

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the practice of veterinary  
3           medicine; amending s. 474.201, F.S.; conforming  
4           provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
5           474.202, F.S.; providing definitions; amending s.  
6           474.203, F.S.; providing that specified exemptions  
7           apply to licensed and unlicensed veterinary  
8           technicians; amending s. 474.204, F.S.; revising the  
9           membership of the Board of Veterinary Medicine;  
10          creating s. 474.2071, F.S.; providing requirements for  
11          the licensure of veterinary technicians; amending s.  
12          474.211, F.S.; providing requirements for the renewal  
13          of a licensed veterinary technician's license;  
14          amending s. 474.213, F.S.; prohibiting certain persons  
15          from taking specified actions relating to licensed  
16          veterinary technicians; providing criminal penalties;  
17          amending s. 474.214, F.S.; providing grounds for  
18          disciplinary actions against applicants for licensure  
19          and licensed veterinary technicians; authorizing the  
20          board to take specified actions against certain  
21          persons; providing for the reissuance of a license to  
22          a veterinary technician under certain circumstances;  
23          creating s. 474.223, F.S.; providing scope of practice  
24          relating to licensed veterinary technicians;  
25          authorizing veterinary technicians to provide

26 | specified services; authorizing supervising  
 27 | veterinarians to delegate specified responsibilities  
 28 | to licensed veterinary technicians; prohibiting  
 29 | veterinary assistants from identifying themselves as  
 30 | specified persons; amending s. 828.30, F.S.;  
 31 | conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
 32 | providing an effective date.

33 |

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

35 |

36 | Section 1. Section 474.201, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 37 | to read:

38 | 474.201 Purpose.—The Legislature finds that the practice  
 39 | of veterinary medicine is potentially dangerous to the public  
 40 | health and safety if conducted by incompetent and unlicensed  
 41 | veterinarians and veterinary technicians ~~practitioners~~. The  
 42 | legislative purpose in enacting this chapter is to ensure that  
 43 | every veterinarian and licensed veterinary technician practicing  
 44 | in this state meet minimum requirements for safe practice. It is  
 45 | the legislative intent that veterinarians and licensed  
 46 | veterinary technicians who are not normally competent or who  
 47 | otherwise present a danger to the public shall be disciplined or  
 48 | prohibited from practicing in this state.

49 | Section 2. Subsections (6) through (12) and (13) of  
 50 | section 474.202, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections

51 (7) through (13) and (15), respectively, and a new subsection  
52 (6) and subsections (14), (16), (17), and (18) are added to that  
53 section, to read:

54 474.202 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

55 (6) "Licensed veterinary technician" means a veterinary  
56 technician or veterinary technologist who practices veterinary  
57 technology in the state and is licensed under the authority of  
58 this chapter.

59 (14) "Veterinary assistant" means a person who practices  
60 on a veterinary team providing medical care for animals. The  
61 term does not include a licensed veterinary technician.

62 (16) "Veterinary technician" means a person who has  
63 graduated with an associate degree from a veterinary technology  
64 training program accredited by the American Veterinary Medical  
65 Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and  
66 Activities (CVTEA).

67 (17) "Veterinary technologist" means a person who has  
68 graduated with a bachelor's degree from a veterinary technology  
69 training program accredited by the CVTEA.

70 (18) "Veterinary technology" means the science and art of  
71 providing certain aspects of the medical care and treatment of a  
72 veterinary patient by a person who is a veterinary technician or  
73 veterinary technologist, as delegated and supervised by a  
74 licensed veterinarian with an established  
75 veterinarian/client/patient relationship. The term does not

76 include the diagnosis, prognosis, prescription of medications,  
77 surgery, or the development of treatment plans, which are within  
78 the purview of the veterinarian.

79 Section 3. Subsections (3), (5), and (7) of section  
80 474.203, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

81 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

82 (3) A student in a school or college of veterinary  
83 medicine or a program for veterinary technology while in the  
84 performance of duties assigned by her or his instructor or when  
85 working as a preceptor under the immediate supervision of a  
86 licensee, if such preceptorship is required for graduation from  
87 an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine or a  
88 program for veterinary technology. The licensed veterinarian is  
89 responsible for all acts performed by a preceptor under her or  
90 his supervision.

