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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/17/2021	.	
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The Committee on Agriculture (Rodriguez) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 41 - 70
and insert:
establish such relationship.

(14) "Veterinary telemedicine" means the practice of
veterinary medicine in a remote setting, including through the
use of telephone or audio-visual technology or by other means
consistent with the veterinarian's professional judgment, as
long as the veterinarian/client/patient relationship is



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11 established either in person or by audio-visual technology.

12 Section 2. Section 474.2021, Florida Statutes, is created
13 to read:

14 474.2021 Veterinary telemedicine.-

15 (1) A veterinarian may practice veterinary telemedicine. A
16 physical examination is not required for the veterinarian to
17 assume responsibility for making medical judgments or providing
18 treatment by means of veterinary telemedicine in a manner
19 consistent with the veterinary standard of care.

20 (2) (a) A veterinarian who establishes a
21 veterinarian/client/patient relationship without a physical
22 examination may only provide the following services through
23 veterinary telemedicine:

24 1. Triage of patients in first aid and emergency cases.

25 2. Consultation and prescription of drugs for the following
26 areas of care: nutrition, training, dermatological conditions,
27 and anxiety.

28 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a veterinarian may not
29 prescribe drugs for extralabel use or veterinary feed directive
30 drugs without a veterinarian/client/patient relationship that is
31 established through a physical examination and is otherwise
32 consistent with federal law.

33 (3) A veterinarian may not prescribe controlled substances
34 if the veterinarian/client/patient relationship has been
35 established by means of veterinary telemedicine under this
36 section and the veterinarian has not previously performed a
37 physical examination.

38 (4) A veterinarian must hold a current license to practice
39 veterinary medicine in this state in order to practice



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40 veterinary telemedicine.
41 (5) The board has jurisdiction over a veterinarian
42 practicing veterinary telemedicine in this state, regardless of
43 where the veterinarian's physical offices are located. The
44 practice of veterinary telemedicine in accordance with this
45 section is not itself a standard of care violation, and a
46 veterinarian may not be disciplined solely for practicing
47 veterinary telemedicine. The same veterinary standard of care
48 applies to services provided through veterinary telemedicine as
49 applies to veterinary care provided during an in-person visit.

51 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

52 And the title is amended as follows:

53 Delete lines 7 - 8

54 and insert:

55 practice veterinary telemedicine; specifying the
56 services a veterinarian may provide without first
57 establishing a veterinarian/client/patient
58 relationship by a physical examination; prohibiting
59 veterinarians from prescribing controlled substances
60 under certain circumstances;