



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

Updated: September 2022

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The Keeping of Animals rule is a longstanding and outdated Board rule, codified as Washington Administrative Code (WAC) in 1960.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.

Rulemaking Activities

The project resumed in 2017 with fresh analysis of key issues. 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, interested parties' 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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In November 2020, the Board directed staff to file the CR-102, Proposed Rule, and develop the companion Significant Analysis and Small Business Economic Impact Statement. In March 2022, staff briefed the Board on the rulemaking, filed the CR-102, Proposed Rule ([WSR 22-08-003](#)), and notified interested parties.

On June 8, 2022, the Board held a public hearing and considered public comment on the proposed rule. At the hearing’s conclusion, the Board adopted the proposed rule along with several amendments to the rule language. The revision changes the rule title to Domestic Animal Waste.

Contact Information

For more information about this rulemaking, 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 or 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 Rule	March 2022
Rule analyses	March 2022
Board briefing	March 2022
Public Comment	May 2022
Board hearing, rule adoption	June 2022
CR-103, Rulemaking Order	September 2022