
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 471-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
3 and to read as follows:

4 "Pet animal" has the same meaning as defined in
5 section 711-1100."

6 SECTION 2. Section 471-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "**§471-2 License required.** No person shall engage in the
9 practice of veterinary medicine, either gratuitously or for pay,
10 or shall offer to so practice, or shall announce or advertise,
11 publicly or privately, as prepared or qualified to so practice,
12 or shall append the letters "Dr." or affix any other letters to
13 the person's name with the intent thereby to imply that the
14 person is a practitioner of veterinary medicine, without having
15 a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Hawaii board of
16 veterinary medicine; provided that nothing in this chapter
17 prevents or prohibits the following:



- 1 (1) Any person from gratuitously treating animals in case
2 of emergency;
- 3 (2) The owner of any animal or animals and the owner's
4 full-time, regular employees from caring for and
5 treating any animals belonging to the owner; provided
6 that the owner and the owner's employees shall not
7 perform any surgical procedure on the animal or
8 animals, including:
- 9 (A) A cesarean section;
10 (B) Ear cropping;
11 (C) Tail docking;
12 (D) Ventriculocordectomy, also known as
13 devocalization or debarking;
14 (E) Onchectomy, or dewclaw removal; or
15 (F) The elastration, or castration via banding, of a
16 pet animal;
- 17 (3) Any student enrolled in any veterinary school or
18 college or any employee of a veterinarian from working
19 under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;



- 1 (4) Any person from practicing veterinary medicine in the
2 employ of the United States government while engaged
3 in the performance of the person's official duties;
- 4 (5) Any person licensed to engage in the practice of
5 veterinary medicine in any jurisdiction, from
6 practicing in the State when in consultation with
7 veterinarians of this State; provided that the
8 veterinarian receiving consultation shall maintain the
9 veterinarian-client-patient relationship;
- 10 (6) Any farmer from giving to another farmer the
11 assistance customarily given in the ordinary practice
12 of animal husbandry;
- 13 (7) Any applicant who meets the licensing requirements of
14 practicing veterinary medicine under a veterinarian by
15 temporary permit; provided the applicant applies for
16 and takes the examination scheduled by the board. The
17 temporary permit shall not be renewed;
- 18 (8) An individual licensed to engage in the practice of
19 veterinary medicine in another jurisdiction from
20 practicing in the State under a sponsor and indirect
21 supervision of a veterinarian as part of an emergency



1 response or enforcement action pursuant to chapter
2 711; provided that the sponsor shall file notification
3 with the board regarding the arrival of the sponsored
4 individual; provided further that the sponsored
5 individual shall serve in an emergency capacity for no
6 longer than twenty-one consecutive days; or

7 (9) Any person who has obtained a courtesy permit or
8 relief permit pursuant to sections 471-9.5 and 471-9.6
9 from practicing in the State."

10 SECTION 3. Section 471-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "[+]§471-15[+] **Criminal penalties.** [Any] (a) Except as
13 provided in subsection (b), any person convicted of violating
14 section 471-2 shall have committed a misdemeanor and be subject
15 to a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisoned not more than six
16 months, or both.

17 (b) Any person convicted of violating subsection 471-2(2)
18 shall have committed a class C felony and be subject to a fine
19 not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or
20 both.



1 ~~[Additionally,~~ (c) In addition to the penalties provided
2 in subsections (a) and (b), all tools, implements, appliances,
3 medicine, and drugs used in the practice of veterinary medicine
4 by any person convicted of practicing veterinary medicine
5 without a license shall be declared forfeited to the State by
6 the court and turned over to the board for any disposition [~~as~~]
7 it may choose [~~to make~~]."

8 SECTION 4. Section 711-1108.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsection (2) to read as follows:

10 "(2) Subsection (1)(a) shall not apply to:

11 (a) Accepted veterinary practices[+] when the practices
12 are performed by a veterinarian licensed under
13 chapter 471;

14 (b) Activities carried on for scientific research governed
15 by standards of accepted educational or medicinal
16 practices; [~~or~~] and

17 (c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced[+] when
18 the procedure is performed by a veterinarian licensed
19 under chapter 471."



1 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
3 begun before its effective date.

4 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 08 2024



H.B. NO. 1527

Report Title:

Animals; Pet Animals; Surgery; Prohibited

Description:

Prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's animal or animals. Prohibits the elastration, or castration via banding, of a pet animal. Provides that a violation of the prohibitions is a class C felony. Clarifies that the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree does not apply to accepted veterinary practices and cropping or docking as customarily practiced when the procedures are performed by a licensed veterinarian.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