91 (5)(a) Any person, or the person's regular employee,  
92 administering to the ills or injuries of her or his own animals,  
93 including, but not limited to, castration, spaying, and  
94 dehorning of herd animals, unless title is transferred or  
95 employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law.  
96 This exemption does not apply to any person licensed as a  
97 veterinarian or veterinary technician in another state or  
98 foreign jurisdiction and practicing temporarily in this state.  
99 However, only a veterinarian or a licensed veterinary  
100 technician, as authorized in s. 474.223(1)(m), may immunize or

101 | treat an animal for diseases that are communicable to humans and  
 102 | that are of public health significance.

103 |       (7) Any veterinary aide, nurse, unlicensed veterinary  
 104 | technician, laboratory technician, preceptor, or other employee  
 105 | of a licensed veterinarian who administers medication or who  
 106 | renders auxiliary or supporting assistance under the responsible  
 107 | supervision of a licensed veterinarian, including those tasks  
 108 | identified by rule of the board requiring immediate supervision.  
 109 | However, the licensed veterinarian is responsible for all such  
 110 | acts performed under this subsection by persons under her or his  
 111 | supervision.

112 |  
 113 | For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt  
 114 | pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)  
 115 | are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the  
 116 | laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

117 |       Section 4. Section 474.204, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 118 | to read:

119 |       474.204 Board of Veterinary Medicine.—

120 |       (1) To carry out the provisions of this chapter, there is  
 121 | created within the department the Board of Veterinary Medicine  
 122 | consisting of the following ~~seven~~ members, who shall be  
 123 | appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the  
 124 | Senate:—

125 |       (a) ~~(2)~~ Five members who are ~~of the board shall be~~ licensed

126 veterinarians.

127 (b) Two members who are licensed veterinary technicians  
 128 who have been actively engaged in the practice of veterinary  
 129 technology for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date  
 130 of their appointment to the board.

131 (c) Two members who are ~~of the board shall be~~ laypersons  
 132 who are not and have never been veterinarians or members of any  
 133 closely related profession or occupation.

134 (2)~~(3)~~ All provisions of chapter 455 relating to  
 135 activities of regulatory boards shall apply.

136 Section 5. Section 474.2071, Florida Statutes, is created  
 137 to read:

138 474.2071 Veterinary technician licensure by examination.-

139 (1) A person desiring to become licensed as a veterinary  
 140 technician shall apply to the board and must have met all of the  
 141 following criteria:

142 (a) Completed the application form.

143 (b) Graduated from a college program of veterinary  
 144 technology accredited by the American Veterinary Medical  
 145 Association Committee on Veterinary Technicians Education and  
 146 Activities.

147 (c) Earned a passing score on the Veterinary Technician  
 148 National Exam as determined by the American Association of  
 149 Veterinary State Boards.

150 (d) Demonstrated knowledge of the laws and rules governing

151 the practice of veterinary medicine in the state in a manner  
 152 consistent with rules of the board.

153 (2) A credentialed veterinary technician who is in good  
 154 standing with the Florida Veterinary Technician Association or  
 155 the Florida Veterinary Medical Association on July 1, 2024, is  
 156 eligible to apply for licensure upon meeting all of the  
 157 following criteria:

158 (a) Completed the application form.

159 (b) Demonstrated knowledge of the laws and rules governing  
 160 the practice of veterinary medicine in the state in a manner  
 161 consistent with rules of the board.

162 Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 474.211, Florida  
 163 Statutes, is amended to read:

164 474.211 Renewal of license.—

165 (3) The board may by rule prescribe continuing education,  
 166 not to exceed 30 hours biennially for veterinarians and 15 hours  
 167 biennially for licensed veterinary technicians, as a condition  
 168 for renewal of a license or certificate. The criteria for such  
 169 programs, providers, and courses shall be approved by the board.

170 Section 7. Section 474.213, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 171 to read:

172 474.213 Prohibitions; penalties.—

173 (1) A ~~No~~ person may not ~~shall~~:

174 (a) Lead the public to believe that such person is  
 175 licensed as a veterinarian, or is engaged in the licensed

176 | practice of veterinary medicine, without such person holding a  
 177 | valid, active license pursuant to this chapter;

178 |       (b) Use the name or title "veterinarian" when the person  
 179 | has not been licensed under ~~pursuant to~~ this chapter;

180 |       (c) Present as her or his own the license of another;

181 |       (d) Give false or forged evidence to the board or a member  
 182 | thereof for the purpose of obtaining a license;

183 |       (e) Use or attempt to use a veterinarian's license which  
 184 | has been suspended or revoked;

185 |       (f) Knowingly employ unlicensed persons in the practice of  
 186 | veterinary medicine;

187 |       (g) Knowingly conceal information relative to violations  
 188 | of this chapter;

