

2023 PASSED BILLS REPORT

Passed and Enacted (sorted by effective date)

BILL NUMBER	Description	Enacted Date	Effective Date
AR HB1662	Exempts Antibiotics and Microbials from Pharmacy Act	04/11/2023	04/11/2023
AR HB1676	Requires a Negative Brucellosis Test for Quarantine	04/11/2023	04/11/2023
WA HB1452	Creates an Emergency Medical Reserves Corps	05/01/2023	05/01/2023
UT HB184	Creates the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program	03/14/2023	05/03/2023
FL H7063	Tax Holiday on Pet Products	05/25/2023	05/27/2023
SC S407	Adds a General Exemption to Opioid Antagonist Requirement	06/19/2023	06/19/2023
VT H305	Increases Initial and Renewal Fees	06/20/2023	06/20/2023
KY HB167	Veterinary Act Renewal, Telemedicine, Facility Permits	03/24/2023	06/24/2023
NY A6996	Restricts Buoy's Law to Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits / Delays Effective Date	06/30/2023	06/30/2023
AR SB403	Abolishes the Veterinary Board	04/11/2023	07/01/2023
IN SB277	Requires Fire Alarm System or Staff on Site for Boarding	05/01/2023	07/01/2023
MT SB561	Veterinary Retail Facility Permit / Veterinary Dispensing Technician	05/22/2023	07/01/2023
NH SB162	Clarifies Rabies Vaccine Exemption Valid for One Year and Must be Recertified	06/13/2023	07/01/2023
NM HB384	Requires Veterinary Board to Process Applications in 30 Days	04/05/2023	07/01/2023
WY HB76	Reduces Years of Experience for Exam Exemption	03/03/2023	07/01/2023
FL H719	Allows Veterinarians to Volunteer without a FL License	06/09/2023	07/01/2023
WY HB180	Communication Protocol for Brucellosis		07/01/2023
AK HB56	Exempts Veterinarians from PMP	07/07/2023	07/07/2023
AR SB476	Veterinarian Scholarship Program	04/11/2023	07/07/2023
AR HB1182	Creates the Position of Veterinary Technician Specialist	02/27/2023	07/07/2023

AR HB1566	Clarifies Veterinary Technician Specialist Cannot Receive Additional Compensation	03/30/2023	07/07/2023
CO SB44	Expands Veterinarian Student Loan Repayment Program	06/02/2023	08/06/2023
MO HB202	Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program Expansion	07/06/2023	08/28/2023
TX SB1523	Allows Board to Dismiss Baseless Complaints	05/19/2023	09/01/2023
TX HB2063	Informed Consent for Unattended Animals	06/02/2023	09/01/2023
TX HB4069	Emergency Care Price Transparency	06/11/2023	09/01/2023
DE SB168	Defines Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship / Licensure Exemptions	09/21/2023	09/21/23
ME LD688	Prohibits Non-Compete Agreements with Veterinarians	06/01/2023	09/21/2023
MI HB5004	Increases X-ray or Electron Tube Fees	09/27/2023	09/29/2023
AZ SB1053	Allows Telemedicine to Establish VCPR	05/11/2023	09/30/2023
AZ SB1194	Creates the Certified Rabies Vaccinator Position	05/11/2023	09/30/2023
AZ SB1401	Acupuncturists Serving Animals	06/05/2023	09/30/2023
CT HB6714	Requires Veterinarians to Report Animal Fighting	06/27/2023	10/01/2023
FL H959	Labeling Requirements for Dosage Form Animal Health Products	06/02/2023	10/01/2023
MD HB325 / SB390	Expedited Licensure Process and Expanding Rabies Vaccine Administration	05/08/2023	10/01/2023
IL HB1358	Electronic Prescription Veterinarian Exemption	11/09/2023	11/17/2023
NC S135	Prohibits Use of Veterinary Technician Title without Registration	07/07/2023	12/01/2023
NC S582	Requires At Least a Week's Notice Before Inspections and Checklist of Standards	06/27/2023	12/01/2023
CA SB669	Authorizes RVTs to Establish VCPR for Administering Vaccines	10/13/2023	01/01/2024
CA AB1399	Allows Telemedicine to Establish VCPR	10/08/2023	01/01/2024

CA SB816	Veterinary Assistant Controlled Substances Permit	10/10/23	01/01/2024
IL SB2059 / HB2395	Telemedicine / Physical VCPR	07/28/2023	01/01/2024
PA SB746	Kennel Requirements – Isolation Plan and Health Certification for Dogs Boarded from Out-of-State	10/23/2023	01/23/2024
IA HF670	Veterinary Technician Licensing / Other Various Changes	06/01/2023	07/01/2024
NC H190	Adds Gabapentin to PMP Requirements	06/29/2023	01/01/2025

Passed and Vetoed

BILL NUMBER	Description	Passage	Effective Date
CA SB373	Prohibits the Board from Posting Licensee Addresses (Vetoed)	10/08/2023	01/01/2024

Other Notable Passed Bills:

DE HB156 model pet insurance act.
 DE SB189 schedules xylazine.
 NH HB249 model pet insurance act.
 LA HB579 model pet insurance act.
 MS SB2228 model pet insurance act.
 NE LB296 model pet insurance act.
 NC H259 large animal healthcare enhancement act.
 OK SB668 removes Proin and ephedrine from the drug schedule.
 RI H5922/S738 schedules xylazine.
 US HR5860 animal drug application fees to encourage new development.
 WA SB5319 model pet insurance act.

