

On November 18, 2012, the changes to Chapter 61G18-18.002 Florida Administrative Code – Maintenance of Medical Records, adopted by the Florida Board of Veterinary Medicine, will become effective. These changes outline the record keeping requirements more specifically in subsections three(3) and four (4).

The relevant portion of the rule is printed below with the changes highlighted. No changes were made in subsections one (1), two (2) and five (5) through nine (9).

61G18-18.002 Maintenance of Medical Records.

(1) There must be an individual medical record maintained on every patient examined or administered to by the veterinarian, except as provided in (2) below, for a period of not less than three years after date of last entry. The medical record shall contain all clinical information pertaining to the patient with sufficient information to justify the diagnosis or determination of health status and warrant any treatment recommended or administered.

(2) When a veterinarian is providing services to a client owning or leasing 10 or more animals of the same species at a location where the client keeps the animals, one medical record may be kept for the group of animals. This record must include the species and breed of the animals, and the approximate number of the animals in the group. However when one specific animal is treated, the record must include the identification, diagnosis, and treatment regime of the individual animals examined and treated at each visit to the location, as well as all other information required by this rule.

(3) *Medical records shall be **created as treatment is provided or within 24 hours from the time of treatment** and include the date of each service performed. They shall contain the following information:*

Name of owner or agent

Patient identification

Record of any vaccinations administered

Complaint or reason for provision of services

History

Physical examination to include, but not limited to patient weight, temperature, pulse, and respiration, or noted exceptions to the collection of said information

Any present illness or injury noted

Provisional diagnosis or health status determination

(4) In addition, medical records shall contain the following information if these services are provided or occur during the examination or treatment of an animal or animals:

Clinical laboratory reports

Radiographs and their interpretation

Consultation

Treatment – medical, surgical

Hospitalization

*Drugs prescribed, administered, or dispensed **along with the route, strength, and dosage of the drug and time said drug was administered if not otherwise discernible from the record.***

Tissue examination report

Necropsy findings

The remaining portion of the rule, consisting of subsections five (5) through nine (9) remains unchanged.