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CS/HB 303

2024 Legislature

1
 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 indirect supervision of a veterinarian; defining
 6 the term "indirect supervision"; conforming
 7 provisions; amending ss. 474.203, 767.16, and 828.29,
 8 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
 9 act; providing an effective date.

10
 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12
 13 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 828.30,
 14 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15 828.30 Rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets.—

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

21 (b) Acting under the indirect supervision of a
 22 veterinarian, an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county
 23 or municipal animal control authority or sheriff may vaccinate
 24 against rabies dogs, cats, and ferrets in the custody of an
 25 animal control authority or a sheriff that will be transferred,

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26 rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner. The
 27 supervising veterinarian assumes responsibility for any person
 28 vaccinating animals at his or her direction or under his or her
 29 direct or indirect supervision. As used in this paragraph, the
 30 term "indirect supervision" means that the supervising
 31 veterinarian is required to be available for consultation
 32 through telecommunications but is not required to be physically
 33 present during such consultation.

34 (c) The owner of every dog, cat, and ferret shall have the
 35 animal revaccinated 12 months after the initial vaccination.
 36 Thereafter, the interval between vaccinations shall conform to
 37 the vaccine manufacturer's directions. The cost of vaccination
 38 must be borne by the animal's owner. Evidence of circulating
 39 rabies virus neutralizing antibodies may ~~shall~~ not be used as a
 40 substitute for current vaccination in managing rabies exposure
 41 or determining the need for booster vaccinations.

42 (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed
 43 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal
 44 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each
 45 animal control authority and veterinarian shall use the "Rabies
 46 Vaccination Certificate" of the National Association of State
 47 Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form
 48 approved by the local government that contains all the
 49 information required by the NASPHV Rabies Vaccination
 50 Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies

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51 vaccination or who supervises the administration of the rabies
 52 vaccination as provided in paragraph (1) (b) vaccine to an animal
 53 as authorized ~~required~~ under this section may affix his or her
 54 signature stamp in lieu of an actual signature.

55 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
 56 474.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

57 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

58 (5) (a) Any person, or the person's regular employee,
 59 administering to the ills or injuries of her or his own animals,
 60 including, but not limited to, castration, spaying, and
 61 dehorning of herd animals, unless title is transferred or
 62 employment provided for the purpose of circumventing this law.
 63 This exemption does not apply to any person licensed as a
 64 veterinarian in another state or foreign jurisdiction and
 65 practicing temporarily in this state. However, except as
 66 provided in s. 828.30, only a veterinarian may immunize or treat
 67 an animal for diseases that are communicable to humans and that
 68 are of public health significance.

69
 70 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt
 71 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)
 72 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the
 73 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

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

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76 767.16 Police canine or service dog; exemption.—

77 (2) Any dog used as a service dog for blind, hearing
 78 impaired, or disabled persons that bites another animal or a
 79 human is exempt from any quarantine requirement following such
 80 bite if the dog has a current rabies vaccination that was
 81 administered as provided in s. 828.30 ~~by a licensed~~
 82 ~~veterinarian.~~

83 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph
 84 (b) of subsection (2) of section 828.29, Florida Statutes, are
 85 amended to read:

86 828.29 Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale;
 87 health requirements; consumer guarantee.—

88 (1)

89 (b) For each dog offered for sale within the state, the
 90 tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must
 91 be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian,
 92 licensed by the state and accredited by the United States
 93 Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate
 94 of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics
 95 must be administered before the dog is offered for sale in the
 96 state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on
 97 the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to
 98 inoculate or deworm the dog is not in the best medical interest
 99 of the dog, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be
 100 administered to that particular dog. Each dog must receive

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- 101 vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and
 102 internal parasites:
- 103 1. Canine distemper.
 - 104 2. Leptospirosis.
 - 105 3. Bordetella (by intranasal inoculation or by an
 106 alternative method of administration if deemed necessary by the
 107 attending veterinarian and noted on the health certificate,
 108 which must be administered in this state once before sale).
 - 109 4. Parainfluenza.
 - 110 5. Hepatitis.
 - 111 6. Canine parvo.
 - 112 7. Rabies, provided the dog is over 3 months of age and
 113 the inoculation is administered as provided in s. 828.30 ~~by a~~
 114 ~~licensed veterinarian.~~
 - 115 8. Roundworms.
 - 116 9. Hookworms.

117
 118 If the dog is under 4 months of age, the tests, vaccines, and
 119 anthelmintics required by this section must be administered no
 120 more than 21 days before sale within the state. If the dog is 4
 121 months of age or older, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics
 122 required by this section must be administered at or after 3
 123 months of age, but no more than 1 year before sale within the
 124 state.

125 (2)

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126 (b) For each cat offered for sale within the state, the
 127 tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must
 128 be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian,
 129 licensed by the state and accredited by the United States
 130 Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate
 131 of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics
 132 must be administered before the cat is offered for sale in the
 133 state, unless the licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on
 134 the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to
 135 inoculate or deworm the cat is not in the best medical interest
 136 of the cat, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be
 137 administered to that particular cat. Each cat must receive
 138 vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and
 139 internal parasites:

- 140 1. Panleukopenia.
- 141 2. Feline viral rhinotracheitis.
- 142 3. Calici virus.
- 143 4. Rabies, if the cat is over 3 months of age and the
 144 inoculation is administered as provided in s. 828.30 ~~by a~~
 145 ~~licensed veterinarian.~~
- 146 5. Hookworms.
- 147 6. Roundworms.

148
 149 If the cat is under 4 months of age, the tests, vaccines, and
 150 anthelmintics required by this section must be administered no

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151 | more than 21 days before sale within the state. If the cat is 4
152 | months of age or older, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics
153 | required by this section must be administered at or after 3
154 | months of age, but no more than 1 year before sale within the
155 | state.

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