

APPROVED BY THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION
DECEMBER 17, 2024

**FINAL EXPRESS TERMS
FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS – VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 2, CHAPTER 12
(DCA 01/24)**

The Administrative Procedure Act requires state agencies to draft regulations in plain, straightforward language, avoiding technical terms as much as possible and using a coherent and easily readable style. An agency shall draft the regulation in plain English. A notation shall follow the express terms of each regulation listing the specific statutes authorizing the adoption and listing specific statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific (Government Code Section 11346.2(a)(1)).

If using assistive technology, please adjust your settings to recognize underline, strikeout, italic and ellipsis.

LEGEND for EXPRESS TERMS (Based on model codes - Parts 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10)

- Model Code language appears upright
- Existing California amendments appear in *italic*
- Amended model code or new California amendments appear *underlined & italic*
- Repealed model code language appears ~~upright and in-strikeout~~
- Repealed California amendments appear in ~~*italic and strikeout*~~
- Ellipses (...) indicate existing text remains unchanged

FINAL EXPRESS TERMS

**Chapter 12 INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT
Section 1251 [CA] ~~Veterinary Facilities~~ Premises**

1251.1

~~All premises where veterinary medicine, veterinary dentistry or veterinary surgery is 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 the standards of this section. [Practice Standard: 16 CCR § 2030 (a)(1)] Unless otherwise specified in this section, all veterinary premises shall contain the following:~~

~~**1251.2.1.** Indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas and examining and surgical rooms shall be adequate for their intended purpose. All surgical rooms shall be provided with emergency lighting with a viable power source.~~

1251.3

~~A veterinary facility where animals are housed shall contain the following: [Moved to section 1251.1 item 7.]~~

~~12. A reception room and office, or a combination of the two.~~

~~23. An examination room separate from other areas of the facility veterinary premises and of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient, and client.~~

~~3. A surgery room separate and distinct from all other rooms. [Amended and moved to section 1251.1 item 8.A.]~~

~~4. Housing In those veterinary hospitals where animals are retained for treatment or hospitalization, the following shall be provided:~~

~~4.1. Separate compartments, one for each animal, maintained in a sanitary manner so as to assure comfort. [Moved to section 1251.1 item 7.A.; no changes.]~~

~~4.2. Facilities allowing for the effective separation of contagious and noncontagious cases. [Amended and moved to section 1251.1 item 7.B.]~~

~~4.3. Exercise runs which provide and allow effective separation of animals and their waste products. [Practice Standard 16 CCR § 2030 (a)(3)]~~

~~Note: Where animals are kept in clinics for 24 hours or more, walking the animal meets this requirement. [Practice Standard 16 CCR § 2030 (a)(3)]~~

~~4. All floors, doors, table tops, counter tops, and window coverings shall be nonporous. [Amended and moved from 16 CCR § 2030 (g)(7)]~~

1251.4 Practice Management.

1251.4.1

~~Veterinary facilities shall maintain a sanitary environment to avoid sources and transmission of infection. This is to include the proper routine of disposal of waste materials and proper sterilization or sanitation of all equipment used in diagnosis or treatment. [Practice Standard 16 CCR § 2030 (a)(1)]~~

~~**1251.4.25.** Fire precautions shall meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes.~~

~~**1251.4.36.** The temperature and ventilation of the facility veterinary premises shall be maintained so as to assure the comfort of all patients.~~

1251.4.4

~~The veterinary facility must have the capacity to render adequate diagnostic radiological services, either in the hospital or through other commercial facilities. Radiological procedures shall be in accordance with state public health standards. [Practice Standard 16 CCR § 2030 (a)(7)]~~

1251.4.5

~~Sanitary methods for the disposal of deceased animals shall be provided and maintained. Where the owner of a deceased animal has not given the veterinarian authorization to dispose of the animal, the veterinarian shall be required to retain the carcass in a freezer for at least 14 days. [Practice Standard CCR §§ 2030 (a)(10), 2030.1(a)]~~

7. A veterinary facility where ~~if~~ animals are housed or retained for treatment, the following shall contain the following be provided: [Amended and moved from section 1251.3]

A. Separate compartments, one for each animal, maintained in a sanitary manner so as to assure comfort. [Moved from section 1251.3 item 4.1; no changes.]

B. ~~Facilities allowing for the e~~Effective separation of known or suspected contagious and noncontagious cases animals. [Amended and moved from section 1251.3 item 4.2.]

8. A veterinary premises that provides aseptic surgical services shall comply with the following: [Moved from 16 CCR § 2030 (g)]

A. A surgery room, separate and distinct from all other rooms shall be reserved for aseptic surgical procedures that 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. [Amended and moved from section 1251.3 item 3 and 16 CCR § 2030 (g)(1).]

1. The Veterinary Medical Board (Board) may exempt a fixed veterinary premises that 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 paragraph A. In determining whether a hardship exists, the Board shall give due consideration to the following factors: [Amended and moved from 16 CCR § 2030 (g)(1)(B)]

(i) Zoning limitations.

(ii) Whether the premises constitutes a historical building.

(iii) Whether compliance with this requirement would compel the veterinary premises to relocate to a new location.

B. The surgery room shall not contain a functional sink with an open drain.
[Moved from 16 CCR § 2030 (g)(4)]

C. 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 veterinary premises. In cases where the size of the animal prevents entry to a fixed veterinary premises 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. [Moved from 16 CCR § 2030 (g)(5)]

1251.2

(a) An animal vaccination veterinary premises, as defined in section 2030.3 of Article 4 of Division 20 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, shall meet all minimum standards specified in section 1251.1 except for items 2 and 3 of that section.

(b) For purposes of this section, a “large animal fixed veterinary premises” shall mean a building where veterinary services are being provided to equines or food animals and livestock, as defined in section 4825.1 of the Business and Professions Code. A large animal fixed veterinary premises shall meet all minimum standards specified in section 1251.1 except for item 6 of that section.

(c) For purposes of this section, “animal shelter premises” shall mean a building or portion(s) thereof where veterinary services are being provided to animals impounded by a privately or publicly operated agency or organization and does not meet the exception criteria pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) of subdivision (a) of 4827 of the Business and Professions Code. An animal shelter premises providing veterinary services solely to impounded animals shall meet all minimum standards specified in section 1251.1 except for items 2 and 3 of that section. This includes post adoption veterinary services to animals adopted from the same premises within thirty days of adoption.

Notation:

Authority: Business and Professions Code (BPC) Section 4808

Reference(s): BPC Sections 4853 and 4854