Alaska HB56

Exempts Veterinarians from the PMP

Summary

- This bill exempts veterinarians from the prescription monitoring program (PMP) reporting and querying requirements by stating that the PMP section “does not apply to a schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance prescribed or dispensed by a veterinarian licensed under AS08.98 to treat an animal.” Alaska has six drug schedules.
- This bill also grants the board the authority to adopt a certification program for veterinarian licensure.
- Lastly, adds the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE®) certification, or another certification process approved by the board, to the list of acceptable programs.

Effective Date: Effective immediately upon signature.

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Arizona SB1053

Allows Telemedicine to Establish VCPR

Summary

- This bill allows for the use of telemedicine to establish the veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). It does so by adding to the options for obtaining sufficient knowledge, “the veterinarian obtains current knowledge of the animal by conducting a real-time electronic examination using an audio-video based communication medium.”
- Animals used in commercial food production are not included.
- In order to use telemedicine to establish the VCPR, the following conditions must be met:
 - Obtain informed consent and acknowledgment that standards are equivalent, which must be kept on file for three years;
 - The client must be advised that the veterinarian may recommend an in-person exam, some medications cannot be prescribed, and the appointment can be terminated at any time;
 - The veterinarian must be able to recommend the client for an in-person exam if requested.
- Veterinarians establishing the VCPR via telemedicine can issue prescriptions for 14 days with one refill for an additional 14 days, only after another telemedicine exam. Any additional refills require an in-person exam. Controlled substances are excluded.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment. Currently scheduled to adjourn June 30, 2023. Effective approximately September 30, 2023.

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Arizona SB1194

Creates the Certified Rabies Vaccinator Position

Summary

- This bill creates the new position of certified rabies vaccinator (CRV). This is a certified position under the state veterinarian. The certification is valid for one year with subsequent certifications valid for two years and can be renewed.
- Veterinarians may appoint a person who is not a veterinarian as a certified rabies vaccinator to administer rabies vaccines on the premises of a shelter or rescue that is located in a county with a population of less than 400,000 people or a census county division with less than 50,000 people in a county with a population of 400,000 or more, and a veterinarian is not available.
- Veterinarians are responsible for providing training, which must be certified in writing by the veterinarians. Veterinarians are not liable for any actions taken by the CRV.
- Certified rabies vaccinators are responsible for maintaining records for 3 years and notifying veterinarians of any adverse events.
- The state veterinarian is directed to adopt rules to implement this law, which would include the certification requirements.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment. Currently scheduled to adjourn June 30, 2023. Effective approximately September 30, 2023.

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Arizona SB1401

Acupuncturists Serving Animals

Summary

- This bill changes the requirements for acupuncturists to be allowed to practice on animals and allows an acupuncturist to apply for certification by the Acupuncture Board of Examiners to treat animals if the acupuncturist is nationally certified by the American Board of Animal Acupuncture or the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine to treat animals. Authorizes the Acupuncture Board of Examiners to prescribe procedures for applying for this certification and fees.
- Specifies that an acupuncturist is not practicing veterinary medicine if the acupuncturist is treating an animal consistent with statute and the following requirements:
 - Is nationally certified by the American Board of Animal Acupuncture or the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine to treat animals;
 - Received a referral for acupuncture treatment from a licensed veterinarian who diagnosed the animal;
 - Maintains records on every animal and provides records to the treating veterinarian on request;
 - Maintains adequate insurance to specifically cover any injuries to the animal, the animal's owner, or staff members working on the animal;
 - Assesses and treats the animal consistent with the licensed acupuncturist's training and, on request, communicates the findings, treatment, and results to the treating licensed veterinarian in a timely manner.
 - Requires the licensed veterinarian to, on request, provide the treating acupuncturist with all medical information that may assist in treating the animal.
 - Is solely liable for the acupuncture treatments provided to the animal that is also under the care of a licensed veterinarian.
 - When treating an animal at a facility operated by a licensed veterinarian, the acupuncturist complies with the following:
 - The acupuncturist may not treat the animal in the same area as human patients;
 - The premises have secured areas to safely contain animals during treatment;
 - The staff is trained to properly hold any animal being treated;
 - Protocols are in place to handle emergency situations that may arise with the animal being treated;
 - Sanitation protocols are in place to ensure human and animal safety; and
 - The rules adopted by the Acupuncture Board of Examiners. (Sec. 1)

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment. Currently scheduled to adjourn June 30, 2023. Effective approximately September 30, 2023.

Arkansas SB403

Abolishes the Veterinary Board

Summary

- This bill abolishes 10 agricultural boards related to milk stabilization, foresters, soil classifiers, water well construction, restoration, pesticides, and veterinary medicine.
- The functions of the veterinary board will be transferred to the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission. It is expected that the commission will create subcommittees to take over all necessary functions from the boards being terminated.
- This is being done for fiscal reasons and is expected to save over 300 hours of labor, per year, and a direct savings of \$42,000.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment, which was April 7. Effective approximately, July 07, 2023.

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Arkansas SB476

Veterinarian Scholarship Program

Summary

- This bill creates two scholarship programs to encourage more veterinarians to reside in the state and encourage clinics to relocate to underserved areas.
- One scholarship program is available for undergraduate and graduate students. Undergraduate students must obtain a degree from an Arkansas institution within 6 years of receiving the scholarship. Graduate students may attend an in-state or out-of-state institution but must also complete the program in 6 years. In both cases, the recipient must agree to serve in the state for 2 years and begin employment within a year of graduation.
- The second scholarship program provides grants to encourage practices to relocate to rural communities and receive specialized training to meet the needs of livestock producers. The department is directed to develop the rules to implement this program including eligibility and application requirements. Recipients must complete training in livestock biosecurity, disease diagnosis, and zoonotic diseases, as well as an externship.
 - Recipients must serve in a county with a population under 40,000 or at a clinic where food-animal patients make up at least 50% of the veterinarian's time. They must also agree to serve for at least 12 consecutive months for each year an award is received and begin practicing within 90 days of completing a program.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment, which was April 7. Effective approximately, July 07, 2023.

