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**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION**  
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

March 23, 2000

Brian V. Harpster, V.M.D., Chairman  
State Board of Veterinary Medicine  
116 Pine Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: IRRC Regulation #16A-576 (#1958)  
State Board of Veterinary Medicine  
Professional Conduct; Advertising

Dear Chairman Harpster:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved the subject regulation at its March 23, 2000 public meeting. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at <http://www.irrc.state.pa.us>.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that met the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,

Alvin C. Bush  
Vice Chairman

wbg  
Enclosure  
cc: Teresa Lazo-Miller  
Joyce McKeever  
Dorothy Childress  
Honorable Kim Pizzingrilli

# INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

14th Floor, 333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held March 23, 2000

Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman  
Arthur Coccodrilli  
Robert J. Harbison, III  
John F. Mizner



State Board of Veterinary Medicine  
Professional Conduct; Advertising

Regulation No. 16A-576

## BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

On June 17, 1998, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. This rulemaking amends 49 Pa. Code Section 31.21. The authority for this regulation is Section 5(a) and (b) of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (63 P.S. § 485.5(1) and (2)). The proposed regulation was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on March 1, 2000.

This rulemaking adds a new standard for advertising emergency veterinary services to the existing Rules of Professional Conduct for Veterinarians. It will require veterinarians to disclose in all advertisements the specific hours when the emergency services will be available, whether the veterinarian is on the premises or on call, and whether the emergency services available are limited to particular types of animals.

These changes will enable animal and pet owners to make more informed decisions at the time they have to seek emergency veterinary care. Some veterinarians may incur additional expense to change their current advertisements if they do not conform to these new requirements.

This regulation meets the criteria of the Regulatory Review Act.

## THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Regulation No. 16A-576 from the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, as submitted to the Commission on March 1, 2000, is approved; and
2. The Commission will transmit a copy of this Order to the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman