

State Legislative Update
Prepared by Department of State Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
AVMA Communications Division
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State	Citation and Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
California	AB 1437 , SB 835	Would redefine “restricted drug” to include a livestock drug that is recognized by certain agencies to increase the prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Would restrict registration and administration of medically important antimicrobials to food-producing animals for non-routine disease control unless certain conditions are met. Would impose reporting requirements on livestock producers who administer such antimicrobials to food-producing animals. Would require that a veterinarian-client-patient relationship exist prior to use of such drugs. Would incorporate FDA guidance.	SB 835 passed Senate on 5/1/14 , passed Assembly Appropriations Comm. as amended on 7/2/14.
California	AB 2056	Would add pet insurance as a type of miscellaneous insurance and require an insurer of pet insurance to disclose, among other things, whether the policy excludes coverage because of a preexisting condition, a hereditary disorder, or a congenital anomaly or disorder.	Passed Assembly on 5/15/14 , passed Senate Comm. on Appropriations on 6/23/14.
California	AB 1520	As amended, the bill would authorize a court to appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the interest of an animal for which a trust has been established if the court determines that representation of the interest otherwise would be inadequate.	Passed Assembly on 5/1/14 , amended by Senate Judiciary Committee on 5/23/14.
California	AB 1810	Allows a veterinarian, dog kennel, cat kennel, pet-grooming parlor, animal hospital, or other animal care facility which has been left with an abandoned animal to have the animal euthanized after trying for a period of not less than 10 days to find a new owner or turn the animal over to animal control, a shelter or a rescue. An abandoned animal may not be used for scientific or any other type of experimentation.	Signed into law on 7/7/14.
California	Veterinary Medical Board,	Amended regulations provide that examination for veterinary technicians shall consist of a national examination and an	Final on 7/10/14, effective on 10/1/14.

	16 CCR § 2010.2 - 2071	examination specific to animal health care tasks limited to California registered veterinary technicians. Updates the examination requirements, eligibility evaluation, examination credit, conditional credit, and equivalency provisions for veterinary technicians to comply with statutory requirements.	
Colorado	HB 1283	Makes changes to the state's prescription monitoring program. Requires every practitioner in the state who holds a current federal DEA registration to register and maintain a user account by 1/1/15 or earlier as determined by the program director.	Signed into law on 5/21/14.
Colorado	HB 1313	Prohibits a county from issuing a permit or license for a cat or ferret unless the owner of the cat or ferret provides a valid rabies vaccination certificate.	Signed into law on 6/6/14, effective 90 days after adjournment of legislature.
Colorado	HB 1270	Extends the Pet Animal Facilities Act to 9/1/2019 and makes changes to various provisions concerning dog breeder regulation.	Signed into law on 6/6/14, effective 7/1/14.
Colorado	Board of Veterinary Medicine, 4 CCR 727-1	Provides that indirect supervision by a veterinarian shall not be construed to allow the establishment of a veterinary-client patient relationship (VCPR) solely by telephonic or other electronic means. The practice of teeth floating using non-powered hand tools may occur under the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Teeth floating using motorized high speed tools may be done under direct supervision of a veterinarian as long as sedation is provided by the licensed veterinarian as part of the procedure.	Final on 7/25/14, effective on 8/14/14.
Connecticut	HB 5262	Regulates pharmacy practice and counterfeit drugs and devices, with a special emphasis on non-resident pharmacies. Requires such pharmacies to disclose whether they are dispensing sterile compounded products in the state and if they are not patient specific, to submit a copy of the manufacturing license or registration issued by the regulatory or licensing agency of the state in which it is licensed and a copy of any registration issued by the FDA.	Signed into law on 6/13/14, effective on 7/1/14.
Connecticut	SB 445	Requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to prescribe the standard of care to be provided to dogs or cats by any person who keeps ten or more unneutered or unsprayed dogs capable of breeding or owns or operates a breeding cattery, including	Signed into law on 6/3/14, effective on 10/1/14.