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Arkansas HB1182

Creates the Position of Veterinary Technician Specialist

Summary

- The bill creates a new position of veterinary technician specialist (VTS), which is completely different from the nationally recognized veterinary technician specialist title.
- The bill allows VTSs to enter into a “collaborative practice agreement” with supervising veterinarians. Veterinarians can enter into agreements with up to three (3) VTSs, at one time.
- Under a collaborative practice agreement, VTSs may establish a preliminary veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). Veterinarians must see the animal within fifteen (15) days.
- The agreement also allows VTSs to:
 - perform anesthesia (except in conflict with state and federal law);
 - perform minor dental and surgical procedures (excluding abdominal, thoracic, or orthopedic surgery and neurosurgery);
 - administer drugs, including controlled substances, to prevent suffering including euthanasia (no state or federal exception listed, expect clarification from the board);
 - provide CPR including administration of medication and defibrillation and post-resuscitation (except in conflict with state or federal law);
 - dispense and administer medicines or therapeutic devices (except in conflict with state or federal law).
 - Note: The original bill included prescription authority, but it was removed after significant pushback from the community.
 - The federal DEA has authority over who can prescribe, dispense, and administer controlled substances. VTSs will not be able to dispense or administer controlled substances unless the DEA extends authority to include vet techs and/or specialists, which it is not currently considering.
- VTSs are required to complete eight (8) hours of advanced continuing education in their specialty area, each year for renewal.
- Veterinarians supervising VTSs indirectly retain control and authority over the animals, as well as liability. The VTSs are also liable for their actions. Veterinarians are required to meet with VTSs monthly to review records.
- There does not appear to be a requirement to notify the board of the establishment of a collaborative practice agreement, but the board must be notified within seven (7) days of the termination of an agreement. Expect the board to provide clarification to that point.
- VTSs cannot receive an additional fee for their services, nor can they establish their own practice.

- The bill also provides the application requirements and permission to use the title, as well as the initial VTS or CVTS.
- The bill also allows veterinary technicians and VTSs to administer rabies vaccinations.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment, which was April 7. Effective approximately, July 07, 2023.

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Arkansas HB1566

Clarifies Veterinary Technician Specialist Cannot Receive Additional Compensation

Summary

- The bill clarifies that veterinary technician specialists, passed by HB1182, cannot obtain compensation other than the salary or compensation paid by their veterinary clinic or veterinarian.
- This was passed in response to concerns that veterinary technician specialists could receive compensation directly from clients, in addition to their traditional salary. There is also language in HB1182 prohibiting veterinary technician specialists from opening their own clinics.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment, which was April 7. Effective approximately, July 07, 2023.

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Arkansas HB1662

Exempts Antibiotics and Microbials from Pharmacy Act

Summary

- The bill exempts the sale or shipping of antibiotics and microbials from the pharmacy act to allow livestock stores to continue to sell these products after the FDA rule takes effect June 11, 2023, which will make all antibiotics for livestock prescription-only.
- A prescription from a veterinarian is still required, but this would provide a carve-out so that these stores do not have to be licensed as pharmacies.
- There is nothing restricting this to antibiotics and microbials for livestock use only. The pharmacy board will likely provide additional guidance this summer.

Effective Date: April 11, 2023

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Arkansas HB1676

Requires a Negative Brucellosis Test for Quarantine

Summary

- This bill makes two changes regarding dogs that test positive for brucellosis.
- The owner of a dog that tests positive is required to report the test results to the Department of Agriculture, instead of the Livestock and Poultry Commission.
- Secondly, a dog that tests positive must have a subsequent negative test before leaving the owner's premises. Current law also requires the dog to be neutered or spayed.

Effective Date: April 11, 2023

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California AB1399

Allows the Use of Telemedicine to Establish VCPR

Summary

- This bill allows the establishment of a VCPR with telemedicine and provides all definitions.
- *A veterinarian possesses sufficient knowledge of the animal patient for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) if the veterinarian has recently seen, or is personally acquainted with, the care of the animal patient by doing any of the following:*
 - *Examining the animal patient in person.*
 - *Examining the animal patient by use of synchronous audio-video communication.*
 - *Making medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises on which the animal patient is kept.*
 - *For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subdivision (a), the client may authorize an agent to act on the client's behalf.*
- Synchronous audio-video communication is not required for the delivery of veterinary medicine via telehealth after a VCPR has been established unless the veterinarian determines that it is necessary in order to provide care consistent with prevailing veterinary medical practice. A VCPR shall not be established solely by audio-only communication or by means of a questionnaire.
- Veterinarians must obtain client consent that the same standards apply to telehealth, the client can choose an in-person exam at any time, and the client has been advised on follow-up care in the case of an adverse reaction to treatment. Clients must also be notified that drugs can be obtained from a pharmacy and submit a prescription if requested.
- Veterinarians practicing telehealth must meet privacy protection laws, have historical knowledge via records, employ sound judgment, be familiar with local veterinary resources and provide a list of in-person options, provide their contact information and license number, and secure an alternative means of contact.
- A veterinarian who established the required VCPR using synchronous audio-video communication shall not prescribe a drug to the animal patient for use for a period longer than 6 months from the date upon which the veterinarian examined the animal patient or prescribed the drug. The veterinarian shall not issue another prescription to the animal patient for the same drug unless they have conducted another examination of the animal patient, either in person or using telehealth. (6-month restriction on a prescription prescribed via telehealth then a new exam is required, either in-person or telehealth)
- A veterinarian who established the required VCPR using synchronous audio-video communication shall not prescribe an antimicrobial drug to the animal patient for a period longer than 14 days of treatment. The veterinarian shall not issue any further antimicrobial drug prescription, including a refill, to treat the condition of the animal patient unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person

examination of the animal patient. (14-day restriction on all antimicrobials prescribed via telehealth then an in-person exam is required)

