

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
Alabama	HB 93	Would require an animal shelter owner, operator, manager, or director to compile and make available to the public a monthly report detailing the number of animals that have entered the facility or organization and the disposition of the animals.	Introduced on 1/14/14.
Alabama	HB 141	Would prohibit anyone who is not a licensed veterinarian from directly supervising veterinary medical services or making certain decisions relating to medical or surgical treatment of animals. Would include a spay-neuter clinic under the definition of a veterinary facility, and would limit the scope of services offered at such a clinic.	Introduced on 1/14/14, approved by Committee on Boards, Agencies and Commissions with one amendment on 2/6/14.
Arizona	HB 2242	Would generally define a person that sells 20 or more dogs in a calendar year as a commercial breeder, subject to veterinary inspection requirements.	Introduced on 1/18/14.
Arizona	SB 1297	Would provide that a health care professional authorized to prescribe medications shall check the database developed under the prescription monitoring program before prescribing a controlled substance.	Introduced on 1/30/14.
California	SB 688	Would exempt from sales and use taxes the gross receipts from the sale of drugs and medicines used, furnished, or sold by a licensed veterinarian, a city and county, or other local government animal shelter, or non-profit animal shelter or rescue organization for the treatment of animals.	Introduced on 2/22/13, amended by Committee on LRS on 4/1/13.
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	Introduced on 1/7/14.

		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.	
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.	Introduced on 2/21/14.
Colorado	SB 39	Would allow an emergency medical service provider to provide pre-veterinary emergency care to dogs and cats to the extent the provider has received commensurate training and is authorized by the employer to provide the care.	Introduced on 1/8/14.
Colorado	SB 101	Would establish as a deceptive trade practice the use of the titles “veterinary technician”, “certified veterinary technician”, or “veterinary technician specialist” followed by a specialty designation, or the abbreviations for those titles if the person does not possess the specified education, has not passed the designated examination, or has not been certified in the designated specialty.	Introduced on 1/24/14.
Connecticut	HB 5422	Would increase awareness to heartworm prevention in dogs by requiring the dog licensing form to contain a check-off box to indicate whether the dog received heartworm medication.	Introduced on 2/27/14.
Connecticut	HB 5474	Would exempt veterinarians from the electronic prescription monitoring program.	Introduced on 3/4/14.
Florida	Board of Veterinary Medicine, 61G18-15.005	The regulations provide that veterinary premises, defined as locations where a premise permit is required or where a licensee stores veterinary pharmaceutical supplies or veterinary medical equipment, whether said location is fixed or mobile, are inspected no less than every two years, while permitting more frequent inspections if necessary.	Final on 1/30/14, effective on 2/19/14.
Florida	HB 257 , SB 534	Would exempt from sales tax certain remedies for cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of illnesses or diseases in animals and sales of special diet food items intended as treatment of a diagnosed health disorder by a veterinarian.	Introduced on 11/4/13, 12/13/14.
Georgia	SB 290	Would revise provisions in the dangerous dog laws. Would add	Introduced on 1/15/14,

		nonsurgical methods or technologies to definition of sterilization of dogs or cats.	passed Senate as amended on 2/10/14.
Hawaii	HB 2106	Would require pharmacists to complete a training program approved by the Board of Pharmacy to dispense veterinary prescriptions.	Introduced on 1/17/14.
Hawaii	HB 1930 , SB 2129	Would prohibit pet owners and employees from performing surgical procedures on animals, including surgical birth tail docking, dewclaw removal, ear cropping, and debarking, with limited exception for residents of a small island.	Introduced on 1/17/14.
Idaho	S 1337	Creates the crime of interference with agriculture production, which includes obtaining employment with such facility by misrepresentation with intent to cause economic or other injury to its operations, livestock, crops, owners, personnel, equipment, buildings, premises, business interests or customers.	Signed into law on 2/28/14, effectively immediately.
Idaho	H 396	Would require prescribers, except veterinarians, to register annually for online access to the Controlled Substances Prescriptions Database.	Introduced on 1/22/14.
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.	Filed 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.
Indiana	HB 1013	Would provide that in certain circumstances related to public health and safety, an animal's veterinary medical records must be released within two business days, even without client authorization.	Introduced on 1/7/14.
Indiana	SB 295	Would apply standards of care for commercial dog breeders and brokers to private animal rescue operations.	Introduced on 1/8/14.
Iowa	SSB 3180	Would provide for the disposal of the remains of companion animals by burial or cremation and regulates persons engaged in the business of operating cemeteries or crematoriums which	Introduced on 2/14/14.

