AFFIDAVIT REQUIREMENT

Telemedicine FAQ

If you read anything on this new affidavit requirement, let it be this one-pager.

1 What are the three legally defined telehealth categories in Georgia?

Teleadvice (general, non-patient-specific guidance), **teletriage** (urgency assessment by licensed staff), and **telemedicine** (diagnosis, prescribing, treatment).

Note: "telehealth" is not a defined legal term in Georgia.

2 Do I need to file an affidavit to practice telemedicine?

Yes — every individual DVM must file their own affidavit. There is no clinic-wide or umbrella filing.

3 Is the affidavit a one-time requirement?

Yes, it's a one-time notice — not annual. File it as soon as you plan to ever perform telemedicine.

4 How do I file the affidavit?

Log into the State Board GOALS portal, complete a license amendment, attach your notarized affidavit + informed consent, email the PDF to the board, and pay a $10 fee.

5 Can I practice telemedicine while my affidavit is pending?

No. The board requires written approval before you begin. GVMA advises filing immediately, but do not practice until approved.

6 What are the VCPR requirements for telemedicine?

A physical exam of the animal within the last 12 months is required. An exception exists if no vet is within 50 miles or a disaster situation applies.

7 What counts as valid written informed consent?

A single written consent per client is sufficient — it doesn't need to be renewed per visit or per pet. Electronic signatures (email, checkbox, text) are valid under Georgia's OCGA.

8 Can I practice telemedicine if my patient is temporarily out of Georgia?

No. The animal must physically reside in Georgia at the time of the encounter — an existing VCPR doesn't extend across state lines.

9 Does communicating lab results count as telemedicine?

Relaying raw results = **not telemedicine**.
Interpreting them or stating clinical significance (e.g., suggesting a diagnosis) = **telemedicine**.

10 Can licensed vet techs perform teletriage?

Yes — teletriage can be performed by licensed vet techs under DVM supervision. Front desk staff and assistants cannot make clinical triage determinations.

Want a step-by-step guide for completing this requirement?

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