, from these regulations (a separate rulemaking was approved in December 2024 via the California Building Standards Commission rulemaking process, which added the mentioned building standards, and related exemptions, to section 1251 of title 24 of the CCR).
- Make minor, technical or grammatical changes, including removal of gender specific language and replacement of that language with gender neutral language, and

- Increase information to consumers through disclosure and signage requirements that include contact information and the provision of information where after-hours emergency care is available.

Additional background regarding this regulatory proposal can be found in the [April 2023](#) and the [April 2024](#) Board meeting materials.

Update: On August 15, 2025, the final rulemaking package was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for final approval. On September 25 and 26, 2025, Board staff and Regulations Counsel met with the OAL reviewing attorney to address what OAL deemed clarity issues in the proposed text. Specifically, the clarity concerns stemmed from using the terms “as applicable” and “if applicable.” Ultimately, it was determined that the regulatory package would need to be withdrawn and Modified Text would need to be pursued in order to address the issues.

Board staff and Regulations Counsel met with the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee Chair and representatives from the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to work through OAL’s concerns. Based on those discussions, staff recommends the following changes:

CCR section 2030(b)(3)

Previously noticed text:

~~(63) The surgery room shall be well lighted, shall have equipment for viewing radiographs and shall have effective emergency lighting with a viable power source~~Provide a means for viewing diagnostic imaging during surgery, if applicable.

OAL Concern: “If applicable” causes a clarity issue, because the regulated public would not know when this requirement applies.

Recommended Amendment:

~~(63) The surgery room shall be well lighted, shall have~~Provide equipment for viewing radiographs and shall have effective emergency lighting with a viable power source~~Provide a means for viewing diagnostic imaging during orthopedic surgery, if applicable.~~

Rationale: Diagnostic imaging was unnecessarily broad. The language should revert to existing language for viewing radiographs. Other diagnostic imaging, such as Fluoroscopy, CT, MRI and ultrasound, are not utilized in sterile surgery. “Orthopedic” was added to clarify the minimum requirement for whenever orthopedic surgery is being performed, equipment for viewing radiographs must be provided.

CCR section 2030.2 (b)

Previously noticed text:

(b) A ~~small animal mobile clinic~~ veterinary premises shall also have, as applicable:

OAL Concern: "As applicable" causes a clarity issue, because the regulated public would not know when each listed requirement applies.

Recommended Amendments:

- (~~be~~) A ~~small animal mobile clinic~~ veterinary premises providing services within a unit or vehicle shall also have, ~~as applicable~~:
- Move previously proposed subsection 1 pertaining to housing and retaining animals for treatment to newly proposed subsection (b).
- Move previously proposed subsection 8 pertaining to aseptic surgical procedures from the list in 2030 (b) to newly proposed subsection (c)
- Update numbers as applicable.

Rationale: By striking "as applicable" and clarifying the updated list only applies to those veterinary premises providing services within the vehicle addresses the clarity concern. The remaining items 1-6 do not apply to those veterinary premises providing services from the unit or vehicle, because those are outside the veterinarians' control. Since subsections 1 and 8 applied to veterinary premises providing services both within and from the unit or vehicle, they were removed from the list and made into their own subsections.

OAL had an additional minor concern that the previously noticed text did not properly identify new text as follows:

Previously noticed text:

(23) a ~~An examination room, separate from other areas of the facility~~ veterinary premises, which that shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient, and client.

Recommended Amendment:

(2) a ~~An examination room, separate from other areas of the facility~~ An examination room, separate from other areas of the veterinary premises, which that shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient, and client.

OAL agreed to pre-review the language prior to the Board meeting in hopes of not delaying the process any further. As such, the language is currently under review with OAL, and an update with OAL's feedback will be provided during the Board meeting.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to review and consider a motion to approve the proposed modified text for a 15-day comment period and, if there are no adverse comments received

during that 15-day public comment period, delegate to the Executive Officer the authority to adopt the proposed regulatory changes, as modified, and also delegate to the Executive Officer the authority to make any technical or non-substantive changes that may be required in completing the rulemaking file

Attachment

1. Proposed Modified Text

California Code of Regulations
Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations
Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board
Minimum Standards for Alternate Veterinary Premises

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

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

Modifications to originally proposed amendments to the regulatory language are shown in *italicized text* for reviving original text, double underline for new text, ~~double strikethrough~~ for deleted text, ~~double strikethrough underline~~ for deleting previously added text, and green text for previously noticed text that moved.

