

By Senator Martin

33-01486-26

20261382

33-01486-26

20261382

30 penalty; amending s. 828.30, F.S.; conforming
31 provisions to changes made by the act; providing an
32 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 to
37 read:

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

49 Section 2. Present subsections (6) through (12), (13), and
50 (14) of section 474.202, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
51 subsections (7) through (13), (15), and (19), respectively, and
52 new subsections (6) and (14) and subsections (16), (17), and
53 (18) are added to that section, to read:

54 474.202 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

55 (6) “Licensed veterinary technician” means a person who
56 practices veterinary technology in this state and is licensed
57 under the authority of this chapter.

58 (14) “Veterinary assistant” means a person who practices on

33-01486-26

20261382

59 a veterinary team providing medical care for animals and who is
60 not a licensed veterinary technician.

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

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

69 (18) "Veterinary technology" means the science and art of
70 providing certain aspects of the medical care and treatment of
71 patients within an established veterinarian/client/patient
72 relationship by a veterinary technician or veterinary
73 technologist which are delegated and supervised by a
74 veterinarian. The term does not include diagnosis, surgery, or
75 the prescription of medications.

76 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 474.204, Florida
77 Statutes, is amended to read:

78 474.204 Board of Veterinary Medicine.—

79 (2) (a) Five members of the board must shall be licensed
80 veterinarians.

81 (b) One member of the board must be a licensed veterinary
82 technician who has been actively engaged in the practice of
83 veterinary technology for at least 5 years immediately preceding
84 the date of appointment to the board.

85 (c) One member of the board must be a layperson ~~Two members~~
86 ~~of the board shall be laypersons who~~ is are not and has have
87 never been a veterinarian or member ~~veterinarians or members~~ of

33-01486-26

20261382

88 any closely related profession or occupation.

89 Section 4. Section 474.223, Florida Statutes, is created to
90 read:

91 474.223 Licensed veterinary technicians.—

92 (1) The board shall adopt rules to regulate the profession
93 and practice of veterinary technology.

94 (2) A person may become licensed as a veterinary technician
95 if he or she submits an application to the board and meets all
96 of the following requirements:

97 (a) Has graduated from a college program of veterinary
98 technology accredited by the American Veterinary Medical
99 Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and
100 Activities.

101 (b) Has obtained a passing score on the Veterinary
102 Technician National Exam, as determined by the American
103 Association of Veterinary State Boards.

104 (c) Demonstrates knowledge of the laws and rules governing
105 the practice of veterinary technology in this state in a manner
106 designated by rules of the board.

107 (3) A person who is a certified veterinary technician in
108 good standing with the Florida Veterinary Technician Association
109 or the Florida Veterinary Medical Association may become
110 licensed as a veterinary technician if he or she submits an
111 application to the board and demonstrates knowledge of the laws
112 and rules governing the practice of veterinary technology in
113 this state in a manner designated by rules of the board.

114 (4) A veterinary technician or a veterinary technologist
115 must be licensed under this section to perform the following
116 veterinary technology services under the supervision of a

33-01486-26

20261382

117 licensed veterinarian:118 (a) Arterial and central venous catheterization.119 (b) Euthanasia, under the immediate supervision of a
120 veterinarian.121 (c) Intraperitoneal injections.122 (d) Placement of gastric, nasoesophageal, and nasogastric
123 tubes.124 (e) Suture or staple skin lacerations, gingival incisions,
125 or existing surgical incisions.126 (f) Paravertebral blocks and epidurals.127 (g) A complex single root extraction that is beyond a
128 simple digital extraction of a tooth and that requires
129 periosteal elevation but does not require sectioning of the
130 tooth or of the bone.131 (h) Blood or blood component collection, preparation, and
132 administration for transfusion or blood banking purposes.133 (i) Ear flushing with powered mechanical devices creating
134 pressure or suction.135 (j) A thoracentesis or an abdominocentesis.136 (k) Application of casts, splints, and slings for the
137 immobilization of fractures.138 (l) Placement of an epidural, an intraosseous, or a nasal
139 catheter.140 (m) Administering rabies vaccinations, under the immediate
141 supervision of a veterinarian.142 (n) Examinations performed within a previously established
143 veterinarian/client/patient relationship for routine health care
144 needs, follow-up treatment, or accepted animal husbandry on
145 livestock, excluding an examination required for the purpose of

33-01486-26

20261382

146 state or federal health certificates.

147 (5) Unless otherwise provided for in this section or
148 designated by board rule, the supervising veterinarian shall
149 determine the appropriate level of supervision and protocol for
150 a service under subsection (4). All other tasks may be performed
151 by licensed or unlicensed persons at the discretion of the
152 supervising veterinarian. In determining the appropriate level
153 of supervision, the veterinarian shall consider the level of
154 training and experience of the person to whom the task is
155 delegated. However, the licensed veterinarian is responsible for
156 all services performed by such persons, regardless of licensure,
157 and only a licensed veterinarian may make or provide any
158 diagnosis, perform any surgery, or prescribe any medicinal drugs
159 as defined in s. 465.003 or controlled substances as defined in
160 s. 893.02.

161 (6) A supervising veterinarian may, in his or her
162 discretion, delegate to a licensed veterinary technician the
163 responsibility of supervising a task performed by an unlicensed
164 person, except for a service under subsection (4).

165 (7) (a) A person may not:

166 1. Lead others to believe that he or she is a licensed
167 veterinary technician or is engaged in the licensed practice of
168 veterinary technology unless he or she holds a valid, active
169 license under this section.

170 2. Use the name or title "licensed veterinary technician"
171 if he or she is not licensed pursuant to this section.

172 (b) A veterinary assistant may not identify himself or
173 herself as a veterinary technician or a licensed veterinary
174 technician unless he or she is a graduate of an accredited

33-01486-26

20261382

175 veterinary technology program or licensed under this chapter, as
176 applicable.

177 (c) A person who violates this subsection commits a
178 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
179 775.082 or s. 775.083.

180 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 828.30, Florida
181 Statutes, is amended to read:

182 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

183 (1) (a) All dogs, cats, and ferrets 4 months of age or older
184 must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian, a licensed
185 veterinary technician under the immediate supervision of a
186 veterinarian, or a person authorized under paragraph (b) against
187 rabies with a vaccine that is licensed by the United States
188 Department of Agriculture for use in those species.

189 (b) Acting under the indirect supervision of a
190 veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county
191 or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate
192 against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets that are in the custody
193 of an animal control authority or a sheriff and which will be
194 transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the
195 owner. The supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for
196 any person vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under
197 his or her direct or indirect supervision. As used in this
198 paragraph, the term "indirect supervision" means that the
199 supervising veterinarian is required to be available for
200 consultation through telecommunications but is not required to
201 be physically present during such consultation.

202 (c) The owner of every dog, cat, and ferret shall have the
203 animal revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination.

33-01486-26

20261382

204 Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations shall conform to
205 the vaccine manufacturer's directions. The cost of vaccination
206 must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of circulating
207 rabies virus neutralizing antibodies may not be used as a
208 substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure
209 or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

210 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.