



For Immediate Release
June 10, 2025

TAHC Rule Proposals and Rule Reviews Open for Public Comment

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting May 6, 2025, at its headquarters in Austin.

The following amendments were proposed during the meeting and are open for comment from June 6 – July 6, 2025.

Chapter 32, Hearing and Appeal Procedures

The proposed amendment will eliminate references to the chronic wasting disease (CWD) Herd Certification Program (HCP) and adjust numbering.

Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease

The proposed amendments eliminate the definitions for APHIS, Certified Herd, Farmed or Captive Cervids, High-risk Area or County, and TAHC Authorized Veterinarian; modify the definitions for Commingled, Commingling, CWD-Exposed Animal, CWD-Suspect Herd, CWD-Trace Herd, Herd Plan, and Official CWD Test; adjusts numbering; and make minor grammatical changes.

Additionally, the proposed amendments change the procedures for issuing hold orders and quarantines, making these methods optional rather than mandatory, remove references to USDA, and eliminate the federal standards for dispositions of CWD positive and trace herds. Amendments proposed also reduce surveillance testing requirements for exotic CWD susceptible species from 100% of mortalities to three valid tests each year and update language for consistency within the rule.

Proposed repeals of §40.3 and §40.6 eliminate the rules regulating HCP and the established containment and surveillance zones and remove the regulations regarding movement restriction zones.

Chapter 51, Entry Requirements

The proposed amendments clarify identification requirements for ratites entering Texas and create simplified requirements for exotic fowl (other than ratites) moving between Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited facilities.

Additionally, the proposed amendments update language to reflect the name change of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association to Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Rule Reviews

Per Texas Government Code §2001.039, the TAHC must review and consider each of its rules for readoption at least every four years. The rule reviews provide the public an opportunity to comment and suggest amendments on TAHC's rules as they currently exist. In compliance with §2001.039, the Commission proposed review of the following rules:

- Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease
- Chapter 41, Fever Ticks
- Chapter 53, Market Regulations



- Chapter 54, Domestic and Exotic Fowl Registration
- Chapter 57, Poultry

The TAHC will also accept comments on the rules under review from June 6 – July 6, 2025, and will make a final assessment regarding whether the reasons for initially adopting these rules continues to exist and if these rules should be revised, readopted or repealed.

Comments on the rule proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, by mail at 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512)-719-0719 or by email to comments@tahc.texas.gov.

Complete details of the rule proposals are also available on the TAHC website at <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html#proposals>.

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.