Amend sections 2030, 2030.05, 2030.1, 2030.2, and 2030.3 in Article 4 of Division 20 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 2030. Minimum Standards - ~~Fixed Veterinary Premises.~~

(a) Unless otherwise specified in this article, all veterinary premises shall maintain the following minimum standards:

(1) All ~~fixed~~ veterinary premises where veterinary medicine and its various branches are being practiced, and all instruments, apparatus, and apparel used in connection with those practices, shall be kept clean and sanitary at all times, ~~and shall conform to or possess the following minimum standards:~~

~~(a) Indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examining and surgical rooms shall be adequate for their intended purpose.~~

~~(b) A reception room and office, or a combination of the two.~~

~~(c) An examination room separate from other areas of the facility and of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient and client.~~

~~(d2) If animals are housed or retained for treatment, the following shall be provided:~~

~~(1) Compartments for animals which are maintained in a comfortable and sanitary manner.~~

~~(2) Effective separation of known or suspected contagious animals.~~

(3) If ~~and~~ there are to be no personnel on the veterinary premises during any time an animal is left at the veterinary ~~facility~~ premises, prior notice of this fact shall be given to the client. For purposes of this paragraph, prior notice may be accomplished by posting a sign in a place and manner conspicuous to the clients at the entrance of

the veterinary premises, stating that there may be times when there ~~is~~are no personnel on the veterinary premises.

(3) When animals are kept at the veterinary premises for 24 hours or more, the animals shall be provided with an opportunity for proper exercise when medically appropriate. If exercise is medically appropriate, compliance with this paragraph shall be achieved by the use of exercise runs, exercise areas, or by providing the animal with the opportunity for outdoor walks. When determining whether exercise is medically appropriate, the veterinarian shall consider the following:

- (A) What exercise, if any, is appropriate for the particular species.
- (B) The animal's physical limitations or ability to be physically active without aggravating the animal's current medical injury, illness, surgical site, or condition.
- (C) The amount or duration of exercise considering the animal's current medical condition or post-operative care needs.

(4) The veterinary premises shall maintain a telephone number where clients are able to contact the veterinary premises with questions, concerns, or emergency needs. If a live person is not available to answer calls, the telephone line shall include a recorded message with information about hours of operation and a name, telephone number and location of a veterinary premises where after-hours emergency care is available.

~~(e5) When a veterinary premises is closed, a~~A sign that is clearly readable and visible to the public in at least 20-point type shall be posted outside on or immediately adjacent to and visible outside the primary entrance with a hours of operation of the veterinary premises, and a name, telephone number and location of a veterinary premises where after-hours emergency care is available.~~An answering machine or service shall be used to notify the public when the veterinary premises 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.~~

~~(f) The veterinary premises shall meet the following standards:~~

~~(1) Fire precautions shall meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes.~~

~~(2) The facility, its temperature, and ventilation shall be maintained so as to assure the comfort of all patients.~~

~~(36) The disposal of waste material shall comply with all applicable state, federal, and local laws and regulations.~~

~~(47) The veterinary premises shall have the capacity to render diagnostic radiological services, either on the premises or through another veterinary premises or outside service other commercial facilities. Radiological procedures shall be conducted in accordance with~~

~~Health and Safety Code standards~~ all applicable state, federal, and local laws and regulations.

~~(58)~~ Clinical pathology and histopathology diagnostic laboratory services shall be available within the veterinary premises or through another veterinary premises or outside services.

~~(69)~~ All drugs and biologicals shall be stored, maintained, administered, dispensed, and prescribed in compliance with state and federal laws.

~~(710)~~ Sanitary methods for the disposal of deceased animals shall be provided and maintained.

~~(811)~~ Veterinary medical equipment used to perform aseptic procedures shall be sterilized and maintained in a sterile condition.

~~(912)~~ Current veterinary reference materials shall be readily accessible to veterinary personnel ~~available on the premises.~~

~~(4013)~~ Anesthetic equipment in accordance with the procedures performed shall be maintained in proper working condition and available at all times.

~~(11)~~ ~~The veterinary premises shall have equipment to deliver oxygen in emergency situations.~~

~~(4214)~~ Appropriate drugs and equipment shall be readily available to treat an animal emergency.