		<p>inspections. Provides that a person who purchases a dog or cat that is found to have a congenital defect is entitled to reimbursement for the value of the actual services and medications provided to such dog or cat if reimbursement does not exceed the full purchase price of the animal for any dog or cat and up to \$500. Licensees must post inspection reports from the USDA. Pet shop licensees may not purchase a dog or cat for resale or sell or offer for sale any dog or cat purchased from a breeder that is not in possession of a current license issued by the USDA and found to have committed certain violations of pet dealer-related regulations.</p>	
Connecticut	HB 5037	<p>Clarifies the process by which an animal control officer must report instances of animal abuse and neglect. Any employee of the Department of Children and Families who, in the course of his or her employment, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is being or has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly shall make a written report to the Commissioner of Agriculture. The bill also requires the Commissioners of Children and Families and Agriculture to annually report to the joint standing committee the number of written reports regarding actual or suspected instances of animal neglect or cruelty received from employees of the Department of Children and Families and from animal control officers.</p>	Signed into law on 6/3/14, effective on 10/1/14.
Connecticut	HB 5044	<p>Provides that in any civil action brought against the owner or keeper of a horse, pony, donkey or mule to recover damages for personal injury allegedly caused by such animal, there is a presumption that the animal did not have a propensity to engage in behavior that would foreseeably cause injury to humans. The presumption may be rebutted by evidence that such an animal previously exhibited behavior that put the owner or keeper on notice that the animal had a propensity to engage in the behavior that allegedly caused the personal injury. Provides that there is no cause of action for strict liability in such cases.</p>	Signed into law on 5/28/14, effective immediately.
Delaware	SB 201	<p>Prohibits animal shelters from using carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide methods of euthanasia. Allows licensed veterinary technicians to perform euthanasia in shelters. Provides the Dept.</p>	Signed into law on 7/31/14.

		of Health and Social Services with authority to regulate the care of companion animals in shelters, including a requirement of annual inspections of shelters.	
Delaware	Div. of Prof. Regulation, 24 DE Admin. Code 3300	As of 10/1/13, all applicants for licensure as a veterinary technician must show a degree from a veterinary technician program accredited by the AVMA or from a foreign veterinary program approved by the AVMA.	Final on 5/1/14.
Florida	Board of Vet. Medicine, 61G18-15.0025	Revise minimum standards for a mobile veterinary practice for agricultural animals, including use of AVMA-approved chemical method of euthanasia.	Final on 6/3/14, effective on 6/16/14.
Florida	Board of Vet. Medicine, 61G18-30.003	The regulations make it a violation to sign and distribute to others invalid or incomplete official certificates of veterinary inspection for the intrastate sale of dogs and cats.	Final on 6/3/14, effective on 6/16/14.
Florida	HB 5601	Exempts from sales tax the sale of therapeutic veterinary diets specifically formulated to aid in the management of illness and disease of a diagnosed health disorder in an animal and which are only available from a licensed veterinarian.	Signed into law on 5/12/14.
Hawaii	HB 849	Updates the emergency management plan for the state, including guidelines for providing suitable arrangements and accommodations for sheltering of pets in public shelters.	Signed into law on 6/23/14, effective on 7/1/14.
Illinois	HB 3767	Would prohibit the use of carbon monoxide as a euthanasia agent for companion animals. Would provide that euthanasia of a companion animal shall only be performed using established injectable euthanasia agents.	Introduced on 12/5/13.
Illinois	HB 2699	Would make it a crime for any person to dock the tail of cattle, except if performed by a veterinarian for therapeutic purposes, using suitable instruments and anesthesia.	Introduced on 2/21/13.
Illinois	HB 2354 , SB 2236	Would clarify that individuals and entities may form a veterinary practice for specified purposes, subject to certain restrictions. Death of the owner is addressed.	Introduced on 2/15 and 2/19/13.
Illinois	HB 4056	As amended, would allow pet shops to purchase animals from USDA-licensed breeders that have not been found in direct violation of certain provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, in addition to animal shelters and animal control facilities. Would eliminate consumer protections for pet purchasers.	Amended in Senate on 5/1 and 5/19/14.

