



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

Andy Schwartz, DVM • Executive Director

P.O. Box 12966 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (800) 550-8242 <http://www.tahc.texas.gov>

For more information contact the Public Information Dept. at 512-719-0728 or at thomas.swafford@tahc.texas.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2016

TAHC Passes Authorized Personnel Rule at 396th Commission Meeting

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting on August 23, 2016, at its headquarters in Austin.

The following rule adoption became effective on September 13, 2016.

Chapter 47, Authorized Personnel, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Authorized Personnel Requirements:

The proposed rule clarifies that *only* Certified CWD Veterinarians may collect antemortem (live animal) CWD samples. Non-veterinarians may *only* collect postmortem CWD samples. As such, the commission changed the title of such individuals from "Certified CWD Sample Collector" to "Certified CWD Postmortem Sample Collector." The rule also includes the requirements for Certified CWD Veterinarians.

To view details of the adopted rule visit <http://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/code.html>

The following rule amendments were proposed:

Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis, Certification Period and Sample Submission Timeframe: The proposed rule will extend the certification period of veterinarians certified to perform Trichomoniasis program activities from 3 years to 5 years. The proposed definition of "cattle" will exclude bison, which eliminates the requirement to test bison for Trichomoniasis. Lastly, the proposed rule decreases the time frame in which a veterinarian must submit and the lab must receive a test sample from 120 hours to 96 hours after collection.

Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease, Repeal and Propose Movement Restriction Zones and Carcass Entry Requirements: The proposed rules will create new movement restriction zones in areas of the state where animals have been disclosed as CWD positive. Also being proposed are new requirements for CWD susceptible species carcasses entering the state from areas where CWD has been detected in free-ranging or captive herds.

The TAHC began accepting public comments for the proposals on September 9, 2016. The deadline for comment submissions on the proposed amendments is October 10, 2016. Complete details of the rule proposals are available on the TAHC website at <http://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html>

The TAHC encourages and appreciates all comments. Comments on the proposals must be submitted in writing to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719, or by email to comments@tahc.texas.gov.

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