

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to promote consumer
2 choice, affordability, and transparency by ensuring that pet
3 owners in the State have the right to obtain and fill
4 prescriptions for their animals at a pharmacy of their choice.
5 This Act is intended to remove barriers to competitive pricing,
6 ensure fair access to veterinary medications, and enhance trust
7 between veterinarians and their clients. This Act also seeks to
8 protect consumer rights while maintaining safety and efficacy in
9 the dispensing of pet medications. Additionally, this Act
10 supports the integrity of veterinary practice by preserving the
11 focus on medical care over retail functions and ensuring that
12 veterinarians continue to play a central role in animal health
13 management. Lastly, this Act furthers the State's commitment to
14 consumer rights, affordability, and fair market competition by
15 aligning with existing consumer protection laws and economic
16 policies, such as the statutes against unfair or deceptive acts
17 and practices, which promote transparency and fairness in



1 consumer transactions and ensure pet owners, particularly those
2 in rural or underserved areas, can access medications at
3 reasonable costs while preserving high standards of veterinary
4 care.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
7 and to read as follows:

8 "§471- Requirements for written prescriptions. (a) A
9 veterinarian shall, upon the request of a client, provide a
10 written prescription for any medication prescribed for the
11 client's animal patient without requiring the medication to be
12 dispensed directly by the veterinarian.

13 (b) A veterinarian shall inform a client of the client's
14 right to request a written prescription from the veterinarian
15 and the option to have it filled at a pharmacy of the client's
16 choice.

17 (c) No veterinarian shall issue a written prescription
18 without the prior establishment of a veterinarian-client-patient
19 relationship, which shall require that a veterinarian has
20 conducted a timely examination of the animal or has made
21 medically appropriate visits to the premises where the animal is



1 kept. A veterinarian with an existing
2 veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall also have
3 sufficient knowledge of the animal's health to make an informed
4 medical judgment and ensure the availability of follow-up care
5 as needed.

6 (d) A written prescription shall contain all of the
7 following information:

8 (1) The name and address of the prescribing veterinarian;

9 (2) The name and species of the animal patient;

10 (3) The name, strength, and quantity of the prescribed
11 medication;

12 (4) Directions for use with any cautionary statements, as
13 needed;

14 (5) The date of issuance; and

15 (6) The veterinarian's signature or equivalent.

16 (e) No additional fee shall be charged by a veterinarian
17 for providing a written prescription.

18 (f) Any pharmacy duly licensed in the State may dispense
19 the medication prescribed by a licensed veterinarian pursuant to
20 this section; provided that all state and federal certification



1 requirements for handling and dispensing veterinary
2 pharmaceuticals are met.

3 (g) Any veterinarian who violates or fails to comply with
4 this section shall be deemed to have engaged in professional
5 misconduct and may be subject to disciplinary action by the
6 board pursuant to section 471-10, which may include fines, or
7 the suspension or revocation of a license, or both.

8 (h) For the purposes of this section, "prescription" means
9 a written order for medication issued by a veterinarian licensed
10 in the State for the treatment of an animal."

11 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 874

Report Title:

Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine; Veterinary Medicine;
Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship; Pet Medication;
Consumer Prescription Choice

Description:

Requires veterinarians to provide a written prescription, upon the request of a client, for any animal patient of a client with whom the veterinarian has established an existing veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Allows pharmacies licensed in the State to dispense medications prescribed by veterinarians. Authorizes the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish penalties, which may include fines or suspension or revocation of a license.

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