Illinois	SB 648	Would prohibit representatives of animal shelters from entering on private property and removing an animal without a search warrant or court order. Would require that an animal shelter that accepts animals from animal shelters or animal control facilities from out of state have a certificate of veterinary inspection from the state where the animal originates.	Passed Senate, tabled in House on 5/21/14.
Iowa	Board of Veterinary Medicine, 811-1 , 811-12	Amends the definition and rules for a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship and provides that such a relationship cannot be established by contact solely based on a telephonic or electronic communication. Expands current veterinary requirements for prescription, storage and dispensing of drugs and controlled substances. Provides requirements for use of diagnostic imaging, administration of anesthesia, disposal of waste materials, use of sterile surgical equipment and veterinary facility standards. New record-keeping requirements state that a veterinarian must maintain for at least five years an easily retrievable record for each patient.	Final on 5/28/14, effective on 7/2/14.
Louisiana	Department of Health and Hospitals, LAC 46:LIII Ch. 29	Pursuant to a statute enacted in 2013, the rules exclude veterinarians from any participation in the prescription monitoring program and exempt them from any reporting or other requirements of the program.	Final on 6/20/14.
Louisiana	SB 250	Exempts owners who obtained animals by lawful means prior to 8/1/06 from the requirements of the big exotic cat rules.	Signed into law on 6/18/14, effective on 8/1/14 retroactively.
Louisiana	SB 523	Provides that possession, manufacturing, buying, selling, or trading of certain paraphernalia related to cockfighting constitutes a crime punishable by a fine or imprisonment.	Signed into law on 5/30/14, effective on 8/1/14.
Louisiana	HB 1091	Would have prohibited the transportation of dogs in pickup truck beds on certain roadways unless humanely secured. The veto message states that the bill's requirements are too broad and animal cruelty is already covered under current law.	Vetoed on 6/13/14.
Maryland	Department of Agriculture, COMAR 15.14.01, .03	Require that for a non-emergency presentation, a veterinarian shall inform the client, in a manner that is understandable by a reasonable person, of the diagnostic and treatment plan as well as a written estimate of the charges for the services. The veterinarian must obtain the client's signature before performing	Final on 1/24/14, effective 2/3/14.

		surgery or hospitalization on a companion animal. In addition, consent for euthanasia shall be documented in the medical record by the veterinarian.	
Massachusetts	SB 767 , HB 1826	SB 767 would permit a party to bring action for the protection and humane treatment of animals. Such action may be commenced against any individual, “guardian” or any entity that has possession of an animal. HB 1826 relates to tethering animals outside, but includes amendments to change the term “owner” to “guardian”.	Introduced on 1/17/13.
Massachusetts	SB 1914 , HB 4244 , HB 4388 , SB 2345	Would require veterinarians to report reasonable suspicion of animal cruelty and provide good faith immunity. Would create a task force to complete a systematic review of the laws pertaining to animal cruelty and protection.	Introduced on 11/6/13 and 7/7/14, SB 2345 engrossed on 7/31/14.
Michigan	HB 5095	Would modify laws regulating pet shelters, pet shops, and breeders. Would clarify euthanasia standards and provide that pet shops, animal holding facilities, and large scale commercial dog breeding kennels shall not adopt, exchange, or transfer, or offer for sale, adoption, exchange, or transfer a dog or cat that is less than eight weeks old. Would set forth new rules for importing dogs including vaccination requirements and certificates of veterinary inspection and provide that a person may not operate a large-scale commercial dog breeding kennel that houses or keeps more than 50 intact female dogs over the age of four months in any one physical location.	Filed on 10/24/13.
Michigan	SB 348	Would provide remedies for people who purchase a cat or dog from a breeder, pet shop or pet dealer that is unfit for sale at the time of purchase, and provide disclosure requirements.	Introduced on 5/2/13.
Michigan	SB 560	Would amend the law regulating pet shops, animal control shelters, and animal protection shelters to define “euthanasia” to mean the production of the humane death of an animal through instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death consistent with the current guidelines of the AVMA or an equivalent protocol. Would define holding periods for animal holding facilities and define large scale commercial dog breeding kennel to mean a facility where more than 15 female intact dogs over the age of 4 months are house or kept for the purpose of	Introduced on 10/1/13.

