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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - VETERINARY PRACTICE

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

Date Introduced: February 11, 2015

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (8) A person who conducts routine vaccinations, ~~pullorum or testing and typhoid testing~~
20 ~~of poultry and other poultry~~ of poultry or livestock for the purposes of disease control activity
21 under the supervision of an official state or federal agency or department of agriculture.

22 (9) A person who is the owner of an animal and/or the owner's regular employee and who
23 cares and treats the owner's animal in a manner that is not detrimental to the welfare of the
24 animal, except where the ownership of the animal was transferred for purposes of circumventing
25 this chapter.

26 (10) A person who advises with respect to or performs acts which are livestock
27 management and animal husbandry practices that have been accepted and performed as required
28 by the livestock welfare and care standards advisory council, pursuant to chapter 26 of title 4.
29 Prescription drugs shall not be used except by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian, as
30 provided by state and federal law.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would allow non-veterinarians to perform certain husbandry procedures that are
- 2 commonly performed by owners of animal pets and livestock.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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