

**Title 15**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Subtitle 14 BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL**  
**EXAMINERS**  
**Chapter 05 Health Certificate and Rabies Certificate for**  
**Companion Animals**

Authority: Agriculture Article, §2-304, Annotated Code of Maryland

**.01 Definitions.**

A. For the purpose of this chapter "companion animal" means any rabbit, bird, rodent, fish, reptile, amphibian, nonhuman primate, and other species of animal kept for pleasure rather than utility and accustomed to living in or about human habitation.

B. "Companion animal" also means any dog or cat, regardless of its utilitarian purpose.

C. "Companion animal" does not include:

- (1) Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, or poultry; or
- (2) Any other animals kept for bona fide research or agricultural uses.

**.02 Information on Certificate.**

A. When issuing a health certificate or a rabies certificate for a companion animal, a veterinarian may not issue a blank or incomplete certificate. The veterinarian's signature shall be:

- (1) Handwritten by the veterinarian; or
- (2) An electronic signature of the veterinarian, affixed at the direction of the treating veterinarian at the time of vaccination.

B. A health certificate shall contain (if applicable to the species), but not be limited to the following information:

- (1) Date;
- (2) Owner's name;
- (3) Owner's address;
- (4) Description of animal, including:
  - (a) Age;
  - (b) Sex;
  - (c) Breed if purebred, or predominant breed type if of mixed breeding;
  - (d) Family, such as canine, feline;
- (5) Any pertinent medical history;
- (6) Any vaccinations administered, including date and type.

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**.03 Certification of Health.**

If the animal in question is to be shipped out of state, the signature of the veterinarian, who shall be accredited in Maryland, shall be preceded by the following certification:

I certify that I personally examined the animal(s) described hereon and have found same on this day to be free from visible signs of infectious, contagious, or communicable disease; that the results of any tests are as indicated above; that I am familiar with the stated entrance requirements of the state or county destination; and that this certificate is issued in compliance therewith.

**.04 Scope of Authority of these Regulations.**

Nothing contained within these regulations shall preempt, restrict, supersede, or duplicate the authority of the Secretary of Health in Health-General Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

**Administrative History**

Effective date: September 3, 1975 (2:20 Md. R. 1308)

Regulations .02 and .03 amended effective November 18, 1977 (4:24 Md. R. 1808)

Regulation .02A amended effective December 2, 1996 (23:24 Md. R. 1683); March 16, 2015 (42:5 Md. R. 487)

Regulation .02B amended effective May 6, 1985 (12:9 Md. R. 814)

Regulation .03 repealed and Regulation .04 recodified to Regulation .03 effective December 2, 1996 (23:24 Md. R. 1683)

Regulation .04 amended effective May 6, 1985 (12:9 Md. R. 814)

Regulation .05 adopted effective November 18, 1977 (4:24 Md. R. 1808)

Regulation .05 repealed and Regulation .06 recodified to Regulation .04 effective December 2, 1996 (23:24 Md. R. 1683)