		breeding. Would regulate the sale of dogs, cats and ferrets by breeders and holding periods for animal holding facilities.	
Minnesota	HF 3172	Provides that a higher education research facility that receives public money or a facility that provides research in collaboration with a higher education facility that confines dogs or cats for science, education, or research purposes and plans on euthanizing a dog or cat for other than science, education, or research purposes must first offer the dog or cat to an animal rescue organization. A facility that does so is immune from any civil liability if acting in good faith. This section expires on July 1, 2015.	Signed into law on 5/20/14.
Minnesota	HF 3172	Provides for licensing and inspection of commercial breeders who possess ten or more adult intact animals and whose animals produce more than five total litters of puppies or kittens per year. Provides record keeping requirements, protocols for disease and control prevention, euthanasia and veterinary care. Veterinary clinics and hospitals are exempt.	Signed into law on 5/20/14.
Minnesota	HF 2402	Omnibus health care bill defines anticipatory compounding as a pharmacy's or practitioner's preparation of a supply of a compounded drug product sufficient to meet the pharmacy's short-term need for filling prescriptions or a practitioner's need for dispensing or administering the drug to patients treated by the practitioner. Compounding does not include when, under the directions or supervision of a licensed nuclear pharmacist, minor adjustments are made to a medication in order to accommodate circumstances not contemplated by the manufacturer. Also makes changes to the state's prescription drug monitoring program, but continues to exempt veterinarians from the definition of "dispenser" and its related reporting requirements.	Signed into law on 5/21/14.
Montana	Dept. of Labor and Industry, Board of Veterinary Medicine, 24.225.410 - 550	Provides that veterinary medical records and images are the property of the practice and the practice owner. Information in veterinary medical records is privileged and confidential, and may not be released except under specific circumstances. Allows a veterinarian to retain an animal or refuse to release records for failure to pay veterinary bills. A veterinarian must give notice when closing his or her practice. If a veterinarian, based upon	Final on 5/22/14.

		his or her medical opinion, is willing to dispense medication, then the veterinarian must also provide a prescription in place of said medication should the owner request a prescription. If a veterinarian, based upon his or her medical opinion, is not willing to dispense medication, then the licensee should deny a request for a prescription. The regulations amend inspection requirements for veterinary premises. Makes it unethical for veterinarians to make public any information about, or photos of, an owner or patient, without consent of the owner, to make public false or misleading negative information about another veterinarian's professional standing or reputation, or identify oneself as a member of an AVMA-recognized specialty organization if such certification has not been awarded and maintained, or using terms implying a specialty in a false and misleading manner.	
New Hampshire	HB 1410	Adds household and domesticated animals in the protections afforded under the domestic violence protection statute.	Signed into law on 7/22/14, effective immediately.
New Hampshire	HB 1636	Makes a dog or cat owner with an income at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines eligible to participate in a reduced fee companion animal population control program if he or she signs a consent form certifying that the person is the owner or is authorized by the owner to present the dog or cat for the procedure and such person pays a fee of \$25.	Signed into law on 7/11/14, effective immediately.
New Jersey	A 2214 , S 1748	Would require veterinarians who prescribe, sell, dispense or distribute any prescription item to notify the animal's owner or the person responsible for the animal, orally and in writing, that the item may be obtained from sources other than the veterinarian, and to provide that person a written prescription, whether or not requested, without imposing any additional fee for writing the prescription.	Introduced on 1/27/14 and 3/17/14.
New Jersey	A 2593	Would provide for regulation and licensing of internet pharmacies which dispense or deliver prescription drugs to patients living in New Jersey.	Introduced on 2/20/14.
New Jersey	S 510 , S 515 , A 1222 , A 3306	Would establish various requirements on pet breeders and dealers. Would enhance consumer information about dogs and cats offered for sale at retail.	Introduced on 1/14, 1/16 and 6/5/14.

