

By Senator Burgess

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to rabies vaccinations; amending s.  
3       828.30, F.S.; authorizing certain persons to  
4       administer rabies vaccinations to certain animals  
5       under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian;  
6       providing that a supervising veterinarian assumes  
7       responsibility for any person working under the  
8       veterinarian's supervision or at his or her direction;  
9       defining the term "indirect supervision"; authorizing  
10      a veterinarian who indirectly supervises the  
11      administration of the rabies vaccination to affix or  
12      have affixed his or her signature stamp in lieu of an  
13      actual signature on the rabies vaccination  
14      certificate; amending ss. 474.203, 767.16, and 828.29,  
15      F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the  
16      act; providing an effective date.

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19  
20       Section 1. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 828.30,  
21 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

22       828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

23       (1) (a) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older  
24 must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian, or a person  
25 authorized under paragraph (b), against rabies with a vaccine  
26 ~~that is~~ licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture  
27 for use in those species.

28       (b)1. When acting under the indirect supervision of a  
29 veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county

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30 or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate  
31 against rabies a dog, cat, or ferret in the custody of an animal  
32 control authority, sheriff, or shelter and that will be  
33 transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by its  
34 owner.

35 2. The supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for  
36 any person vaccinating animals at the veterinarian's direction  
37 or under his or her supervision. As used in this paragraph, the  
38 term "indirect supervision" means that the supervising  
39 veterinarian is required to be available for consultation  
40 through telecommunications, rather than be physically present  
41 during the consultation.

42 (c) The owner of every dog, cat, and ferret shall have the  
43 animal revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination.  
44 Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations ~~must shall~~ conform  
45 to the vaccine manufacturer's directions. The cost of  
46 vaccination must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of  
47 circulating rabies virus neutralizing antibodies ~~may shall~~ not  
48 be used as a substitute for current vaccination in managing  
49 rabies exposure or determining the need for booster  
50 vaccinations.

51 (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed  
52 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal  
53 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each  
54 animal control authority and veterinarian shall use the "Rabies  
55 Vaccination Certificate" of the National Association of State  
56 Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form  
57 approved by the local government which ~~that~~ contains all the  
58 information required by the NASPHV Rabies Vaccination

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59 Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies  
60 vaccination, or who supervises the administration of the rabies  
61 vaccination as provided in paragraph (1) (b), vaccine to an  
62 animal as authorized ~~required~~ under this section may affix or  
63 have affixed his or her signature stamp in lieu of an actual  
64 signature.

65 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
66 474.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

67 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

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

79  
80 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt  
81 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)  
82 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the  
83 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

84 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 767.16, Florida  
85 Statutes, is amended to read:

86 767.16 Police canine or service dog; exemption.—

87 (2) Any dog used as a service dog for blind, hearing

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88 impaired, or disabled persons that bites another animal or a  
89 human is exempt from any quarantine requirement following such  
90 bite if the dog has a current rabies vaccination that was  
91 administered as provided in s. 828.30 ~~by a licensed~~  
92 ~~veterinarian.~~

93 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
94 (b) of subsection (2) of section 828.29, Florida Statutes, are  
95 amended to read:

96 828.29 Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale;  
97 health requirements; consumer guarantee.—

98 (1)

99 (b) For each dog offered for sale within the state, the  
100 tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must  
101 be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian,  
102 licensed by the state and accredited by the United States  
103 Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate  
104 of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics  
105 must be administered before the dog is offered for sale in the  
106 state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on  
107 the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to  
108 inoculate or deworm the dog is not in the best medical interest  
109 of the dog, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be  
110 administered to that particular dog. Each dog must receive  
111 vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and  
112 internal parasites:

113 1. Canine distemper.

114 2. Leptospirosis.

115 3. Bordetella (by intranasal inoculation or by an  
116 alternative method of administration if deemed necessary by the

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117 attending veterinarian and noted on the health certificate,  
118 which must be administered in this state once before sale).

119 4. Parainfluenza.

120 5. Hepatitis.

121 6. Canine parvo.

122 7. Rabies, provided the dog is over 3 months of age and the  
123 inoculation is administered as provided in s. 828.30 ~~by a~~  
124 ~~licensed veterinarian.~~

125 8. Roundworms.

126 9. Hookworms.

127

128 If the dog is under 4 months of age, the tests, vaccines, and  
129 anthelmintics required by this section must be administered no  
130 more than 21 days before sale within the state. If the dog is 4  
131 months of age or older, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics  
132 required by this section must be administered at or after 3  
133 months of age, but no more than 1 year before sale within the  
134 state.

135 (2)

136 (b) For each cat offered for sale within the state, the  
137 tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must  
138 be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian,  
139 licensed by the state and accredited by the United States  
140 Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate  
141 of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics  
142 must be administered before the cat is offered for sale in the  
143 state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on  
144 the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to  
145 inoculate or deworm the cat is not in the best medical interest

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146 of the cat, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be  
147 administered to that particular cat. Each cat must receive  
148 vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and  
149 internal parasites:

- 150 1. Panleukopenia.
- 151 2. Feline viral rhinotracheitis.
- 152 3. Calici virus.
- 153 4. Rabies, if the cat is over 3 months of age and the  
154 inoculation is administered as provided in s. 828.30 ~~by a~~  
155 ~~licensed veterinarian.~~
- 156 5. Hookworms.
- 157 6. Roundworms.

158  
159 If the cat is under 4 months of age, the tests, vaccines, and  
160 anthelmintics required by this section must be administered no  
161 more than 21 days before sale within the state. If the cat is 4  
162 months of age or older, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics  
163 required by this section must be administered at or after 3  
164 months of age, but no more than 1 year before sale within the  
165 state.

166 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.