

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- VETERINARY PRACTICE

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, P Fogarty, Sheehan, Archambault, and Felag

Date Introduced: March 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

(Dept. of Environmental Management)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-25-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-25 entitled "Veterinary  
2 Practice" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-25-7. Practice of veterinary medicine defined.**

4 (a) Any person shall be regarded as practicing veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry  
5 within the meaning of this chapter who, either directly or indirectly, when he or she does any of  
6 the following:

7 (1) Represents himself or herself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine,  
8 veterinary surgery, or veterinary dentistry in any of its branches.

9 (2) Diagnoses, prognoses, treats, administers, prescribes, operates on, manipulates or  
10 applies any drug, biologic, or chemical or any apparatus or appliance for any disease, pain,  
11 deformity, defect, injury, wound, or physical condition of any animal for the prevention of or to  
12 test the presence of any disease.

13 (3) Cuts any tissue, muscle, organ, or structure of any animal for the purposes described  
14 in subdivision (2) of this subsection or purpose or for the purpose of altering the natural condition  
15 of any animal or for any other purpose, cause or reason.

16 (b) The term "practicing veterinary medicine" does not include:

17 (1) The calling into the state for consultation of duly licensed or registered veterinarians  
18 of any other state as to any case under treatment by a veterinarian registered under the provisions  
19 of this chapter.

1 (2) The experimentation or research of a registered physician, dentist or osteopath.

2 (3) The experimentation and research activities conducted at any hospital, laboratory, or  
3 educational institution provided the activities have been approved and authorized by the division  
4 within the period of one year prior to the commencement of each separate project or activity or  
5 are conducted under the general supervision and control of a registered veterinarian, physician,  
6 dentist, or osteopath.

7 (4) The gratuitous giving of aid or relief to an animal in any accident or emergency;  
8 provided, the person giving the aid or relief does not represent himself or herself as a registered  
9 veterinarian.

10 (5) The nursing care to animals in the establishment or facilities of a registered  
11 veterinarian under his or her general supervision, direction and control by the employees of the  
12 veterinarian or the activities of a person assisting a veterinarian during the course of any  
13 procedure or treatment.

14 (6) A person who is a regular student in a legally chartered college or school of veterinary  
15 medicine while in the performance of the duties and activities assigned by his or her instructors  
16 and provided there is a licensed veterinarian to supervise those acts.

17 (7) A person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States or who is an  
18 employee or official of the United States department of agriculture, public health service, or other  
19 federal agency or of the state, who while so commissioned or employed, performs official duties.

20 (8) A person ~~who conducts routine~~ authorized by the Rhode Island state or federal animal  
21 health official to conduct vaccinations, ~~pullorum~~ or testing ~~and typhoid testing of poultry and~~  
22 ~~other poultry~~ of animals for the purpose of disease control activity under the supervision of ~~an~~  
23 ~~official state or federal agency or department of agriculture~~ that authorizing official.

24 (9) A person who advises with respect to or performs acts which are livestock  
25 management and animal husbandry practices that have been accepted and performed as defined in  
26 the duly promulgated rules and regulations governing livestock welfare. Prescription drugs shall  
27 not be used except by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian, as provided by state and federal  
28 law.

29 (c) Upon the determination by the attending zoo veterinarian that there is no available  
30 licensed Rhode Island veterinarian with specialized skills to provide the necessary treatment,  
31 assistance can be sought from a licensed human medical practitioner to provide treatment to an  
32 animal that is part of the zoological collection. The licensed veterinarian shall maintain  
33 responsibility for the veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC001339  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- VETERINARY PRACTICE

\*\*\*

1           This act would remove certain restrictions on who can perform routine husbandry  
2 procedures on livestock and would allow a licensed human medical practitioner to assist a  
3 licensed veterinarian.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC001339  
=====