New Jersey	S 874 , A 1648	Would define animal physical therapy as evaluation and treatment of non-human clients by a licensed physical therapist in collaboration with the client's veterinarian.	Introduced on 1/14 and 1/16/14.
New Jersey	A 1186 , S 903	Would require veterinarians to provide written notification to animal owners if boarded animals are not subject to 24-hour supervision.	Introduced on 1/16/14.
New York	SB 2742 , AB 8867	Would include treatment of dental conditions in the definition of veterinary medicine. Would exempt persons who manually float teeth of horses from licensing requirements.	Introduced on 1/23/13 and 2/25/14, amended on third reading on 5/28/14.
New York	SB 233 , AB 769	Would make it a misdemeanor to engage in nontherapeutic use of antimicrobial agents in cattle, poultry, sheep, swine or any animal raised for the purpose of providing food for human consumption, including animals that provide nonmeat food products such as eggs and milk.	Introduced on 1/9/13.
New York	SB 342 , AB 3611	Would require the microchipping of all dogs and create a state registry to maintain this identification and contact information.	Introduced on 1/9/13 and 1/28/13.
New York	SB 456	Would make it unlawful to force feed birds, by hand or machine, for the purpose of fatty enlargement of such bird's liver.	Introduced on 1/9/13.
New York	AB 3428	Would prohibit the docking of dog tails for reasons other than to protect the life or health of the dog as deemed necessary by a veterinarian. The law would not apply to dogs that have been certified as tail docked prior to 8/1/13.	Introduced on 1/25/13.
New York	AB 3414	Would establish a tort cause of action for the wrongful injury or death of a companion animal and allow for compensatory, non-economic and punitive damages.	Introduced on 1/25/13.
New York	AB 8185 , SB 7684	Expand certain animal cruelty definitions to crimes against companion animals rather than just dogs. Increase penalties under this section.	Signed into law on 7/23/14, effective immediately.
New York	AB 1204 , SB 2271	Would restrict devocalization of a dog or cat only to veterinarians if the procedure is medically necessary to treat or relieve a physical illness, disease or injury or correct a congenital abnormality suffered by the animal.	Introduced on 1/9/13.
Nevada	Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical	Makes extensive changes to veterinary practice regulations. With limited exceptions, only a person who is a diplomate from an approved specialty board of the AVMA and licensed to practice veterinary medicine may use the title "veterinary	Final on 6/23/14, most sections become effective immediately.

	Examiners, LCB File No. R063-13, NAC 638	specialist.” Clarifies consulting between veterinarians. Specifies duties of a supervising veterinarian in a veterinary facility where animals are boarded. With limited exceptions, veterinary dentistry may only be performed by a licensed veterinarian under general anesthesia with the use of an endotracheal tube with an inflated cuff unless, based on the species of the animal, the Board determines otherwise. However, a person may use cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes or similar items to clean an animal’s teeth. Revises requirements concerning continuing education. Adopts a code of ethics for veterinary technicians. Defines “informed consent” for purposes of the veterinary-client-patient relationship. Expands the required contents of the medical record that a licensed veterinarian is required to maintain and requires the Board or its representative to evaluate each medical record inspected for compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Adds administration of a therapeutic laser to the tasks that a licensed veterinary technician is authorized to perform under the immediate, direct or indirect supervision of a supervising veterinarian. Revises requirements for medical records kept by physical therapists or chiropractors who work on animals.	
North Carolina	H 379	Makes revisions in the Veterinary Medical Board licensure fees and reinstatement provisions.	Signed into law on 7/7/14, effective 10/1/14.
Ohio	State Veterinary Licensing Board, 4741-1-01 to 4741-3-05	Makes many changes, including requiring effective means of anesthesia monitoring if surgery is performed, adding companion animals to description of mobile veterinary practice, listing requirements for companion animal home visits and vaccine clinics, adopting standards for livestock ambulatory units, and adding anesthesia monitoring to items required in medical records. Outlines requirements for home visits by veterinarians for companion animals. Deletes exclusion from limited licensure for researchers and other individuals considered disassociated from diagnosis and treatment of animals. Adds “meeting the public health needs” to definition of a geographic area or region of Ohio considered a veterinary resource shortage area. Amends criteria to be considered for	Final on 5/19/14, effective on 7/15/14.

