



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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June 25, 2009

Ned Therien, R.S.
Health Policy Analyst
Washington State Board of Health
PO Box 47990
Olympia, WA 98504-7990

Dear Ned,

Please consider this letter to be an official petition to the State Board of Health to initiate rule making on WAC 246-203-130. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) feels that this WAC is antiquated and in need of modification to meet natural resource protection in association with the "Keeping of Animals".

Currently, WAC 246-203-130 "Keeping of Animals" reads:

- (1) Any person, firm or corporation is prohibited from keeping or sheltering animals in such a manner that a condition resulting from same shall constitute a nuisance.
- (2) In populous districts, stable manure must be kept in a covered watertight pit or chamber and shall be removed at least once a week during the period from April 1st to October 1st and, during the other months, at intervals sufficiently frequent to maintain a sanitary condition satisfactory to the health officer. Manure on farms or isolated premises other than dairy farms need not be so protected and removed unless ordered by the health officer.
- (3) Manure shall not be allowed to accumulate in any place where it prejudicially affects any source of drinking water.

WACD has been directed by resolution from our Conservation District membership to work with the State Board of Health to amend WAC 246-203-130 (2) to read:

- (2) In populous districts, stable manure must be managed according to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide practice standards and specifications.

Conservation Districts utilize NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standards and specifications in development of farm plans for all cooperators they work with on the ground. This recognized and accepted best available science is a consistent guide for staff as they work with private landowners. Conservation District staffs have training in utilizing the Field Office Technical Guide. This modification to WAC 246-203-130 (2) would allow for clarity and make the expertise of the district technical staff available to the private landowner. Thank you for your consideration of this petition.

Sincerely,

John Larson, Executive Director
Washington Association of Conservation Districts