		perform those services.	
Iowa	SF 2166	Would make changes to regulations of commercial establishments keeping non-agricultural animals, including animal shelters, pounds, research facilities, boarding kennels, commercial kennels, and pet shops.	Introduced on 2/12/14.
Kentucky	HB 222	Would require the use of sodium pentobarbital or its derivatives to euthanize a dog or cat in the custody of an animal shelter, with a few exceptions allowing for use of gunshot.	Introduced on 1/16/14.
Kentucky	Department of Agriculture, 302 KAR Chapter 21	Would create general livestock care standards for poultry and livestock, including feeding, water, space, health, handling, transport, disabled animals and preparing for exhibition. Euthanasia of livestock would follow the AVMA guidelines.	Proposed on 9/1/13.
Louisiana	Department of Health and Hospitals, LAC 46: LXXXV 301-1201	Makes changes to licensure requirements for veterinarians, Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT), and Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians (CAET). A veterinarian, RVT, and CAET may legally perform pre-euthanasia chemical restraint or chemical euthanasia. However, a CAET may only perform these procedures at the facility site of his or her employment, which may include an animal shelter's mobile vehicle. There may be only one lead CAET per animal control shelter or facility.	Final, published on 2/20/14.
Maryland	HB 73 , HB 80 , SB 247 , SB 286 , HB 422 , SB 991	Would make various changes in the law governing liability for damages caused by a dog. Would retain the law that existed prior to April 2012 that liability is determined without regard to the breed or heritage of the dog.	Prefiled and introduced from 11/8/13 through 2/10/14.
Maryland	SB 660 , SB 659 , HB 667 , HB 665	Would prohibit a person from performing specified procedures such as surgically debarking or silencing a dog or cat, ear cropping a dog, tail docking a dog, cutting off the dewclaw of a dog or surgical birth of a dog. There are exemptions for veterinarians under specified circumstances.	Introduced on 1/30-31/14.
Maryland	SB 862	Would direct the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to license and regulate research facilities using dogs and cats.	Introduced on 1/31/14.
Massachusetts	HB 246	Would create a subsidiary board of veterinary technology under the Board of Registration of Veterinary Medicine to govern the practice of veterinary technicians and assistants.	Introduced on 1/16/13.
Massachusetts	HB 1268	Would allow a qualified medical assistant to administer vaccinations or immunizations and administer certain controlled	Introduced on 1/18/13.

		drugs under the direction of a veterinarian.	
Massachusetts	HB 1578	Would provide that any veterinarian who treats an animal in a veterinary hospital or clinic shall scan the animal for a microchip. If the animal is determined to have been stolen, the police shall be notified and the person in possession of the animal shall be charged with receiving stolen property.	Introduced on 1/18/13.
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	Would provide mandatory reporting for veterinarians for reasonable suspicion of animal cruelty, along with good faith immunity for reporting. Would set penalties for non-reporting at no more than \$1,000 and a report to the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine.	Introduced on 11/6/13.
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	Introduced on 10/1/13.

		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 breeding. Would regulate the sale of dogs, cats and ferrets by breeders and holding periods for animal holding facilities.	
Minnesota	HF 391	Would provide for regulation of public and private sheltering agencies.	Introduced on 2/6/13.
Minnesota	SF 1081 , HF 1208	Would make several changes to pharmacy laws, including clarifying when compounding is appropriate.	Introduced on 3/4 and 3/5/13.
Minnesota	HF 1290 , SF 1285 , SF 1638	Would prohibit nontherapeutic use of an antimicrobial agent in food-producing animals or feed.	Introduced on 3/5/13, 4/29/13.
Mississippi	HB 844	Would require veterinarians to report to the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners narcotic drugs prescribed or administered. Would require the Board to set up a tracking system.	Introduced on 1/20/14.
Mississippi	HB 1272 , SB 2177	Would remove controlled substances dispensed by a veterinarian from drugs required to be reported and monitored by the Board of Pharmacy under the Prescription Monitoring Program.	Introduced on 1/20 and 2/4/14.
Missouri	HB 1133 , SB 921	Would establish a prescription drug monitoring program. Would exempt from the definition of “dispenser” a practitioner or other authorized person who administers a controlled substance. Appears to include veterinarians who dispense such drugs to clients in its reporting requirements.	Introduced on 12/6/13 and 2/25/14.
Missouri	SB 646	Would create a commission to license and regulate animal shelters, pounds, boarding kennels, commercial kennels, pet shops, exhibition facilities, dealers, and commercial breeders.	Prefiled on 12/20/13.
Nebraska	LB 204	Would create the offense of damaging or interfering with operations of an animal facility and describes penalties such as restitution.	Introduced on 1/15/13.
Nebraska	LB 535 , LB 1072	Would adopt a prescription monitoring program to take effect in 2015. Veterinarians would be included as practitioners subject to the law.	Introduced on 1/23/13 and 1/22/14.
New Jersey	A 2214	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	Introduced on 1/27/14.

