



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

Mark R. Herring
Attorney General

202 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-786-2071
FAX 804-786-1991
Virginia Relay Services
800-828-1120
7-1-1

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. David E. Brown
Director
Virginia Department of Health Professions

FROM: Charis A. Mitchell
Assistant Attorney General

DATE: September 7, 2017

SUBJECT: *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine*
18 VAC 150-20-174

I have reviewed the proposed *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine*, 18 VAC 150-20-174, that will amend the emergency regulations and were adopted by the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine on August 24, 2017. The proposed regulations create practice guidelines for the prescribing of opioids and buprenorphine. These proposed amendments are emergency regulations promulgated pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-4011, following the declaration of an opioid addiction crisis public health emergency by the Virginia State Health Commissioner on November 21, 2016. The Board also has the authority to adopt these regulations under Virginia Code §§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-3408.4. The proposed regulations are constitutional and do not conflict with existing federal or state laws or regulations.