~~(gb)~~ A veterinary premises ~~which~~ that provides aseptic surgical services shall comply with the following:

~~(1) A room, separate and distinct from all other rooms shall be reserved for aseptic surgical procedures which require aseptic preparation. A veterinarian may perform emergency aseptic surgical procedures in another room when the room designated for aseptic surgery is occupied or temporarily unavailable.~~

~~(A) A veterinary premises which is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate room reserved for aseptic surgical procedures, shall obtain compliance with this subdivision on or before January 1, 2014.~~

~~(B) The board may exempt a veterinary premises which is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate aseptic surgery room, where it determines that it would be a hardship for the veterinary premises to comply with the provisions of this subdivision. In determining whether a hardship exists, the board shall give due consideration to the following factors:~~

~~1. Zoning limitations.~~

~~2. Whether the premises constitutes a historical building.~~

~~3. Whether compliance with this requirement would compel the veterinary practice to relocate to a new location.~~

(21) 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.

(32) Open shelving is prohibited in the surgical room.

(4) The surgery room shall not contain a functional sink with an open drain.

~~(5) The doors into the surgery room must be able to be fully closed, fill the entire door space, be made of non-porous material and not provide access from outside the hospital. In cases where the size of the animal prevents entry to the hospital via a regularly sized door, doors for outside access are permitted as long as such doors are able to be fully closed, fill the entire door space and be made of non-porous material.~~

~~(63) The surgery room shall be well lighted, shall have Provide equipment for viewing radiographs and shall have effective emergency lighting with a viable power source Provide a means for viewing diagnostic imaging during orthopedic surgery, if applicable.~~

~~(7) The floors, table tops, and counter tops of the surgery room shall be of a non-porous material suitable for regular disinfecting, and cleaning, and shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly.~~

(84) Surgical instruments and equipment shall be:

(A) Adequate for the type of surgical procedures performed.

(B) Sterilized as required by the surgical procedure performed and instruments used.

(95) In any sterile procedure, a separate sterile pack shall be used for each animal.

~~(406)~~ All instruments, packs, and equipment that have been sterilized shall have an indicator that reacts to and verifies sterilization.

~~(447)~~ The following attire shall be required for aseptic surgery:

(A) Each member of the surgical team shall put on an appropriate sanitary cap and sanitary mask ~~which that~~ covers ~~his or her~~ their 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.

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

(h) When performing clean surgery, the instruments used to perform such surgery shall have been sterilized, and the surgeon(s) and ancillary personnel shall wear clean clothing and footwear when appropriate.

(d) For purposes of this section, “clean surgery” shall mean the performance of a surgical operation for the treatment of a condition and under circumstances which, consistent with the standards of good veterinary medicine, do not warrant the use of aseptic surgical procedures.

(e) In addition to the applicable standards in this section, all fixed veterinary premises shall comply with the applicable standards of Section 1251 of Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4854, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4853, 4854 and 4883, Business and Professions Code.

§ 2030.05. Minimum Standards - Licensee Manager.

(a) A Licensee Manager is the California licensed veterinarian named as the Licensee Manager on a facility's veterinary premises permit registration.

(b) The Licensee Manager is responsible for ensuring that the premises for which ~~he/she is~~ they are manager complies with the requirements in sections 4853, 4854, 4855, and 4856 of the ~~Business and Professions Code, Division 2, Chapter 11, Article 3~~ code. The Licensee Manager is responsible for ensuring that the physical and operational components of ~~at the~~ veterinary premises meet the minimum standards of practice as set forth in sections 2030 through 2032.5 of this article and section 1251 of Chapter 12 of Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 20, Article 4.

(c) The Licensee Manager is responsible for ensuring that no unlicensed activity is occurring within the premises or in any location where any function of veterinary medicine, veterinary surgery or veterinary dentistry is being conducted off the veterinary premises under the auspices of this veterinary premises licenseregistration.

(d) The Licensee Manager shall maintain whatever physical presence is reasonable within the ~~facility~~ veterinary premises to ensure that the requirements in subsections (a) – through (c) are met.

(e) Each licensed veterinarian shall be responsible for their individual violations of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act or any regulation adopted thereunder.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4854, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4853, 4854, 4855, 4856 and 4883, Business and Professions Code.