- Controlled substances and xylazine cannot be prescribed using telehealth.
- The bill establishes the following definitions:
 - “Synchronous” means a real-time interaction between a client and animal patient with a veterinarian who is licensed in this state and located at a distant site.
 - “Telehealth” means the mode of delivering veterinary medicine via electronic communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, care management, or treatment of an animal patient, and includes, but is not limited to, synchronous video and audio communication; synchronous, two-way audio communication; and electronic transmission of images, diagnostics, data, and medical information.
- Lastly, the bill provides an exemption from the requirement to obtain a premises permit for telehealth locations, if the following conditions are met:
 - The veterinarian does not perform in-person examination or treatment of animal patients at the location.
 - No veterinary drug, medicine, appliance, or medical equipment is kept at the location.
 - The veterinary medical records required pursuant to Sections 4855 and 4856 are created, maintained, and stored so as to protect the veterinary medical records from access by unauthorized individuals, damage, or loss.
 - The following information shall be provided on any electronic publication, including any internet website, through which the veterinarian provides or offers to provide veterinary medical services:
 - The veterinarian’s name, contact information, and California veterinarian license number, prominently displayed.
 - Contact information and instructions for obtaining a copy of the animal patient’s medical records.
 - A statement that a client may contact the Veterinary Medical Board if the client has any questions or complaints regarding the veterinarian.

Effective Date: January 01, 2024

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California SB669

Allows RVTs to Establish VCPR for Administering Vaccines

Summary

- This bill allows a veterinarian to authorize a registered veterinary technician (RVT) to establish the veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) to “administer preventive or prophylactic vaccines or medications for the control or eradication of apparent or anticipated internal or external parasites” if the following conditions are met:
 - The RVTs administer the vaccine on the premises with the veterinarian physically present.
 - If remote, “the veterinarian is in the general vicinity or available by telephone and is quickly and easily available.” The RVT must have the equipment and drugs necessary to provide immediate emergency care at the level commensurate with the provision of vaccines.
 - The RVT must examine and administer vaccines or medications via a written protocol established by the veterinarian that includes:
 - Obtaining the history.
 - Data that must be collected by a physical exam.
 - Information in the history or exam that would preclude administration.
 - Criteria that would disqualify the animal.
 - Vaccination protocol for administration.
 - Preventive procedures including handling and administration of medications and how to handle an adverse reaction.
 - Documentation of specific information.
 - The veterinarian and RVT must sign a statement acknowledging that the veterinarian is liable and the RVT can only act as an agent for administering vaccines. The RVT must also inform the client that they are acting as an agent. Oral or written authorization from the client must be recorded.
 - Veterinarians must maintain records of RVT work for three years.

Effective Date: January 01, 2023

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California SB373

Prohibits the Board from Posting Licensee Addresses

VETOED 10/08/23

Summary

- This bill prohibits the Veterinary Medical Board from disclosing on the Internet the full address of record of licensees and registrants. The board shall disclose the city, state, and zip code of the addresses.
- This shall not apply to secondary documents linked to the board's internet website which may contain an address.

Effective Date: January 01, 2023

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California SB816

Veterinary Assistant Controlled Substances Permit

Summary

- Existing law establishes a process by which a veterinary assistant may apply for a controlled substance permit but prohibits the issuing of a permit to any applicant with a state or federal felony controlled substance conviction.
- This bill would delete the prohibition on issuing a veterinary assistant controlled substance permit to an applicant with a conviction, as described above.

Effective Date: January 01, 2023

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Colorado SB44

Expands Veterinarian Student Loan Repayment Program

Summary

- This bill expands the current veterinarian student loan repayment program in several ways.
- The number of eligible recipients is increased from four to six.
- The maximum loan amount is increased from \$70,000 to \$90,000.
- The yearly repayments are increased by \$5,000. Recipients now receive \$15,000 after six months, \$20,000 after the second year, \$25,000 after the third year, and \$30,000 after the fourth year.
- Lastly, the bill increases the overall funding mandated for the program from \$140,000 to \$540,000.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment. The legislature adjourned on May 06, 2023, effective approximately August 06, 2023.

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Connecticut HB6714

Requires Veterinarians to Report Animal Fighting

Summary

- This bill requires a veterinarian to report the following information to local law enforcement or animal control if there is reason to believe an animal “has been harmed, neglected, or treated cruelly due to participation in an exhibition of animal fighting”:
 - address of the owner or person responsible for the animal;
 - description of the animal;
 - approximate date and time of discovery.
- This bill clarifies the definition of sexual contact with an animal and classifies such offenses as class A misdemeanor, requires the court to prohibit animal cruelty violators from owning animals for five years, and allows law enforcement or animal control to take possession of any animal suspected of being sexually assaulted, which must be promptly transported to a shelter or clinic for examination by a veterinarian.

