

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to veterinary medicine; amending s.  
 3           474.202, F.S.; providing and revising definitions  
 4           relating to veterinary medical practice; amending s.  
 5           474.2165, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made  
 6           by the act; providing an effective date.

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 8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10           Section 1. Subsections (5) through (12) of section  
 11           474.202, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)  
 12           through (13), respectively, present subsections (8), (12), and  
 13           (13) are amended, and new subsections (5), (14), and (16) are  
 14           added to that section, to read:

15           474.202 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

16           (5) "Examination" means the evaluation of a patient by  
 17           personal inspection, palpation, and auscultation. The term does  
 18           not apply to s. 474.2185.

19           (9)~~(8)~~ "Patient" means any animal or herd, collection, or  
 20           group of animals for which the veterinarian practices veterinary  
 21           medicine.

22           (13)~~(12)~~ "Veterinarian/client/patient relationship" means  
 23           a relationship where the veterinarian has examined the patient  
 24           or made medically appropriate visits to the premises where the  
 25           patient is kept and assumed the responsibility for making

26 | medical judgments regarding the health of the patient animal and  
 27 | its need for medical treatment.

28 |       (14) "Veterinary dentistry" means, with respect to  
 29 | animals, a discipline within the scope of veterinary medicine  
 30 | that involves the professional examination, evaluation,  
 31 | diagnosis, prevention, and surgical and nonsurgical treatment of  
 32 | conditions, diseases, and disorders of a patient's oral cavity  
 33 | and maxillofacial area and adjacent and associated structures; a  
 34 | veterinary dental cleaning, which includes scaling of,  
 35 | supragingival and subgingival plaque and calculus removal from,  
 36 | and polishing of a patient's teeth with power or hand  
 37 | instruments by a veterinarian or a person under the  
 38 | veterinarian's immediate supervision; and veterinary periodontal  
 39 | therapy to treat a patient's diseased periodontal tissues,  
 40 | including root planing, gingival curettage, periodontal flap  
 41 | surgery, extractions, regenerative surgery, gingivectomy and  
 42 | gingivoplasty, and local administration of antiseptics and  
 43 | antibiotics. The term does not include nonveterinary polishing  
 44 | or brushing of an animal's teeth with animal toothpastes or  
 45 | whiteners that are readily available to the public.

46 |       (15)~~(13)~~ "Veterinary medicine" includes, with respect to  
 47 | animals, surgery, acupuncture, obstetrics, veterinary dentistry,  
 48 | physical therapy, radiology, theriogenology, complementary and  
 49 | alternative and integrative therapy, veterinary telemedicine,  
 50 | and other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine.

51           (16) "Veterinary telemedicine" means the practice of  
 52 veterinary medicine by a veterinarian subsequent to the  
 53 establishment of a veterinarian/client/patient relationship  
 54 where continuing patient care, treatment, or service is provided  
 55 through the use of medical information exchanged from one site  
 56 to another via electronic communications. The term does not  
 57 include emergency teletriage or poison control services.

58           Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 474.2165, Florida  
 59 Statutes, is amended to read:

60           474.2165 Ownership and control of veterinary medical  
 61 patient records; report or copies of records to be furnished.-

62           (1) As used in this section, the term "records owner"  
 63 means a ~~any~~ veterinarian who generates a medical record after  
 64 making an ~~a physical~~ examination of, or administering treatment  
 65 or dispensing legend drugs to, a ~~any~~ patient; a ~~any~~ veterinarian  
 66 to whom records are transferred by a previous records owner; or  
 67 a ~~any~~ veterinarian's employer, provided the employment contract  
 68 or agreement between the employer and the veterinarian  
 69 designates the employer as the records owner.

70           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.