§ 2030.1. Minimum Standards - Small Animal Fixed Veterinary Premises.

For purposes of these ~~rules and regulations~~, a “small animal fixed veterinary premises” shall mean a ~~fixed veterinary premises which concentrates in providing building where veterinary services are being provided to common domestic household pets animals~~. In addition to the requirements in section 2030, a small animal fixed veterinary premises shall provide meet the following minimum standards:

~~(a) 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 section may be achieved by the use of exercise runs or by providing the animal with the opportunity for outdoor walks. Where a premises has exercise runs, they shall be clean and sanitary and provide for effective separation of animals and their waste products.~~

~~(b)~~ (ba) When the client has not given the veterinarian authorization to dispose of ~~his or her~~ their deceased animal, the veterinarian shall be required to retain the carcass body in a freezer for at least 14 days prior to disposal.

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

§ 2030.2. Minimum Standards - Small Animal Mobile Clinic~~Veterinary Premises.~~

For purposes of these regulations, a “~~small animal mobile clinic~~veterinary premises” shall mean a ~~trailer or mobile facility established to function as a veterinary premises which concentrates in providing unit or vehicle within or from which veterinary services are being provided to common domestic household pets and is required by section 4853 of the code to be registered with the board.~~ A mobile veterinary premises shall meet the minimum standards in this section as applicable.

(a) ~~A small animal mobile clinic shall have:~~ A mobile veterinary premises shall provide a written disclosure in at least 18-point type to each client at the time veterinary services are first provided. If any changes to the information required in the written disclosure occur after initial services are provided, the mobile veterinary premises shall provide a new written disclosure to the client that complies with the requirements of this subsection the next time veterinary services are provided. The written disclosure shall include the following:

(1) The telephone number where clients are able to contact the mobile veterinary premises with questions, concerns, or emergency needs.

(2) The hours of operation of the mobile veterinary premises.

(3) A name, telephone number, and location of a veterinary premises where after-hours emergency care may be available.

~~(1) Hot and cold water.~~

~~(2) a 110-volt power source for diagnostic equipment.~~

~~(3) A collection tank for disposal of waste material.~~

~~(4) Lighting adequate for the procedures to be performed in the mobile clinic.~~

~~(5) Floors, table tops, and counter tops shall be of a non-porous material suitable for regular disinfecting, and cleaning, and shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly.~~

~~(6) Compartments to transport or hold animals, if applicable.~~

(9 b) Meet all minimum standards in section 2030, except for paragraph (5) of subsection (a) and subsection (e) of that section.

(58 c) A ~~small animal mobile clinic~~veterinary premises ~~which~~that provides aseptic surgical services shall comply with the following:

(A) ~~also h~~Have a room, separate and distinct from other rooms, ~~which~~that shall be reserved for aseptic surgical procedures which require aseptic preparation. ~~Storage in the surgery~~

~~room shall be limited to items and equipment normally related to surgery and surgical procedures.~~

~~(B) A veterinarian may perform emergency aseptic surgical procedures in another room when the room designated for aseptic surgery is occupied or temporarily unavailable. A small animal mobile clinic which provides aseptic surgical services and that is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate room reserved for aseptic surgical procedures, shall provide the board with the vehicle identification number of the and obtain compliance with this subdivision on or before January 1, 2006.~~

~~(A) A small animal mobile clinic that provides aseptic surgery shall also have an examination area separate from the surgery room that is large enough to conduct an examination.~~

~~(4d) If animals are housed or retained for treatment, the following shall be provided:~~

~~(A1) Compartments for animals, one for each animal, that are maintained in a comfortable and sanitary manner.~~

~~(B2) Effective separation of known or suspected contagious animals.~~

~~(be) A small animal mobile clinic veterinary premises providing services within a unit or vehicle shall also have, as applicable:~~

~~(1) iIndoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examining and surgical rooms, whichthat shall be adequate for its intended purpose.~~

~~(2) aAn examination room, separate from other areas of the veterinary premises, whichthat shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient, and client.~~

~~(3) fFire precautions that meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes,.~~

~~(4) A continuous supply of hot and cold running water.~~

~~(45) tTemperature and ventilation controls adequate to assure the comfort of all patients.~~

