

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to animal service providers; amending s. 474.203, F.S.; providing that certain independent contractors administering certain nonmedical health care services to animals are exempt from ch. 474, F.S., relating to veterinary medical practice, subject to certain requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 474.203, Florida Statutes, to read:

474.203 Exemptions.--This chapter shall not apply to:

(9) An independent contractor who, under the supervision of a person who is administering to the ills or injuries of his or her own livestock, herd, or avian animals, provides nonmedical health care services to the animals, including, but not limited to, acupressure, aromatherapy, animal communication, farriery, flower essence therapy, homeopathy, light therapy, magnet therapy, massage therapy, hydrotherapy, nutritional counseling, debeaking, dehorning, and manual equine teeth floating. The owner of a herd animal raised for food or fiber may engage an independent contractor to provide routine herd management tasks, including, but not limited to, castration and parasite control. An independent contractor who provides nonmedical health care services for animals and is not a veterinarian shall:

28           (a) Obtain an occupational license from his or her county  
 29 of residence.

30           (b) Advise each owner of an animal that will be treated of  
 31 his or her knowledge or experience with the services that will  
 32 be provided.

33           (c) Provide his or her credentials upon the request of  
 34 each owner of an animal that will be treated.

35           (d) Refrain from engaging in animal cruelty.

36           (e) Refrain from advertising in any way that implies that  
 37 he or she is a veterinarian.

38  
 39 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt  
 40 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)  
 41 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the  
 42 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

43           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.