189 |       (h) Obtain or attempt to obtain a license to practice  
 190 | veterinary medicine by fraudulent representation;

191 |       (i) Practice veterinary medicine in this state, unless the  
 192 | person holds a valid, active license to practice veterinary  
 193 | medicine pursuant to this chapter;

194 |       (j) Sell or offer to sell a diploma conferring a degree  
 195 | from a veterinary school or college, or a license issued  
 196 | pursuant to this chapter, or procure such diploma or license  
 197 | with the intent that it shall be used as evidence of that which  
 198 | the document stands for by a person other than the one upon whom  
 199 | it was conferred or to whom it was granted; or

200 |       (k) Knowingly operate a veterinary establishment or



201 premises without having a premise permit issued under s.  
 202 474.215.

203 (2) A person may not:

204 (a) Lead the public to believe that such person is  
 205 licensed as a veterinary technician or is engaged in the  
 206 licensed practice of veterinary technology without such person  
 207 holding a valid, active license under this chapter; or

208 (b) Use the name or title "licensed veterinary technician"  
 209 when the person has not been licensed under this chapter.

210 (3)(a)-(2) A person who violates subsection (1) ~~any~~  
 211 ~~provision of this section~~ commits a felony of the third degree,  
 212 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

213 (b) A person who violates subsection (2) commits a  
 214 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
 215 775.082 or s. 775.083.

216 Section 8. Section 474.214, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 217 to read:

218 474.214 Disciplinary proceedings.—

219 (1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which  
 220 the disciplinary actions in subsection (3)-(2) may be taken:

221 (a) Attempting to procure a license to practice veterinary  
 222 medicine by bribery, by fraudulent representations, or through  
 223 an error of the department or the board.

224 (b) Having a license or the authority to practice  
 225 veterinary medicine revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted

226 | against, including the denial of licensure, by the licensing  
227 | authority of any jurisdiction, including any agency or  
228 | subdivision thereof. The licensing authority's acceptance of a  
229 | veterinarian's relinquishment of a license, stipulation, consent  
230 | order, or other settlement, offered in response to or in  
231 | anticipation of the filing of administrative charges against the  
232 | veterinarian's license or authority to practice, shall be  
233 | construed as action against the veterinarian's license or  
234 | authority to practice.

235 |       (c) Being convicted or found guilty, regardless of  
236 | adjudication, of a crime in any jurisdiction which directly  
237 | relates to the practice of veterinary medicine or the ability to  
238 | practice veterinary medicine. Any crime which demonstrates a  
239 | lack of regard for animal life relates to the ability to  
240 | practice veterinary medicine. In addition, crimes relating to  
241 | the ability to practice veterinary medicine shall include, but  
242 | not be limited to, crimes involving any violation of state or  
243 | federal drug laws.

244 |       (d) Making or filing a report or record which the licensee  
245 | knows to be false, intentionally or negligently failing to file  
246 | a report or record required by state or federal law, willfully  
247 | impeding or obstructing such filing, or inducing another person  
248 | to impede or obstruct such filing. Such reports or records shall  
249 | include only those which are signed in the capacity of a  
250 | licensed veterinarian.

251 (e) Advertising goods or services in a manner which is  
252 fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading in form or content.

253 (f) Violating any provision of this chapter or chapter  
254 455, a rule of the board or department, or a lawful order of the  
255 board or department previously entered in a disciplinary  
256 hearing, or failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of  
257 the department.

258 (g) Practicing with a revoked, suspended, inactive, or  
259 delinquent license.

260 (h) Being unable to practice veterinary medicine with  
261 reasonable skill or safety to patients by reason of illness,  
262 drunkenness, use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other  
263 material or substance or as a result of any mental or physical  
264 condition. In enforcing this paragraph, upon a finding by the  
265 secretary, the secretary's designee, or the probable cause panel  
266 of the board that probable cause exists to believe that the  
267 licensee is unable to practice the profession because of the  
268 reasons stated in this paragraph, the department shall have the  
269 authority to compel a licensee to submit to a mental or physical  
270 examination by a physician designated by the department. If the  
271 licensee refuses to comply with the department's order, the  
272 department may file a petition for enforcement in the circuit  
273 court of the circuit in which the licensee resides or does  
274 business. The licensee shall not be named or identified by  
275 initials in any other public court records or documents and the

276 enforcement proceedings shall be closed to the public. The  
277 department shall be entitled to the summary procedure provided  
278 in s. 51.011. A licensee affected under this paragraph shall be  
279 afforded an opportunity at reasonable intervals to demonstrate  
280 that she or he can resume the competent practice for which she  
281 or he is licensed with reasonable skill and safety to patients.  
282 Neither the record of proceedings nor the orders entered by the  
283 board in any proceedings under this paragraph shall be used  
284 against a licensee in any other proceedings.