		veterinarian, and to provide that person a written prescription, whether or not requested, without imposing any additional fee for writing the prescription.	
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	Would establish various requirements on pet breeders and dealers.	Introduced on 1/14 and 1/16/14.
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 Mexico	NMAC, 16.24.1 - 16.24.6	The regulations update animal sheltering regulations, applicable to public and private facilities. The regulations cover operation of the Animal Sheltering Board, define terms, licensure and exemptions, professional ethical standards and euthanasia methods and technicians. Carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide gas may not be used for euthanasia of dogs and cats in shelters.	Final on 1/31/14, most provisions effective on 2/5/14.
New Mexico	HB 121	Would prohibit the slaughter or transport of horses for slaughter for human consumption.	Introduced on 1/17/14.
New York	AB 740 , SB 3753	Provides that that no law may limit or restrict any municipality from enacting a local regulation governing pet dealers, including the source of animals offered for sale by pet dealers, whether spaying or neutering of such animals is required before sale, and the health or safety of animals maintained by pet dealers. However, no such local measure may be less stringent than the applicable state law provisions or essentially result in the banning of all sales of dogs or cats raised and maintained in a healthy and safe manner.	Signed into law on 1/10/14, effective immediately.
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.
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	Introduced on 1/9/13.

		animal raised for the purpose of providing food for human consumption, including animals that provide nonmeat food products such as eggs and milk.	
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	SB 6218	Would require written informed consent by an animal owner before a veterinarian can euthanize a companion animal.	Introduced on 1/8/14.
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.
North Dakota	Board of Vet. Med. Examiners, 87-05-02-01	Adds to the definition of unprofessional conduct for veterinarians advertising, stating, or implying that the veterinarian is a certified or recognized specialist in any given field unless the veterinarian is a diplomate of a specialty board recognized by the AVMA.	Final, effective 1/1/14.
Ohio	SB 217	Would require the State Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to inspect 20% of places of business of licensed veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians every year.	Introduced on 10/30/13.
Ohio	State Veterinary Licensing Board, 4741-1-01 to -21, 4741-1-16, 17, 20, 4741-2-03, 4741-3-03	Would make many changes, including require effective means of anesthesia monitoring if surgery is performed, add companion animals to description of mobile veterinary practice, list requirements for companion animal vaccination clinics, and add anesthesia monitoring to items required in medical records. Would outline requirements for home visits by veterinarians for companion animals, and livestock ambulatory units. Would	Proposed, published on 3/5/14, hearing scheduled for 4/9/14.

		delete requirement for licensure for researchers and other individuals considered disassociated from diagnosis and treatment of animals. Would alter definition of a geographic area or region of Ohio considered a veterinary resource shortage area.	
Oklahoma	SB 178	Would establish minimum requirements for keeping and breeding of exotic felines in captivity.	Introduced on 2/5/13.
Oklahoma	HB 2764 , SB 1729	Would prohibit the use of carbon monoxide chambers for animal euthanasia.	Introduced on 2/3/14.
Oregon	Vet. Med. Exam. Board, 875-005-0005 , 875-010, 875-015 , 875-030	Adds a definition of indirect supervision that allows certified veterinary technicians to perform duties outside of veterinary facilities. Updates license application process, qualifications and CE requirements. Adds requirements for veterinarians to evaluate and document a patient's integumentary system and document current weight or weight estimate for large animals. If requested, a prescription shall be provided to a client for medications prescribed by the veterinarian under a valid VCPR.	Final on 1/17/14, effective immediately.
Oregon	SB 1584	Allows the State Department of Agriculture to issue permits for keeping of exotic animals under limited conditions for animals owned prior to 1/1/10. Applications are due by 12/31/14 and the department must issue or deny the permit by 12/31/15.	Signed into law on 2/26/14, effective immediately.
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	H 7198	Would provide that no city or town may enact an ordinance specific to any breed of dog or cat except if it pertains to spaying or neutering.	Introduced on 1/23/14.
Rhode Island	H 7499 , H 7596	Would require a court to order the appointment of an animal care advocate in animal cruelty cases.	Introduced on 2/13/14 and 2/26/14.
South	S 194 , H 3492	Would establish various regulations and restrictions on animal	Introduced on 1/9 and 2/5/13.

