

WSR 23-11-058

POLICY STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Veterinary Board of Governors)

[Filed May 12, 2023, 2:58 p.m.]

This memo serves as notice that the veterinary board of governors (board) is rescinding policy statement VBOG 20-02 Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship Requirements During the COVID-19 Response, filed on May 18, 2020, as WSR 20-11-049.

The board is rescinding this policy statement addressing enforcement of WAC 246-933-200(2), as the state of emergency ended on October 31, 2022. The policy was effective for the duration of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) declared state of emergency to allow veterinarians flexibility to establish veterinary-client-patient-relationships (VCPR) due to difficulties during COVID-19. The board determined VCPR requirements listed in WAC 246-933-200 are necessary to ensure safety of animal patients. The board is currently considering rule making to amend WAC 246-933-200 requirements for a permanent solution for veterinarian flexibility. The board officially rescinded the policy statement at its December 5, 2022, business meeting.

Individuals requiring information on this rule should contact Lorelei Walker, program manager, at 360-236-4947.

Tami M. Thompson
Regulatory Affairs Manager