285 (i) Judicially determined mental incompetency. However, a  
286 license suspended for this cause may be reinstated upon legal  
287 restoration of the competency of the individual whose license  
288 was so suspended.

289 (j) Knowingly maintaining a professional connection or  
290 association with any person who is in violation of the  
291 provisions of this chapter or the rules of the board or  
292 department. However, if the licensee verifies that the person is  
293 actively participating in a board-approved program for the  
294 treatment of a physical or mental condition, the licensee is  
295 required only to report such person to the consultant.

296 (k) Paying or receiving kickbacks, rebates, bonuses, or  
297 other remuneration for receiving a patient or client or for  
298 referring a patient or client to another provider of veterinary  
299 services or goods.

300 (l) Performing or prescribing unnecessary or unauthorized

301 treatment.

302 (m) Fraud in the collection of fees from consumers or any  
303 person, agency, or organization paying fees to practitioners.

304 (n) Attempting to restrict competition in the field of  
305 veterinary medicine other than for the protection of the public.  
306 However, this provision shall not apply to testimony made in  
307 good faith at a hearing or other proceeding in which the subject  
308 is the revocation of a license or a lesser penalty.

309 (o) Fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetency, or  
310 misconduct, in or related to the practice of veterinary  
311 medicine.

312 (p) Conviction on a charge of cruelty to animals.

313 (q) Permitting or allowing another to use a veterinarian's  
314 license for the purpose of treating or offering to treat  
315 animals.

316 (r) Being guilty of incompetence or negligence by failing  
317 to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and  
318 treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent  
319 veterinarian as being acceptable under similar conditions and  
320 circumstances.

321 (s) Willfully making any misrepresentations in connection  
322 with the inspection of food for human consumption.

323 (t) Fraudulently issuing or using any false health  
324 certificate, vaccination certificate, test chart, or other blank  
325 form used in the practice of veterinary medicine relating to the

326 presence or absence of animal disease or transporting animals or  
327 issuing any false certificate relating to the sale of products  
328 of animal origin for human consumption.

329 (u) Fraud or dishonesty in applying, treating, or  
330 reporting on tuberculin, diagnostic, or other biological tests.

331 (v) Failing to keep the equipment and premises of the  
332 business establishment in a clean and sanitary condition, having  
333 a premises permit suspended or revoked pursuant to s. 474.215,  
334 or operating or managing premises that do not comply with  
335 requirements established by rule of the board.

336 (w) Practicing veterinary medicine at a location for which  
337 a valid premises permit has not been issued when required under  
338 s. 474.215.

339 (x) Refusing to permit the department to inspect the  
340 business premises of the licensee during regular business hours.

341 (y) Using the privilege of ordering, prescribing, or  
342 making available medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in chapter  
343 465, or controlled substances as defined in chapter 893, for use  
344 other than for the specific treatment of animal patients for  
345 which there is a documented veterinarian/client/patient  
346 relationship. Pursuant thereto, the veterinarian shall:

347 1. Have sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at  
348 least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical  
349 condition of the animal, which means that the veterinarian is  
350 personally acquainted with the keeping and caring of the animal

351 and has recently seen the animal or has made medically  
352 appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal  
353 is kept.

354 2. Be available or provide for followup care and treatment  
355 in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of  
356 therapy.

357 3. Maintain records which document patient visits,  
358 diagnosis, treatment, and other relevant information required  
359 under this chapter.

360 (z) Providing, prescribing, ordering, or making available  
361 for human use medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in chapter  
362 465, controlled substances as defined in chapter 893, or any  
363 material, chemical, or substance used exclusively for animal  
364 treatment.

365 (aa) Failing to report to the department any person the  
366 licensee knows to be in violation of this chapter or of the  
367 rules of the department or board. However, if the licensee  
368 verifies that the person is actively participating in a board-  
369 approved program for the treatment of a physical or mental  
370 condition, the licensee is required only to report such person  
371 to the consultant.

372 (bb) Violating any of the requirements of chapter 499, the  
373 Florida Drug and Cosmetic Act; 21 U.S.C. ss. 301-392, the  
374 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; 21 U.S.C. ss. 821 et seq.,  
375 the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970,

376 more commonly known as the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention  
377 and Control Act; or chapter 893.