Effective Date: Effective October 01, 2023

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Delaware SB168

Defines Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship / Licensure Exemptions

Summary

- This bill defines and requires the veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) to practice veterinary medicine but does not stipulate if a physical exam is required or if a virtual exam is allowed.
- Includes under conditions for establishing a VCPR, “the veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient. This means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by virtue of a timely examination of the patient, or medically appropriate and timely visits to the operation where the patient is managed.”
- Also, requires the veterinarian to be readily available for follow-up evaluations or arrange for emergency or continuing care and treatment.
- There are separate conditions for establishing the VCPR for shelters, farms, etc. The VCPR may be established and maintained by (1) Examination of health, laboratory, or production records, (2) Consultation with owners, managers, directors, caretakers, or other supervisory staff who oversee the health care management of the operation, or (3) Maintenance of information regarding the local epidemiology of diseases for the appropriate species.
- This bill also adds a licensure exemption that allows veterinarians or veterinary technicians licensed in another state to provide services during an emergency within the scope and location of assigned veterinary medical duties of the response efforts if an emergency or disaster has been declared and an invitation has been extended to veterinarians and veterinary technicians.
- Requires the board to issue a temporary license to veterinary technicians awaiting the passage of the licensure examination. Currently, the board was allowed to issue a temporary license, but it is now mandatory.
- Gives the Board the authority to impose monetary penalties on licensees who are found to have committed regulatory or statutory violations.
- This bill repeals the temporary permit and other changes, mainly technical.

Effective Date: Effective immediately upon signature.

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Florida H719

Allows Veterinarians to Volunteer without a FL License

Summary

- This bill allows a veterinarian with a license in another state, that is in good standing, to perform dog or cat sterilization or routine preventative health services at the time of sterilization, as an unpaid volunteer.
- The volunteering veterinarian must act under the “responsible supervision” of a state-licensed veterinarian.
- The supervising veterinarian is responsible for all acts by the volunteer veterinarian.

Effective Date: July 01, 2023

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Florida H959

Labeling Requirements for Dosage Form Animal Health Products

Summary

- This bill requires dosage form animal health products to include labels with specific information.
- Dosage form animal health products are products “intended to affect the structure or function of the animal’s body other than by providing nutrition to the animal”. Essentially, this includes supplements like glucosamine, skin and coat supplements, etc. The term does not include vitamins or minerals, food, treats, dental products, or drugs or medicines approved by the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Virus-Serum-Toxin Act, or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
- The requirements for the labels are similar to the language passed in Vermont a couple of years ago and will be the responsibility of manufacturers and distributors to meet.
- There is a concern this could require a recall of current inventory. However, according to the National Animal Supplement Council, the state is going to allow the current inventory to be sold off. This is the only concern and it will only impact vet clinics that sell dosage form animal health products.

Effective Date: October 01, 2023

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Florida H7063

Tax Holiday on Pet Products

Summary

- This bill expands the state's tax holiday program to include various pet products.
- The following supplies, necessary for the evacuation of household pets purchased for noncommercial use, are exempt from the sales tax from May 27-June 9, 2023, and August 26-September 8, 2023.
 - Bags of dry dog food or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$100 or less per bag.
 - Cans or pouches of wet dog food or cat food with a sales price of \$10 or less per can or pouch or the equivalent if sold in a box or case.
 - Over-the-counter pet medications with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
 - Portable kennels or pet carriers with a sales price of \$100 or less per item.
 - Manual can openers with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
 - Leashes, collars, and muzzles with a sales price of \$20 or less per item.
 - Collapsible or travel-sized food bowls or water bowls with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
 - Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds with a sales price of \$25 or less per item.
 - Cat litter pans with a sales price of \$15 or less per item.
 - Pet waste disposal bags with a sales price of \$15 or less per package.
 - Pet pads with a sales price of \$20 or less per box or package.
 - Hamster or rabbit substrate with a sales price of \$15 or less per package.
 - Pet beds with a sales price of \$40 or less per item.
- If the sale tax is not exempt, retail is required to refund the tax back to the customer or report and pay it back to the department. Refer to the Department of Revenue for more information at <https://floridarevenue.com/disasterprep/Pages/default.aspx>.

Effective Date: May 27, 2023

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Illinois SB2059

Telemedicine / Physical VCPR

Summary

- This bill renews the Veterinary Practice Act and stipulates that a physical exam is required for the establishment of a VCPR.
- Clarifies that telemedicine occurs when either the patient or the veterinarian is located in the state. Telemedicine may only be used once the VCPR has been established.
- Telemedicine can be used when a physical exam has been conducted within one year and it is possible to make a diagnosis and create a treatment plan without a recent physical exam based on professional standards of care.
- Veterinarians must ensure technology is sufficient and appropriate and can delegate to a CVT under direct and indirect supervision.
- Changes the definition of a veterinary specialist to one who has been awarded and maintains specialty certification recognized by the ABVS or an organization the board has determined to be equivalent or meets other criteria established by the board.
- Requires address and email address of record, must notify the board within 14 days of any change.
- Stipulates that an active application is denied if not completed within 3 years.
- Allows for a federal individual taxpayer identification number on application, instead of just a social security number.
- Current law requires written notice and any subsequent notices related to an investigation to be sent via registered or certified mail. This bill allows such notices to be provided via email if the party designates an email address.
- Adds “group of animals” to the definition of animal.
- Extends the expiration of the Veterinary Practice Act until January 01, 2029.

Effective Date: The practice act renewal is effective immediately, but the telemedicine provisions are not effective until January 01, 2024.

[Bill Website](#)

[Bill Text](#)

Illinois HB1358

Electronic Prescription Veterinarian Exemption

Summary

- This bill adds a veterinarian-specific exemption to the previously passed Illinois law requiring electronic prescriptions starting January 01, 2024.
- The exemption only applies to prescriptions issued within 2 years of the effective date of the amendment, which would include prescriptions issued until November 17, 2025.
- There will be an effort during the 2024 legislative session to remove the 2-year sunset language.

