

26 lieu of an actual signature on the rabies vaccination
 27 certificate; providing an effective date.

28

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

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31 Section 1. Subsection (13) is added to section 474.202,
 32 Florida Statutes, to read:

33 474.202 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

34 (13) "Veterinary telemedicine" means the use of
 35 synchronous telecommunication technology by a veterinarian who
 36 has access to and has reviewed the patient's relevant medical
 37 records to provide veterinary services, including, but not
 38 limited to, consultation, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment
 39 of a patient; transfer of medical records; and exchange of
 40 information with a client.

41 Section 2. Section 474.2021, Florida Statutes, is created
 42 to read:

43 474.2021 Veterinary telemedicine.—

44 (1) A veterinarian may practice veterinary telemedicine.

45 (2) A veterinarian practicing veterinary telemedicine
 46 shall take appropriate steps to establish the
 47 veterinarian/client/patient relationship and provide quality of
 48 care consistent with the prevailing professional standards of
 49 care for a veterinarian.

50 (3) A veterinarian may prescribe controlled substances

51 only if the veterinarian:

52 (a) Has previously performed an in-person physical
53 examination of the patient or made medically appropriate and
54 timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept; or

55 (b) For a terminal patient that is transferred to the
56 veterinarian for hospice care by a veterinarian who has
57 previously performed an in-person physical examination of the
58 patient or made medically appropriate and timely visits to the
59 premises where the animal is kept, has reviewed the patient's
60 medical records.

61 (4) A veterinarian must hold a current license to practice
62 veterinary medicine in this state in order to practice
63 veterinary telemedicine. The practice of veterinary medicine is
64 deemed to occur at the premises where the patient is located at
65 the time the veterinarian practices veterinary telemedicine.

66 (5) The board has jurisdiction over a veterinarian
67 practicing veterinary telemedicine in this state, regardless of
68 where the veterinarian's physical office is located. The
69 practice of veterinary telemedicine in accordance with this
70 section is not a standard of care violation, and a veterinarian
71 may not be disciplined solely for practicing veterinary
72 telemedicine.

73 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
74 474.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

75 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

76 (5) (a) Any person, or the person's regular employee,
 77 administering to the ills or injuries of her or his own animals,
 78 including, but not limited to, castration, spaying, and
 79 dehorning of herd animals, unless title is transferred or
 80 employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law.
 81 This exemption does not apply to any person licensed as a
 82 veterinarian in another state or foreign jurisdiction and
 83 practicing temporarily in this state. However, except as
 84 provided in s. 828.30, only a veterinarian may immunize or treat
 85 an animal for diseases that are communicable to humans and that
 86 are of public health significance.

87
 88 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt
 89 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)
 90 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the
 91 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

92 Section 4. Paragraph (y) of subsection (1) of section
 93 474.214, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

94 474.214 Disciplinary proceedings.—

95 (1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which
 96 the disciplinary actions in subsection (2) may be taken:

97 (y) Using the privilege of ordering, prescribing, or
 98 making available medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in chapter
 99 465, or controlled substances as defined in chapter 893, for use
 100 other than for the specific treatment of animal patients for

101 | which there is a documented veterinarian/client/patient
 102 | relationship. ~~Pursuant thereto,~~ The veterinarian shall:

103 | 1. Have sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at
 104 | least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical
 105 | condition of the animal, which means that the veterinarian is
 106 | personally acquainted with the keeping and caring of the animal,
 107 | is in compliance with s. 474.2021(3), and has recently seen the
 108 | animal or has made medically appropriate and timely visits to
 109 | the premises where the animal is kept.

110 | 2. Be available or provide for followup care and treatment
 111 | in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of
 112 | therapy.

113 | 3. Maintain records which document patient visits,
 114 | diagnosis, treatment, and other relevant information required
 115 | under this chapter.

116 | Section 5. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 828.30,
 117 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

118 | 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

119 | (1) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), all dogs,
 120 | cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older must be vaccinated by
 121 | a licensed veterinarian against rabies with a vaccine that is
 122 | licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture for use
 123 | in those species.

124 | (b) An employee, agent, or contractor of an animal control
 125 | authority acting under the indirect supervision of a

126 veterinarian may vaccinate impounded animals that will be
127 transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the
128 owner. As used in this paragraph, the term "indirect
129 supervision" means the supervising veterinarian must be
130 available for consultation through telecommunications but is not
131 required to be on the premises during such consultation. The
132 supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for the
133 veterinary care provided to the animal by any person working
134 under or at his or her direction and supervision.

135 (c) The owner of every dog, cat, and ferret shall have the
136 animal revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination.
137 Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations shall conform to
138 the vaccine manufacturer's directions. The cost of vaccination
139 must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of circulating
140 rabies virus neutralizing antibodies may ~~shall~~ not be used as a
141 substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure
142 or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

143 (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed
144 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal
145 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each
146 animal control authority and veterinarian shall use the "Rabies
147 Vaccination Certificate" of the National Association of State
148 Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form
149 approved by the local government that contains all the
150 information required by the NASPHV Rabies Vaccination

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151 Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies
152 vaccination, or who indirectly supervises an employee, agent, or
153 contractor of an animal control authority who administers the
154 rabies vaccination, ~~vaccine~~ to an animal as required under this
155 section may affix his or her signature stamp in lieu of an
156 actual signature on the rabies vaccination certificate.

157 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.