378 (cc) Failing to provide adequate radiation safeguards.

379 (dd) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation  
380 placed upon a licensee.

381 (ee) Failing to keep contemporaneously written medical  
382 records as required by rule of the board.

383 (ff) Prescribing or dispensing a legend drug as defined in  
384 chapter 499, including any controlled substance, inappropriately  
385 or in excessive or inappropriate quantities.

386 (gg) Practicing or offering to practice beyond the scope  
387 permitted by law.

388 (hh) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person  
389 when the licensee delegating such responsibilities knows or has  
390 reason to know that such person is not qualified by training,  
391 experience, or licensure to perform them.

392 (ii) Presigning blank prescription forms.

393 (jj) Failing to report to the board within 30 days, in  
394 writing, any action set forth in paragraph (b) that has been  
395 taken against the practitioner's license to practice veterinary  
396 medicine by any jurisdiction, including any agency or  
397 subdivision thereof.

398 (kk) Aiding or assisting another person in violating any  
399 provision of this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant thereto.

400 (ll) Failing to respond within 60 days after receipt of a



401 request to provide satisfactory proof of having participated in  
 402 approved continuing education programs.

403 (mm) Failing to maintain accurate records or reports as  
 404 required by this chapter or by federal or state laws or rules  
 405 pertaining to the storing, labeling, selling, dispensing,  
 406 prescribing, and administering of controlled substances.

407 (nn) Failing to report a change of address to the board  
 408 within 60 days thereof.

409 (oo) Failure of the responsible veterinarian to report a  
 410 change of premises ownership or responsible veterinarian within  
 411 60 days thereof.

412 (pp) Failing to give the owner of a patient, before  
 413 dispensing any drug, a written prescription when requested.

414 (2) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which  
 415 the disciplinary actions under (3) may be taken against an  
 416 applicant or a licensed veterinary technician:

417 (a) Violating any provision of this chapter that pertains  
 418 to licensed veterinary technicians.

419 (b) Being convicted or found guilty of, regardless of  
 420 adjudication, a felony.

421 (c) Being convicted of a charge of cruelty to animals.

422 (d) Soliciting patients from any practitioner of the  
 423 healing arts.

424 (e) Willfully or negligently divulging a professional  
 425 confidence.

426 (f) Habitually or excessively using intoxicants or drugs.

427 (g) Committing fraud, deceit, negligence, incompetency, or  
428 misconduct, in or related to the practice of veterinary  
429 technology.

430 (h) Committing fraud or misrepresentation in applying for  
431 or procuring licensure as a licensed veterinarian technician or  
432 in applying for or procuring the biannual renewal.

433 (i) Impersonating or attempting to impersonate another  
434 person who is licensed as a veterinary technician or allowing a  
435 person to use his or her license as a veterinary technician.

436 (j) Practicing with a revoked, suspended, inactive, or  
437 delinquent license.

438 (k) Selling or offering to sell a diploma conferring a  
439 degree from a veterinary technology school or college or a  
440 license issued under this chapter.

441 (l) Abetting or aiding the practice of veterinary medicine  
442 by a person who is not licensed by the board.

443 (m) Failing to report to the board within 30 days and in  
444 writing any action that has been taken against the veterinary  
445 technician's license to practice veterinary technology by any  
446 jurisdiction, including any agency or subdivision thereof.

447 (n) Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation  
448 placed upon a licensed veterinary technician.

449 (o) Failing to respond within 60 days after receipt of a  
450 request to provide satisfactory proof of having participated in

451 approved continuing education programs.

452 (p) Failing to report a change of address to the board  
 453 within 60 days thereof.

454 (3)-(2) When the board finds any applicant, ~~or~~  
 455 veterinarian, or licensed veterinary technician guilty of any of  
 456 the grounds set forth in subsection (1) or subsection (2), as  
 457 applicable, regardless of whether the violation occurred prior  
 458 to licensure, it may enter an order imposing one or more of the  
 459 following penalties:

460 (a) Denial of certification for examination or licensure.

461 (b) Revocation or suspension of a license.

462 (c) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed  
 463 \$5,000 for each count or separate offense.

464 (d) Issuance of a reprimand.

465 (e) Placement of the veterinarian or licensed veterinary  
 466 technician on probation for a period of time and subject to such  
 467 conditions as the board may specify, including requiring the  
 468 veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician to attend  
 469 continuing education courses or to work under the supervision of  
 470 another veterinarian.

471 (f) Restricting the authorized scope of practice.