Effective Date: November 17, 2023

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Indiana SB277

Requires a Fire Alarm System or Staff on Site for Boarding

Summary

- The bill only applies to facilities constructed or converted/remodeled into an animal facility after June 30, 2023.
- After such date, animal facilities must have an operable fire alarm system, designed by a fire alarm tech, or staff on duty at the facility any time a dog or cat is present.
- Allows the fire department with jurisdiction to inspect facilities.

Effective Date: July 01, 2023.

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Iowa HF670

Veterinary Technician Licensure / Various Other Changes

Summary

- Defines the following: accredited/approved veterinary technician program, registered veterinary technician, supervising veterinarian, veterinary assistant, veterinary auxiliary personnel (VAP), veterinary student, vet tech student, direct, immediate, and indirect supervision.
 - “Direct supervision” Veterinarian is readily available and on the premises.
 - “Immediate supervision” occurs when the supervising veterinarian is in the immediate area, and within audible and visual range.
- “Indirect supervision” means supervision by a supervising veterinarian, other than direct supervision or immediate supervision, that occurs when all of the following apply: a. The supervising veterinarian has given written protocols or real-time oral instructions to veterinary auxiliary personnel for the treatment of an animal patient for which a veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists. b. The supervising veterinarian is readily available by telephone or other means of immediate communication.
- Adds comprehensive, alternative, integrated therapies (CAIT) to the definition of practice of veterinary medicine, and provides an exemption for auxiliary personnel under supervision.
- Directs the board to develop rules for the supervision of tasks that can be delegated to auxiliary personnel and the VCPR.
- Allows a veterinarian to provide care by acting as a supervising veterinarian subject to rules adopted by the board. The supervising veterinarian shall determine the supervision required for delegated tasks, based on training, experience, and skill. May not delegate veterinary medical services of diagnosis, prescription, or surgery to any VAP. Directs the board to adopt rules prescribing the level of supervision for each VAP.
- Allows a veterinarian any number of VAPs. Allows a person to employ any number of VAPS if a supervising veterinarian who practices at the same place as the VAP supervises the VAP. VAP may only be compensated by employer.
- Establishes the qualifications and process for issuance and re-issuance of certificate of registration for veterinary technicians. Allows the board to adopt other standards.
- A certificate of registration for a registered veterinary technician that was issued prior to July 1, 2024, remains valid and does not expire.
- A supervising veterinarian shall decide the specific tasks delegated to a registered veterinary technician, vet assistant, vet tech student, vet student, and graduate, and provide the required supervision pursuant to section 169.32 and the rules adopted by the board. Prohibits vet techs from equine teeth floating unless certified in equine dentistry and submits a letter that they will be under the supervision of a vet with experience in large animals.



- The board is directed to start the rule process to implement this law by January 01, 2024.

Effective Date: This Bill is effective July 1, 2024; however, the section that requires the board to adopt administrative rules takes effect upon enactment.

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Kentucky HB167

Veterinary Act Renewal, Telemedicine, Facility Permits

Summary

- This bill renews the Veterinary Practice Act, making a wide range of changes. The veterinary board will have to adopt a variety of rules to implement these changes. The board has posted 17 discussion drafts to facilitate that process. They can be found on the [practice act website](#).
- The general intent of this bill is to develop standards and licensure for animal euthanasia and allied animal health professional work (AAHP) (chiropractic), develop standards and licensure for veterinary and AAHP premises (fixed and mobile), and regulate telemedicine, including requiring a physical exam for establishing the VCPR. The following are some additional highlights.
- Adds various new definitions including AAHP, animal chiropractic, certified animal euthanasia specialist, complementary and alternative veterinary medicine therapies, veterinary technology, supervising veterinarian, immediate supervision, direct supervision, indirect supervision, in-person (for VCPR exam), telemedicine or connected care, teleadvice, teleconsulting, telehealth, telemonitoring, telesupervision, teletriage, veterinary facility, etc.
- Includes two sections on the renewal of veterinary technician and animal euthanasia specialist licenses.
- Again, requires veterinary and AAHP facilities to register with the board by June 30, 2025, renewed biennially. Requires a veterinary manager and AAHP manager to be responsible for the facility registrations. Allows the board to conduct voluntary inspections and discipline registrants.
- Requires a physical exam or in-person visits every 12 months to establish a VCPR. VCPR can extend to other veterinarians employed at the same facility. Provides an exemption for emergencies. Clarifies that any advice provided via telehealth without an established VCPR may not be specific to a patient, diagnosis, or treatment.
- Provides several exemptions to the practice act including consultation, implanting microchips, AAHP acting within their scope, certified euthanasia specialists, and a veterinarian licensed in another state or Canada with an active application on file pending for less than 90 days, working under the direct supervision of another veterinarian. The details of that arraignment must be disclosed in the application. There is a similar exemption, a special permit, for those awaiting test results. The special permit expires 7 business days after the notice of results of the first exam given after the permit was issued.
- Stipulates certified euthanasia specialists shall only perform euthanasia on the premises of the animal control agency, except for emergencies, and only euthanize animals owned by the animal control agency. Prohibits euthanizing animals at private residences.

- Prohibits veterinarians serving shelters to store drugs together. Requires separate storage, logs, order forms, and security for each DEA registration.
- Increases the board from 9 to 11 members. Adds one AAHP representative. Mandates a diverse representation of species and regional areas. Establishes conditions for removal of board members.
- Adopts the veterinary nurse title as an additional title for veterinary technicians. Makes a few minor changes to veterinary assistants.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment, which was March 24, 2023. Effective approximately June 24, 2023.

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Maine LD688

Prohibits Noncompete Agreements with Veterinarians

Summary

- This bill prohibits an employer from requiring an employee to enter into a noncompete agreement if the employee is a veterinarian. This does not apply if the veterinarian has an ownership interest in the veterinary facility.
- Additionally, the bill stipulates that a court may not enforce a non-compete agreement entered into or renewed before the effective date, nullifying existing agreements.

