

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Agriculture and Forestry Board of Veterinary Medicine

Zoo Personnel (LAC 46:LXXXV.1303 & 1305)

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Louisiana Board (“Board”) of Veterinary Medicine has amended LAC 46:LXXXV.1303 and 1305. These amendments will require the escape and capture protocols, the drug storage and use protocols, and the drug inventory protocols to be submitted to the Board every five years for review. Additionally, all laypersons must complete the chemical capture training course every three years and submit proof of completion to the Board for review. This Rule is adopted on the date of promulgation.

Title 46 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS Part LXXXV. Veterinarians

Chapter 13. Zoo Personnel

§1303. Training Requirements for Zoo Personnel

A. – B.2. ...

~~C. A certificate offering proof of training for each employee shall be filed with the board by the licensed veterinarian.~~

C. Prior to administering any chemical restraint drug, a layperson newly employed by a zoo must successfully complete a board-approved chemical capture training course. The licensed veterinarian at the zoo shall submit to the board the trained layperson’s certificate of completion which shall include the following:

1. the trained layperson’s full name;
2. the name of the course/program;
3. the name of the training veterinarian;
4. the date(s) of attendance; and
5. the total number of hours completed;

D. All trained laypersons must successfully complete a board-approved chemical capture course at least once every three consecutive calendar years. Within 60 days after a layperson completes the course, the zoo’s supervising licensed veterinarian must submit the certificate of completion to the board. The certificate must include all information required under §1303.C of this Section.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR

19:1429 (November 1993), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:773 (June 2024), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 52:

§1305. Protocols and Plans

A. An escape and capture protocol to be used by the veterinarian in the training of zoo employees shall be submitted to the board for approval every five years from the date of initial board approval.

B. A storage and use plan for capture drugs which meets or exceeds the requirements of all federal drug enforcement agencies and the standards for record keeping found in Chapter 7 of these rules shall be submitted to the board for the board’s approval every five years from the date of initial board approval.

1. – 2. ...

C. An inventory protocol for all capture drugs which meets or exceeds the requirements of all federal drug enforcement agencies and the standards for prescribing and dispensing drugs found in Chapter 7 of these rules shall be submitted to the board for the board’s approval every five years from the date of initial board approval.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1518.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 19:1430 (November 1993), repromulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 50:773 (June 2024), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, LR 52:

Family Impact Statement

The proposed Rule should not have any known or foreseeable impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy. In particular, the proposed Rule has no known or foreseeable impact on:

1. the stability of the family;
2. the authority and rights of persons regarding the education and supervision of their children;
3. the functioning of the family;
4. family earnings and family budget;
5. the behavior and personal responsibility of children;
6. the ability of the family or a local government to perform the function as contained in the proposed Rule.

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed Rule should not have any known or foreseeable impact on any child, individual or family as defined by R.S. 49:973(B). In particular, there should be no known or foreseeable effect on:

1. the effect on household income, assets, and financial security;
2. the effect on early childhood development and preschool through postsecondary education development;
3. the effect on employment and workforce development;
4. the effect on taxes and tax credits;
5. the effect on child and dependent care, housing, health care, nutrition, transportation, and utilities assistance.

Small Business Analysis

The proposed Rule should have no adverse impact on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Provider Impact Statement

The proposed Rule should not have any known or foreseeable impact on providers as defined by HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session. In particular, there should be no known or foreseeable effect on:

1. the effect on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service;
2. the total direct and indirect effect on the cost to the providers to provide the same level of service; or
3. the overall effect on the ability of the provider to provide the same level of service.

Public Comments

Interested parties may submit written comments to the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine, Attention: Jared B. Granier, Executive Director, via U.S Mail at 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 or via e-mail attachment to director@lsbvm.org or via hand delivery. Comments will be accepted until 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026. All written comments must be dated and must include the first and last name, email address, mailing address, phone number, and the original signature of the person submitting the comments.

Public Hearing

Interested parties may submit a written request to conduct a public hearing to the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine, Attention: Jared B. Granier, Executive Director, via U.S Mail at 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 or via e-mail attachment to director@lsbvm.org or via hand delivery; however, such request must be received by no later than 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026. If the criteria set forth in R.S. 49:953(A)(2)(a) are satisfied, a public hearing will be conducted at 1:00p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. To confirm whether or not a public hearing will be held, interested parties should visit the Board's website at www.lsbvm.org/rulemaking-projects after Thursday, April 9, 2026. If a public hearing is to be held, all interested parties are invited to attend and present data, views, comments, or arguments, orally or in writing. In the event of a hearing, parking is available to the public in front of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Building at 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Jared B. Granier
Executive Director

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RULE TITLE: Zoo Personnel

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

There are no anticipated costs or savings to state or local governmental units resulting from the proposed rule change, except for the cost associated with publishing, which is included in the annual operating budget of the Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board).

The proposed rule change will require that the escape and capture protocols, drug storage and use protocols, and drug inventory protocols at zoo facilities be submitted to the Board by the licensed veterinarian every five years for review. Additionally, all laypersons (individuals not licensed by the Board) employed by zoo facilities who perform chemical captures of zoo animals will be required to complete a chemical capture training course every three years and submit proof of completion to the Board for review.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to affect revenue collections of state or local governmental units.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule change would require all laypersons (individuals not licensed by the Board) employed by zoo facilities who perform chemical captures of zoo animals to complete a chemical capture training course every three years and submit proof of completion to the Board for review. This requirement is typically already required by zoos; however, if a zoo does not currently require it, affected persons would need to complete the course. These courses typically are offered for around \$80, but can be found for free at some locations.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to impact competition and employment in either the public or private sector.

Jared B. Granier
Executive Director
2603#012

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer
Legislative Fiscal Office