

## CHAPTER 2024-258

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 303

An act relating to rabies vaccinations; amending s. 828.30, F.S.; authorizing certain persons to administer rabies vaccinations to certain animals under indirect supervision of a veterinarian; defining the term “indirect supervision”; conforming provisions; amending ss. 474.203, 767.16, and 828.29, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed veterinarian shall provide the animal’s owner and the animal control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate. Each animal control authority and veterinarian shall use the “Rabies Vaccination Certificate” of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) or an equivalent form approved by the local government that contains all the information required by the

NASPHV Rabies Vaccination Certificate. The veterinarian who administers the rabies vaccination or who supervises the administration of the rabies vaccination as provided in paragraph (1)(b) ~~vaccine~~ to an animal as authorized required under this section may affix his or her signature stamp in lieu of an actual signature.

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

474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

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

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

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

767.16 Police canine or service dog; exemption.—

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

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

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

(1)

(b) For each dog offered for sale within the state, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by this section must be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian, licensed by the state and accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, who issues the official certificate of veterinary inspection. The tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics must be administered before the dog is offered for sale in the state, unless the

licensed, accredited veterinarian certifies on the official certificate of veterinary inspection that to inoculate or deworm the dog is not in the best medical interest of the dog, in which case the vaccine or anthelmintic may not be administered to that particular dog. Each dog must receive vaccines and anthelmintics against the following diseases and internal parasites:

1. Canine distemper.
2. Leptospirosis.
3. Bordetella (by intranasal inoculation or by an alternative method of administration if deemed necessary by the attending veterinarian and noted on the health certificate, which must be administered in this state once before sale).
4. Parainfluenza.
5. Hepatitis.
6. Canine parvo.
7. Rabies, provided the dog is over 3 months of age and the inoculation is administered as provided in s. 828.30 by a licensed veterinarian.
8. Roundworms.
9. Hookworms.

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

(2)

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor June 21, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 21, 2024.