		selection of applicants in the loan forgiveness program.	
Ohio	Department of Health, 3701-3-28, 29 and 30	Addresses quarantine, confinement and reporting responsibilities, including for veterinarians, when an individual is bitten by a dog or other mammal.	Final on 6/2/14, effective on 7/1/14.
Pennsylvania	SB 531 , HB 1195	Would prohibit the administration of certain antimicrobial agents in agriculture.	Introduced on 2/21/13 and 4/15/13.
Pennsylvania	SB 423 , SB 611 , SB 1180	Would establish a pharmaceutical accountability monitoring system that includes reporting by dispensing veterinarians. SB 1180 would exclude veterinarians from the definitions of dispenser and prescriber.	Introduced on 1/24/13, 3/6/13 and 11/18/13.
Pennsylvania	SB 628	Would provide for liability for intentional or negligent killing of a pet by another, including non-economic damages, with limits for loss of reasonable expected society, companionship, love, and affection of the pet in negligence cases.	Introduced on 3/6/13.
Rhode Island	S 2523	Permits an authorized designee of a practitioner and/or pharmacist who is qualified, to access information contained in any prescription drug monitoring database maintained by the department of health. Requires practitioners, including veterinarians, to register with the database upon initial registration or renewal of their authority to prescribe controlled substances.	Signed into law on 5/27/14, effective immediately.
Rhode Island	H 7496 , S 2312	Makes it a crime to confine any animal in a motor vehicle in a manner that places the animal in a life or extreme health threatening situation. Allows a law enforcement or animal control officer to take all steps reasonably necessary to remove an animal from a motor vehicle if the animal's health, safety, or wellbeing appears to be in immediate danger from heat, cold, or lack of adequate ventilation and the conditions could reasonably be expected to cause extreme suffering or death.	Signed into law on 7/1/14, effective immediately.
Rhode Island	H 7500 , S 2311	Provides that persons who are convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendere of abandonment, neglect, or cruel treatment of an animal taken charge of by the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals forfeits the rights to ownership or control of that animal to the society, and are financially responsible for the cost of care for the animal. Allows the Dept. of Environmental Management or one of its veterinarian	Signed into law on 7/1/14, effective immediately.

		employees to take charge of neglected or abandoned animals.	
Tennessee	SB 2547, HB 2400	Amends the controlled substance monitoring program to provide that a veterinarian must submit information at least once every seven days and is not required to use a computerized system in order to submit the required information.	Signed into law on 5/22/14, effective in part on 7/1/14 and in part on 7/1/16.
Tennessee	SB 1663	Allows veterinarians to dispense opioid or benzodiazepine in the course of their practice.	Signed into law on 5/22/14, effective on 1/1/15.
Texas	Board of Vet. Med. Examiners, 22 TAC 573.19 , 573.10 , 573.11 , 573.65	Several amendments to the Board's rules including continuing education requirements for Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVTs); changes to guidelines for determining the level of supervision and duties of non-veterinarians, allowing a LVT under the direct or immediate supervision of a veterinarian to extract loose teeth or dental fragments with minimal periodontal attachments by hand and without the use of an elevator in dogs and cats; and LVTs supervising unlicensed employees.	Final on 4/25/14, effective 5/4/14
Vermont	HB 225	Provides that electronic control devices may not be used by law enforcement officers on animals unless necessary to deter vicious or aggressive behavior that threatens the safety of officers or others.	Signed into law on 5/10/14, effective immediately.
Vermont	HB 347	Includes in the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine performing a dental operation on an animal as defined, but excluding use of cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes, or similar items to clean an animal's teeth. Power-assisted filing or power-assisted floating, or other procedures that invade the soft tissue of the mouth are considered the practice of veterinary medicine.	Signed into law on 5/2/14, effective on 7/1/14.
Vermont	HB 112	Food offered for retail sale that is entirely or partially produced with genetic engineering must be labeled as such by July 2016.	Signed into law on 5/8/14, mostly effective on 7/1/16.

The information in this chart was compiled from a variety of sources. The AVMA cannot guarantee its complete accuracy. State laws and regulations vary widely, and you are advised to carefully review applicable language.