



For Immediate Release
September 24, 2025

TAHC Commissioners Adopt Rule Changes

Hearing and Appeal Procedures, Chronic Wasting Disease, Entry Requirements

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting August 26, 2025, at its headquarters in Austin. The following amendments were adopted and went into effect September 16, 2025.

Chapter 32, Hearing and Appeal Procedures

The adopted amendment eliminates references to the chronic wasting disease (CWD) Herd Certification Program (HCP) and adjusts numbering.

Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease

The adopted 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 makes minor grammatical changes.

Additionally, the amendments change the procedures for issuing hold orders and quarantines, remove references to USDA, and eliminate the federal standards for dispositions of CWD positive and trace herds. The amendments 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.

The adopted repeal 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 adopted 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 adopted amendments update language to reflect the name change of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association to Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

The updated rules are available in the [Texas Administrative Code](#) under Title 2, Part 4 in the respective chapters. The Texas Administrative Code can be accessed through the [TAHC website](#).

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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.