Carolina		shelters, including veterinary examinations, a choice for pet owners to decide who shall provide veterinary services, and restrictions on procedures other than sterilization. H 3492 was amended as a result of meetings among stakeholders.	
South Dakota	SB 46	Would make some animal cruelty violations a class 6 felony. Exceptions would include medical treatment under direct and proper care of a licensed veterinarian, accepted agricultural pursuits and animal husbandry practices.	Introduced on 1/12/14.
Tennessee	Department of Health, 1140-11	Would amend the controlled substance monitoring program to exclude veterinarians as dispensers who are required to report data to the program.	Proposed on 12/16/13 to take effect on 3/16/14.
Utah	SB 120	Would exempt from the requirement to be licensed as a veterinarian persons who are employees of animal shelters who administer certain vaccinations.	Introduced on 1/14/14.
Vermont	SB 126	Would require that only a licensed veterinarian can perform debarking, tail docking, ear cropping, and surgical birth procedures on dogs, with appropriate anesthesia and analgesia.	Introduced on 2/21/13.
Vermont	HB 342	Would make a person who commits animal cruelty by intentionally killing a domesticated dog or cat belonging to another person liable to the deceased pet's owner for noneconomic damages for emotional distress resulting from the loss of the reasonably expected companionship, love, and affection of the pet.	Introduced on 2/21/13.
Vermont	HB 347	Would amend the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine to include performing a dental operation on an animal, excluding use of cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes, or similar items to clean an animal's teeth.	Introduced on 2/22/13.
Virginia	HB 1035	Allows a veterinarian to dispense a compounded drug distributed from a pharmacy, when (i) the animal is his/her own patient, (ii) the animal is a companion animal, (iii) the quantity dispensed is no more than a 72-hour supply, (iv) the compounded drug is for the treatment of an emergency condition, and (v) timely access to a compounding pharmacy is not available, as determined by the prescribing veterinarian.	Signed into law on 3/5/14, effective 7/1/14.
Virginia	HB 1119	Would require pharmacists to notify patients of the fact that a drug product dispensed has been compounded.	Introduced on 1/13/14.

Virginia	SB 413	Would allow a person who is not licensed as a veterinarian or veterinary technician to provide care to native wildlife under a permit, if he or she is adequately trained to perform such procedures and is otherwise in compliance with regulations.	Introduced on 1/7/14.
Washington	Department of Health, WSR, 14-04-020	Makes changes to provisions on providers of veterinary continuing education and lists several organizations and individuals as approved without the need to apply, including a veterinarian who is certified by a veterinary specialty board recognized by AVMA when teaching a course within his or her area of certification.	Final on 1/27/14, effective on 2/17/14.
Washington	Department of Health, WSR 14-05-025	Notice that the veterinary board of governors is considering rulemaking to define the required elements of a VCPR to ensure the veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a preliminary diagnosis.	Rulemaking notice posted on 2/10/14.
Washington	HB 1787	Would prohibit the docking of a cow's tail except for under certain conditions to save the animal's life or relieving its pain in an emergency, or for other veterinary purposes.	Introduced on 2/8/13.
Washington	SB 5203	Would prohibit a person to sell, offer for sale, barter, or auction an animal upon public property or private property open to the public, with some exceptions.	Introduced on 1/23/13.
Washington	HB 2117	Would prohibit local jurisdictions from considering the breed of dog when declaring a dog "dangerous" or "potentially dangerous."	Prefiled on 12/10/13.
West Virginia	SB 73	Would exempt sales of veterinary medications prescribed by a veterinarian in the treatment and care of animals from sales tax.	Introduced on 1/8/14.
West Virginia	SB 371 , SB 428 , HB 4393	Would prohibit or regulate possession of wild and exotic animals.	Introduced between 1/16 and 2/4/14.
West Virginia	HB 2385	Would allow a registered veterinary technician to administer vaccinations and collect oral, intramuscular, intravenous and subcutaneous routes and bodily fluids and secretions under general or indirect supervision.	Introduced on 1/9/14.
Wisconsin	AB 703	Would prohibit, with certain exceptions, the possession, propagation, and sale of dangerous exotic animals.	Introduced on 1/31/14.
Wisconsin	SB 199	Would expand the requirement that a veterinarian must report to a humane officer or law enforcement officer when he or she	Introduced on 5/23/13.

		suspects that an animal has been in an illegal fight or other violation of animal cruelty laws. A veterinarian who makes a report of animal mistreatment in good faith would be immune from civil liability for making the report.	
Wisconsin	Pharmacy Examining Board, Rules 18.02 - 18.06	The regulations conform to recent legislation by repealing and amending sections to exclude veterinarians from reporting to the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.	Final on 2/28/14, effective 3/1/14.

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.