472 (g) Imposition of costs of the investigation and  
 473 prosecution.

474 (h) Requiring the veterinarian or licensed veterinary  
 475 technician to undergo remedial education.

476  
 477 In determining appropriate action, the board must first consider  
 478 those sanctions necessary to protect the public. Only after  
 479 those sanctions have been imposed may the disciplining authority  
 480 consider and include in its order requirements designed to  
 481 rehabilitate the veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician.  
 482 All costs associated with compliance with any order issued under  
 483 this subsection are the obligation of the veterinarian or  
 484 licensed veterinary technician.

485 ~~(4)(3)~~ The department shall reissue the license of a  
 486 disciplined veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician upon  
 487 certification by the board that the disciplined veterinarian or  
 488 licensed veterinary technician has complied with all of the  
 489 terms and conditions set forth in the final order and is capable  
 490 of competently and safely engaging in the practice of veterinary  
 491 medicine or veterinary technology, as applicable.

492 Section 9. Section 474.223, Florida Statutes, is created  
 493 to read:

494 474.223 Licensed veterinary technicians.—

495 (1) A licensed veterinary technician may provide the  
 496 following services under the supervision of a licensed  
 497 veterinarian:

- 498 (a) Arterial and central venous catheterization.
- 499 (b) Euthanasia.
- 500 (c) Intraperitoneal injections.

501        (d) Placement of gastric, nasoesophageal and nasogastric  
502 tubes.

503        (e) Suturing or stapling of skin lacerations, gingival  
504 incisions, or existing surgical incisions.

505        (f) Paravertebral blocks and epidurals.

506        (g) A complex single root extraction that is beyond a  
507 simple digital extraction of the tooth that requires periosteal  
508 elevation but does not require sectioning of the tooth or of the  
509 bone.

510        (h) Blood or blood component collection, preparation, and  
511 administration for transfusion or blood banking purposes.

512        (i) Ear flushing with powered mechanical devices creating  
513 pressure or suction.

514        (j) A thoracocentesis, cystocentesis, or abdominocentesis.

515        (k) Application of casts, splints, and slings for the  
516 immobilization of fractures.

517        (l) Placement of an epidural, intraosseous, or nasal  
518 catheter.

519        (m) Administering rabies vaccinations.

520        (2) The supervising veterinarian shall determine the  
521 appropriate level of supervision and protocol for any of the  
522 tasks under subsection (1). All other tasks may be performed by  
523 licensed or unlicensed persons at the discretion of the  
524 supervising veterinarian. In determining the appropriate level  
525 of supervision, the veterinarian must consider the level of

526 training and experience of the person to whom the task is  
527 delegated.

528 (3) A supervising veterinarian may in his or her judgment  
529 delegate to a licensed veterinary technician the responsibility  
530 of supervising a task or tasks performed by an unlicensed  
531 person, except for any of the tasks listed in subsection (1).

532 (4) A licensed veterinary technician may not make or  
533 provide any diagnosis or prognosis, perform any surgery, or  
534 prescribe any medical drugs as defined in chapter 465 or  
535 controlled substances as defined in chapter 893, unless  
536 otherwise authorized in this chapter.

537 (5) A veterinary assistant may not identify himself or  
538 herself to the public as a veterinary technician or a licensed  
539 veterinary technician unless he or she is a graduate of an  
540 accredited veterinary technology program or licensed under this  
541 chapter, as applicable.

542 Section 10. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 828.30,  
543 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

544 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

545 (1) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older  
546 must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian or licensed  
547 veterinary technician under the supervision of a licensed  
548 veterinarian against rabies with a vaccine that is licensed by  
549 the United States Department of Agriculture for use in those  
550 species. The owner of every dog, cat, and ferret shall have the

551 animal revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination.  
552 Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations shall conform to  
553 the vaccine manufacturer's directions. The cost of vaccination  
554 must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of circulating  
555 rabies virus neutralizing antibodies shall not be used as a  
556 substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure  
557 or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

558 (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed  
559 veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician shall provide the  
560 animal's owner and the animal control authority with a rabies  
561 vaccination certificate. Each animal control authority and  
562 veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician shall use the  
563 "Rabies Vaccination Certificate" of the National Association of  
564 State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form  
565 approved by the local government which ~~that~~ contains all the  
566 information required by the NASPHV Rabies Vaccination  
567 Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies vaccine  
568 to an animal as authorized ~~required~~ under this section may affix  
569 his or her signature stamp in lieu of an actual signature.

570 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.