



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Charis A. Mitchell
Assistant Attorney General

DATE: May 10, 2017

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

I have reviewed the proposed amendments to the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine*, 18 VAC 150-20-174, that were adopted by the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine on April 20, 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 Department of Health on November 21, 2016. The Board also has the authority to adopt the regulations under Virginia Code §§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-3408.1. The proposed regulations are constitutional and do not conflict with existing federal or state laws or regulations.