

By Senator Hutson

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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. Present subsections (5) through (12) of section
 11 474.202, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (6)
 12 through (13), respectively, present subsections (8), (12), and
 13 (13) are amended, and new subsection (5) and subsections (14)
 14 and (16) are 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 a
 23 relationship where the veterinarian has examined the patient or
 24 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 animals,
 29 a discipline within the scope of veterinary medicine that

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30 involves the professional examination, evaluation, diagnosis,
31 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

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

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