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Section 1. Section 474.2021, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

474.2021 Veterinary telehealth.-

(1) This section may be cited as the "Providing Equity in Telehealth Services Act."

(2) A veterinarian who holds a current license to practice veterinary medicine in this state may practice veterinary telehealth. For purposes of this section, the term "telehealth" has the same meaning as in s. 456.47(1).

(3) The board has jurisdiction over a veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth, regardless of where the veterinarian's physical office is located. The practice of veterinary medicine is deemed to occur at the premises where the patient is located at the time the veterinarian practices veterinary telehealth.

(4) A veterinarian practicing veterinary telehealth:

(a) May not engage in the practice of veterinary telehealth unless it is within the context of a veterinarian/client/patient relationship;

(b) Must practice in a manner consistent with his or her scope of practice and the prevailing professional standard of practice for a veterinarian who provides in-person veterinary services to patients in this state;

(c) May use telehealth to perform a patient evaluation. If

51 a veterinarian practicing telehealth conducts a patient
52 evaluation sufficient to diagnose and treat the patient, the
53 veterinarian is not required to research a patient's medical
54 history or conduct a physical examination of the patient before
55 using veterinary telehealth to provide a veterinary health care
56 service to the patient; and

57 (d) Must prescribe all drugs and medications in accordance
58 with all federal and state laws. A veterinarian practicing
59 veterinary telehealth may order, prescribe, or make available
60 medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s. 465.003. A
61 veterinarian may not use telehealth to prescribe a controlled
62 substance listed in Schedule II of s. 893.03.

63 (5) A veterinarian personally acquainted with the caring
64 and keeping of an animal or group of animals on food-producing
65 animal operations on land classified as agricultural pursuant to
66 s. 193.461 who has recently seen the animal or group of animals
67 or has made medically appropriate and timely visits to the
68 premises where the animal or group of animals is kept may
69 practice veterinary telehealth for animals on such operations.

70 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 474.2165, Florida
71 Statutes, is amended to read:

72 474.2165 Ownership and control of veterinary medical
73 patient records; report or copies of records to be furnished.—

74 (1) As used in this section, the term "records owner"
75 means any veterinarian who generates a medical record after

76 making an ~~a physical~~ examination of, or administering treatment
 77 or dispensing legend drugs to, any patient; any veterinarian to
 78 whom records are transferred by a previous records owner; or any
 79 veterinarian's employer, provided the employment contract or
 80 agreement between the employer and the veterinarian designates
 81 the employer as the records owner.

82 Section 3. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 828.30,
 83 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

84 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

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

90 (b) Acting under the indirect supervision of a
 91 veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county
 92 or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate
 93 against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets in the custody of an
 94 animal control authority or a sheriff that will be transferred,
 95 rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner. The
 96 supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for any person
 97 vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under his or her
 98 direct or indirect supervision. As used in this paragraph, the
 99 term "indirect supervision" means that the supervising
 100 veterinarian is required to be available for consultation

101 through telecommunications but is not required to be physically
 102 present during such consultation.

103 (c) The owner of every dog, cat, and ferret shall have the
 104 animal revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination.
 105 Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations shall conform to
 106 the vaccine manufacturer's directions. The cost of vaccination
 107 must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of circulating
 108 rabies virus neutralizing antibodies may ~~shall~~ not be used as a
 109 substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure
 110 or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

111 (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed
 112 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal
 113 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each
 114 animal control authority and veterinarian shall use the "Rabies
 115 Vaccination Certificate" of the National Association of State
 116 Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form
 117 approved by the local government that contains all the
 118 information required by the NASPHV Rabies Vaccination
 119 Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies
 120 vaccination or who supervises the administration of the rabies
 121 vaccination as provided in paragraph (1) (b) vaccine to an animal
 122 as authorized ~~required~~ under this section may affix his or her
 123 signature stamp in lieu of an actual signature.

124 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
 125 474.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

126 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:
 127 (5)(a) Any person, or the person's regular employee,
 128 administering to the ills or injuries of her or his own animals,
 129 including, but not limited to, castration, spaying, and
 130 dehorning of herd animals, unless title is transferred or
 131 employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law.
 132 This exemption does not apply to any person licensed as a
 133 veterinarian in another state or foreign jurisdiction and
 134 practicing temporarily in this state. However, except as
 135 provided in s. 828.30, only a veterinarian may immunize or treat
 136 an animal for diseases that are communicable to humans and that
 137 are of public health significance.

138
 139 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt
 140 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)
 141 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the
 142 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

143 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 767.16, Florida
 144 Statutes, is amended to read:

145 767.16 Police canine or service dog; exemption.—

146 (2) Any dog used as a service dog for blind, hearing
 147 impaired, or disabled persons that bites another animal or a
 148 human is exempt from any quarantine requirement following such
 149 bite if the dog has a current rabies vaccination that was
 150 administered as provided in s. 828.30 ~~by a licensed~~

151 ~~veterinarian.~~

152 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph
153 (b) of subsection (2) of section 828.29, Florida Statutes, are
154 amended to read:

155 828.29 Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale;
156 health requirements; consumer guarantee.—

157 (1)

158 (b) For each dog offered for sale within the state, the
159 tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must
160 be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian,
161 licensed by the state and accredited by the United States
162 Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate
163 of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics
164 must be administered before the dog is offered for sale in the
165 state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on
166 the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to
167 inoculate or deworm the dog is not in the best medical interest
168 of the dog, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be
169 administered to that particular dog. Each dog must receive
170 vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and
171 internal parasites:

172 1. Canine distemper.

173 2. Leptospirosis.

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

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

178 4. Parainfluenza.

179 5. Hepatitis.

180 6. Canine parvo.

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

184 8. Roundworms.

185 9. Hookworms.

186

187 If the dog is under 4 months of age, the tests, vaccines, and
 188 anthelmintics required by this section must be administered no
 189 more than 21 days before sale within the state. If the dog is 4
 190 months of age or older, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics
 191 required by this section must be administered at or after 3
 192 months of age, but no more than 1 year before sale within the
 193 state.

194 (2)

195 (b) For each cat offered for sale within the state, the
 196 tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must
 197 be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian,
 198 licensed by the state and accredited by the United States
 199 Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate
 200 of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics

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201 must be administered before the cat is offered for sale in the
202 state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on
203 the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to
204 inoculate or deworm the cat is not in the best medical interest
205 of the cat, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be
206 administered to that particular cat. Each cat must receive
207 vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and
208 internal parasites:

- 209 1. Panleukopenia.
- 210 2. Feline viral rhinotracheitis.
- 211 3. Calici virus.
- 212 4. Rabies, if the cat is over 3 months of age and the
213 inoculation is administered as provided in s. 828.30 ~~by a~~
214 ~~licensed veterinarian.~~
- 215 5. Hookworms.
- 216 6. Roundworms.

217
218 If the cat is under 4 months of age, the tests, vaccines, and
219 anthelmintics required by this section must be administered no
220 more than 21 days before sale within the state. If the cat is 4
221 months of age or older, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics
222 required by this section must be administered at or after 3
223 months of age, but no more than 1 year before sale within the
224 state.

225 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.