



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH KEEPING OF ANIMALS RULEMAKING SUMMARY AND TIMELINE

Updated October 2020

Background

Among other powers and duties, RCW 43.20.050 authorizes the State Board of Health (Board) to adopt rules and standards to prevent, control, and abate health hazards and nuisance related to the disposal of human and animal excreta and animal remains. The Board's Keeping of Animals rule, WAC 246-203-130, addresses the disposal and handling of animal excrement to protect health and sanitation and to prevent and abate nuisance. Unless properly handled and disposed of, domestic animal waste can affect neighboring properties, drinking water supplies, and can cause or contribute to other human health risks.

Purpose

The Keeping of Animals rule is a longstanding and outdated Board rule, codified as Washington Administrative Code (WAC) in 1960. The rule language dates to the 1920s and 30s. In 2009, the Board filed a CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (WSR 09-17-132), to explore issues and initiate work updating the rule. In the ensuing years, limited resources and other circumstances delayed work on the rule. This overview helps inform people on work that is underway to modernize the rule.

Recent Issues and Activities

In 2018, Board staff completed a background report describing the state regulatory structure and environmental health concerns with livestock manure and other domestic animal waste, and outlining Board policy direction to modernize the rule. In fall 2018, Board staff restarted work on the rule with emphasis on public notice, stakeholder outreach, research, and rule writing. In fall 2019, the Board filed a new CR-101, WSR 19-21-018, to better align the rulemaking with current Board policy direction. In early 2020, staff distributed a draft rule for public review and comment and followed with work processing the diverse and contrasting comments and rewriting the draft rule.

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Next Steps

Board staff is readying a revised draft rule for further discussion and consideration by the Board. Staff will provide a project update at the Board's meeting on November 9, 2020. The Board will determine subsequent steps and actions. To track progress or to join the project's interested parties' list, visit the Board's rulemaking web page. Board staff will notify interested parties at key milestones in the rulemaking process.

Contact Information

For more information about the rule, or to be added to the interested parties' list, please email [Stuart Glasoe](#), Policy Advisor, or call 360-236-4111.

Rulemaking Timeline

Rule Activity	Completion Date
Background report	2018
Rulemaking plan	Late 2018
Public notice, stakeholder outreach	Late 2018, Early 2019
Rule writing, stakeholder meetings	2019
Board update	October 2019
New CR-101, Preproposal Statement of Inquiry	October 2019
Public review draft rule	March 2020
Board update	November 2020
CR-102, Proposed Rulemaking	
Rule analyses	
Public comment, response to comments	
Board briefing	
CR-102 refiling if substantial amendments	
Public comment, response to comments	
Board hearing, rule adoption	
CR-103, Rulemaking Order	