~~(76) All floors, doors, tabletops, and window coverings shall be non-porous.~~

~~(c) A small animal mobile clinic shall have the ability and equipment to provide immediate emergency care at a level commensurate with the specific veterinary medical services it is providing.~~

~~(d) A small animal mobile clinic shall provide either after hours emergency services to its patients or, if no after hours emergency care is available, full disclosure to the public prior to rendering services.~~

~~(e) When the client has not given the veterinarian authorization to dispose of his or her deceased animal, the veterinarian shall be required to retain the carcass in a freezer for at least 14 days prior to disposal.~~

(c) A mobile veterinary premises from which veterinary services are provided to equines, and/or food animals and livestock as defined in subdivisions (c) and (d) of section 4825.1 of the code at the location where the animals are housed by the client (commonly referred to as "house calls" or "farm calls"), also shall be exempt from compliance with paragraph (10) of subsection (a) of section 2030.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4854, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4853 and 4854, Business and Professions Code.

§ 2030.3. Minimum Standards - Small Animal Vaccination Clinic Veterinary Premises.

(a) ~~The term~~For purposes of this section, an “small-animal vaccination clinic-veterinary premises” shall mean a ~~privately or publicly supported vaccination clinic~~location at a scheduled vaccination event where a veterinarian or designated veterinary personnel ~~administers~~performs vaccinations and/or immunizations against diseaseand performs preventative procedures for parasite control on multiple animals, and where the veterinarian may also perform preventative procedures for parasitic control.

(b) For purposes of this section, “designated veterinary personnel” means a registered veterinary technician, veterinary assistant, or veterinary assistant controlled substance permit holder supervised by the veterinarian.

(c) An animal vaccination veterinary premises shall meet the following minimum standards:

(1) All minimum standards specified in section 2030, except for paragraphs (5), (7), (8), (10), (11), and (13) of subsection (a) of that section.

(b2) A veterinarian must remain on site throughout the duration of athe scheduled vaccination clinic ~~and must maintain responsibility for all medical decisions made~~event. The veterinarian is responsible for proper immunization and parasiticadministration of vaccinations and preventative procedures for parasite control and the completeness of recommendations made to the public by the designated veterinary personnel~~paraprofessional staff that the veterinarian supervises or employs~~. The veterinarian is responsible for consultation and referral of clients when disease is detected or suspected.

~~(c) The disposal of waste material shall comply with all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations.~~

~~(d) All drugs and biologicals shall be stored, maintained, administered, dispensed and prescribed according to the manufacturer's recommendations and in compliance with state and federal laws.~~

~~(e) Lighting shall be adequate for the procedures to be performed in the vaccination clinic.~~

~~(f) Floors, table tops, and counter tops shall be of a non-porous material suitable for regular disinfecting, and cleaning, and shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly.~~

~~(g) Equipment shall be of the type and quality to provide for the delivery of vaccines and parasiticides in the best interest of the patient and with safety to the public.~~

(h3) Fresh, clean water shall be available for sanitizing and first aid. Disposable towels and soap shall be readily available.

~~(i) A vaccination clinic shall have the ability and equipment to provide immediate emergency care at a level commensurate with the specific veterinary medical services it is providing.~~

~~(j4) The vaccination clinic shall provide a legible list of the name, address, and hours of operation of all facilities that provide or advertise emergency services and, when applicable, the location of other clinics provided by the same entity on that day, that are located within a 30-minute or 30-mile radius. A written disclosure shall be provided to each client prior to or at the time services are provided in at least 18-point type and include the following:~~

~~(A) the telephone number where clients are able to contact the animal vaccination veterinary premises with questions, concerns, or emergency needs.~~

~~(B) the hours of operation of the animal vaccination veterinary premises.~~

~~(C) a name, telephone number, and location of a veterinary premises where after-hours emergency care is available.~~

~~(k) The vaccination clinic shall maintain all vaccination records for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of the vaccination.~~

~~(l) If any diagnostic tests are performed or dangerous drugs are provided, administered, prescribed or dispensed, then a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship must be established, including a complete physical exam and Medical Records as set forth in section 2032.3.~~

~~(m5) The veterinarian shall be identifiable to the public, including, but not limited to the posting of a copy of the veterinarian's license, as set forth in section 4850 of the codeBusiness and Professions Code.~~

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4854, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4853, 4854 and 4883, Business and Professions Code.