Effective Date: Effective 90 days after adjournment, which is scheduled for June 21, 2023. Effective approximately September 21, 2023.

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Maryland HB325 / SB390

Expedited Licensure Process and Expanding Rabies Vaccine Administration

Summary

- This bill allows veterinary technicians, originally all veterinary staff, and animal control facilities to administer rabies vaccines.
- The veterinarian signing the rabies vaccination certificate must ensure the individual administering the vaccine was appropriately trained on storage, handling, administration, and management of adverse reactions. The individual must also be identified on the certificate.
- The bill also directs the board to establish an expedited process to authorize veterinarians licensed in good standing in another state to become licensed in MD. The board must report to the legislature by December 01, 2023, on progress.
- Originally, this bill exempted veterinarians licensed in another state from an MD license when providing services to shelters.

Effective Date: October 01, 2023

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Michigan HB5004

Increases X-ray or Electron Tube Fees

Summary

- This bill increases the fees for veterinary or dental x-ray or electron tubes.
- Increases the fee for the first x-ray or electron tube from \$45.00 to \$104.88 and for each additional x-ray or electron tube from \$25.00 to \$58.19.
- Annual fee for nonveterinary or nondental X-ray or electron tubes is increased from \$75.00 to \$174.88.

Effective Date: September 29, 2023

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Missouri HB202

Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program Expansion

Summary

- This bill expands the existing veterinarian loan repayment program and adds Dr. Dan Brown to the title. Dr. Brown was a veterinarian who served in the legislature from 2008 until 2019 and passed away in 2021.
- This bill allows for private grants, gifts, donations, and other assets to be accepted by the program.
- This bill expands the program from 6 recipients to 12, increases the annual eligibility from \$20,000 to \$30,000, and the total eligibility from \$80,000 to \$120,000.
- Lastly, this bill allows for the number of recipients to be increased if donations allow for additional recipients.

Effective Date: Effective August 28, 2023

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Montana SB561

Veterinary Retail Facility Permit / Veterinary Dispensing Technician

Summary

- This bill allows livestock stores to continue to sell antibiotics for livestock after the FDA takes effect June 11, which will make all products prescription-only. The current stock of over-the-counter antibiotics can be sold off.
- This bill creates a veterinary retail facility permit under the Board of Pharmacy and a veterinary dispensing technician registration under the Board of Veterinary Medicine.
- The veterinary dispensing technician is eligible for registration by completing an academic program or certification program developed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine.
- A prescription from a veterinarian is still required, but this would provide a carve-out so that these stores do not have to be licensed as pharmacies.
- The bill clearly states that this language shall not infringe on the role of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary clinics, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, or pharmacies.

Effective Date: July 01, 2023

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New Hampshire SB162

Requires that the Rabies Vaccine Exemption Must be Recertified Each Year

Summary

- This bill clarifies that regarding the rabies vaccine exemption after the initial one-year exemption has expired, and if the animal still qualifies for the exemption, the exemption shall be recertified by a veterinarian on an annual basis.

Effective Date: July 01, 2023

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New Mexico HB384

Creates Expedited License for Veterinarians Licensed in Another State

Summary

- This bill directs the veterinary board to issue an expedited license to a veterinarian licensed in good standing in another state or foreign country. The board is required to process the application as soon as practicable but no later than 30 days after the application is submitted with an application fee.
- The applicant must have practiced veterinary medicine for at least five years to qualify.
- The board can require an exam if the applicant did not pass one previously for licensure.
- The board is directed to promulgate rules to create a list of which states from which it will not accept a license and which countries from which it will accept a license. The list must be posted online.
- This bill also creates a temporary permit to practice veterinary medicine under direct supervision for an applicant awaiting an exam. The temporary permit expires the day after those exam results are posted.

Effective Date: July 01, 2023.

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New York A6996

Restricts Buoy's Law to Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits / Delays Effective Date

Summary

- This bill amends Buoy's Law to make the following changes:
 - changes the language from all animals to just dogs, cats, and rabbits, and clarifies for use outside the office;
 - applies only to the initial prescription or dispensation;
 - clarifies that the information can be provided in writing or orally; and
 - delays the effective date from 180 days to eighteen months.
- Buoy's Law was passed in 2022 and requires veterinarians to discuss drug information including side effects with clients.

Effective Date: Effective immediately, which was June 30, 2023. However, the delayed effective date for implementation is now June 2024.

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North Carolina S135

Prohibits Use of Veterinary Technician Title Without Registration

Summary

- This bill prohibits the use of the title “registered veterinary technician” or “veterinary technician”, the abbreviation “RVT,” or any other words, letters, or symbols, with the intent to represent that the person is a veterinary technician unless that person is licensed by or registered with the board.

Effective Date: December 01, 2023

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North Carolina S582

Requires At Least a Week's Notification Before Inspections and a Checklist of Standards

Summary

- This bill requires that at least one week prior to conducting any inspection, the Board shall provide written notice of the upcoming inspection to the veterinarian. The written notification may be provided via electronic communication.
- The veterinarian may contact the Board to reschedule, but it may be rescheduled only one week after the originally scheduled date.
- Lastly, along with the written notification, the Board shall provide the veterinarian with a checklist of all standards adopted by rule for which the inspector may issue a violation and, with as much specificity as possible, conditions that violate the standards.
- Just a reminder that the Board is currently discussing the draft language for the veterinary facility permit requirements passed in 2022.

