



Exempt Action Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	2 VAC 5-620
Regulation title	Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Establishment of the Dangerous Dog Registry
Action title	Revision of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Establishment of the Dangerous Dog Registry to reflect changes to the authorizing statutes enacted by the 2012 Session of the General Assembly.
Final agency action date	12/12/12
Document preparation date	12/12/12

When a regulatory action is exempt from executive branch review pursuant to § 2.2-4002 or § 2.2-4006 of the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), the agency is encouraged to provide information to the public on the Regulatory Town Hall using this form.

Note: While posting this form on the Town Hall is optional, the agency must comply with requirements of the Virginia Register Act, Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of all regulatory changes, including the rationale behind such changes. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

The 2012 Session of the General Assembly enacted legislation which clarified and simplified the procedure by which dangerous dogs are registered on the Commonwealth of Virginia Dangerous Dog Registry maintained by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). The goal was to alleviate confusion concerning the registration process experienced by citizens and local governments in order to streamline dangerous dog registration; this body of regulation has been revised to reflect these statutory changes.

Specifically, this revision:

- Clarifies that this regulation only applies to the owners of dogs that have been deemed dangerous by a court of law.

- Removes defunct language relevant to the initial establishment of the registry.
- Simplifies the flow of information between dangerous dog owners, local governments, and the Department and removes duplicitous or unnecessary mandates for the collection and maintenance of information.
- Provides that owners will only have to interact with and supply information to their local government, and the local government in turn will communicate directly with VDACS. Owners will pay one fee of \$150 upon initial registration, and one annual renewal fee of \$85, directly to their local government. The local government will annually remit \$90 and \$25 respectively of these fees to VDACS for maintenance of the registry.

Statement of final agency action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including (1) the date the action was taken, (2) the name of the agency taking the action, and (3) the title of the regulation.

On December 12, 2012 the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services revised the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Establishment of the Dangerous Dog Registry (2 VAC 5-620 of the Virginia Administrative Code). This action is exempted from the provisions of the Administrative Process Act of the Code of Virginia under Section 3.2-6542.

Family impact

Assess the impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.

This regulatory action has no impact on the institution of the family or family stability.