

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to animal welfare; amending s.
 3 474.2165, F.S.; authorizing a veterinarian to report
 4 suspected criminal violations relating to dogs or cats
 5 to certain officers and agents without notice to or
 6 authorization from a client; providing an effective
 7 date.

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

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 11 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 474.2165, Florida
 12 Statutes, is amended to read:

13 474.2165 Ownership and control of veterinary medical
 14 patient records; report or copies of records to be furnished.—

15 (4) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a
 16 veterinarian may not furnish written patient medical ~~such~~
 17 ~~records may not be furnished to,~~ and may not discuss the medical
 18 condition of a patient ~~may not be discussed~~ with, any person
 19 other than the client or the client's legal representative or
 20 other veterinarians involved in the care or treatment of the
 21 patient, unless the veterinarian has received ~~except upon~~
 22 written authorization from ~~of~~ the client. However, such records
 23 may be furnished without written authorization under the
 24 following circumstances:

25 1.(a) To any person, firm, or corporation that has

26 | procured or furnished such examination or treatment with the
27 | client's consent.

28 | ~~2.(b)~~ In any civil or criminal action, unless otherwise
29 | prohibited by law, upon the issuance of a subpoena from a court
30 | of competent jurisdiction and proper notice to the client or the
31 | client's legal representative by the party seeking such records.

32 | ~~3.(e)~~ For statistical and scientific research, provided
33 | the information is abstracted in such a way as to protect the
34 | identity of the patient and the client, or provided written
35 | permission is received from the client or the client's legal
36 | representative.

37 | (b) If a criminal violation relating to a dog or cat is
38 | suspected, a veterinarian may, without notice to or
39 | authorization from the client, report the violation to a law
40 | enforcement officer, an animal control officer who is certified
41 | pursuant to s. 828.27(4)(a), or an agent appointed under s.
42 | 828.03. The report may not include written medical records
43 | except upon the issuance of an order from a court of competent
44 | jurisdiction.

45 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.