Effective Date: December 01, 2023

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North Carolina H190

Adds Gabapentin to PMP Requirements

Summary

- This bill adds gabapentin to the controlled substance reporting system, otherwise known as the prescription monitoring program (PMP).
- Veterinarians are currently required to report schedule II to V controlled substances. Gabapentin is added to the veterinarian provisions, as well as the other prescriber sections.
- Includes a new exemption from the reporting requirements for when gabapentin is a component of a compounded prescription that is dispensed in dosages of 100 milligrams or less. The other rules will apply to the reporting of gabapentin, including an exemption for any dose under 48 hours provided directly to the ultimate user.
- The reporting requirements for veterinarians are effective March 01, 2025; effective March 01, 2024, for all other dispensers.

Effective Date: July 01, 2023.

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Pennsylvania SB746

Kennel Requirements –

Isolation Plan and Health Certificate for Dogs Boarded from Out-of-State

Summary

- This bill makes various changes to the dog licensing and kennel requirements, including the establishment of a statewide online dog licensing system, a single dog licensing fee, and creates a humane society, municipal holding pen, and rescue network kennel license.
- This bill also requires all kennels to have an isolation plan approved by a licensed veterinarian for dogs imported from another state or country. The isolation plan must include protocols for diagnosis, testing, treatment, prevention, and disinfection for contagious, infectious, communicable, and zoonotic diseases and must be available to dog wardens and department employees.
- It also requires the owner of a boarding kennel to require a certificate of vaccination and an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection for dogs from out-of-state, which must be kept on file for seven days following the dog's departure.

Effective Date: January 23, 2024

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South Carolina S407

Adds a General Exemption to Opioid Antagonist Requirement

Summary

- This bill includes a general exemption to the law passed in 2021 that required all prescribers to offer a prescription for an opioid antagonist with each prescription for an opioid.
- The exemption states that the subsection does not apply to “any other patient who, in the prescriber’s good faith medical judgment, would not benefit from a prescription by the FDA for the complete or partial reversal of opioid-related respiratory and/or central nervous system depression.”

Effective Date: Immediately as of June 19, 2023.

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Texas SB1523

Allows Board to Dismiss Baseless Complaints

Summary

- This bill allows the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to dismiss complaints before the 180th day of the investigation if it is determined the complaint is baseless or unfounded.
- Directs the board to develop rules to determine when a complaint is baseless or unfounded. The board must also include a statement in the record that the complaint was baseless or unfounded.

Effective Date: September 01, 2023

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Texas HB2063

Informed Consent for Unattended Animals

Summary

- This bill prohibits kennels, veterinary facilities included, from leaving a dog or cat unattended unless:
 - The kennel owner or operator provides to the owner of the dog or cat written notice that:
 - The dog or cat will be left unattended at the kennel without an employee present during the hours specified in the notice; and
 - If the kennel is not equipped with a functioning fire protection sprinkler system, the facility does not have a fire protection sprinkler system; and
 - The owner of the dog or cat provides to the kennel owner or operator a signed document consenting to the above.
- This law does not apply to kennels boarding not more than three dogs or cats at any time.

Effective Date: September 01, 2023

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Texas HB4069

Emergency Care Price Transparency

Summary

- This bill directs the veterinary board to adopt rules requiring veterinarians to disclose to owners before providing emergency treatment the description of such treatment and the estimated price.
- The bill was amended to require that the rules allow veterinarians reasonable opportunity to assess the animal and develop options for treatment and propose additional treatment options and price estimates.

Effective Date: Effective September 01, 2023, but the board is required to promulgate rules by December 01, 2023.

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Utah HB184

Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program

Summary

- The bill creates the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program.
- Qualified veterinarians mean those practicing for five or more consecutive years beginning on or after May 03, 2023, in (i) a high-needs geographic area, (ii) a shelter operated by a county, municipality, or nonprofit organization, (iii) or as an employee of the department. High needs geographic area includes an area designated as a veterinary shortage during at least one of the five years or that is in “Indian country”.
- The maximum payment is \$100,000 per recipient.
- The program will make payments on a first-come, first-served basis towards loan balances starting July 01, 2028. Veterinarians must register with the program at least five years before applying for payments.
- Appropriates \$2,500,000 to fund the program and directs the board to promulgate any necessary rules.

Effective Date: May 03, 2023.

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Vermont H305

Increases Initial and Renewal Fees

Summary

- The bill increases the licensing fees for veterinarians for initial licensure from \$100 to \$145 and for biennial renewal from \$175 to \$200.

Effective Date: June 20, 2023

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Washington HB1452

Creates an Emergency Medical Reserves Corps

Summary

- The bill creates an emergency medical reserve corps to serve at the direction of the Secretary of Health during emergencies.
- A person must apply to the Department of Health in order to serve. All health practitioners can serve, including veterinarians.
- The department is directed to promulgate rules to implement this law, including any additional qualifications.

Effective Date: May 01, 2023.

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Wyoming HB76

Reduces Years of Experience for Exam Exemption

Summary

- The bill shortens the number of years of experience required for the board to consider an exemption from the written examination from 5 years to 3 years.
 - “The board may, but is not required to, issue a license without a written examination to a qualified applicant who: (i) has for the three (3) years prior to filing his application been a practicing veterinarian license in a state....”

Effective Date: July 01, 2023.

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Wyoming HB180

Communication Protocol for Brucellosis

Summary

- The bill directs the livestock board to establish a standard communication protocol to inform livestock producers, veterinarians, and brand inspectors in the designated surveillance area within the county where a non-negative brucellosis test has been confirmed for any animal.
- Also directs the state veterinarian to provide testing information to the owner of an animal that has tested non-negative for brucellosis not later than 3 days after receipt of the preliminary laboratory results.

Effective Date: July 01, 2023.

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