

House Bill 1408

By: Representatives Camp of the 135th, Hagan of the 156th, Cooper of the 45th, Cox of the 28th, Jasperse of the 11th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 19 of Title 31 and Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to control of rabies and veterinarians and veterinary technicians,
3 respectively, so as to authorize licensed veterinary technicians under the direct supervision
4 of a licensed veterinarian to administer antirabies vaccinations to animals required by this
5 state to be inoculated against rabies; to update terminology and make conforming changes;
6 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 19 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of
10 rabies, is amended by revising Code Section 31-19-5, relating to inoculation of canines and
11 felines against rabies, as follows:

12 "31-19-5.

13 The county boards of health are empowered and required to adopt and promulgate rules
14 and regulations requiring canines and felines to be inoculated against rabies and to
15 prescribe the intervals and means of inoculation, the fees to be paid in county sponsored
16 clinics, that procedures be in compliance with the recommendations of the National

17 Association of State Public Health Veterinarians for identifying inoculated canines and
18 felines, and all other procedures applicable thereto. As used in this chapter, the term
19 'inoculation against rabies' means the administering ~~by a licensed veterinarian~~ of an
20 antirabies vaccine approved by the department by a licensed veterinarian or a licensed
21 veterinary technician in accordance with Code Section 43-50-54.1."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 31-19-7, relating
24 to county rabies control officer, as follows:

25 "(b) The county governing authority of each county is authorized to levy a fee not to
26 exceed 50¢ for each dog, such fee to be collected by the veterinarian administering or
27 directly supervising the administration of the antirabies vaccine required by this chapter.
28 This fee shall be in addition to that provided for in Code Section 31-19-5. If any county
29 has no resident veterinarian, the out-of-county veterinarian administering or directly
30 supervising the administration of the antirabies vaccine and collecting the fee provided for
31 by this Code section shall forward to the treasurer of the county of the dog owner's
32 residence the fee prescribed by that county's governing authority."

33 **SECTION 3.**

34 Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to veterinarians
35 and veterinary technicians, is amended in Article 1, relating to general provisions, by revising
36 paragraphs (25) and (26) of Code Section 43-50-3, relating to definitions, as follows:

37 "(25) 'Practice veterinary medicine' or 'practice of veterinary medicine' means:

38 (A) To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformity,
39 defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions, including the prescribing,
40 administration, or dispensing of any prescription drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus,
41 application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique on, for,

42 or to any animal, including, but not limited to, the use of complementary, alternative,
43 and integrative therapies, animal dentistry, manual or mechanical adjustment
44 procedures, physical therapy, rehabilitation, surgery, diagnostic veterinary pathology,
45 any manual, mechanical, biological, or chemical procedure used for pregnancy testing
46 or for correcting sterility or infertility, or to render advice or recommendations with
47 regard to any of the above; but not including such administration or dispensing pursuant
48 to prescription or direction of a licensed veterinarian;

49 (B)(i) To apply or use any instrument or device on any portion of an animal's tooth,
50 gum, or any related tissue for the prevention, cure, or relief of any wound, fracture,
51 injury, disease, or other condition of an animal's tooth, gum, or related tissue.

52 (ii) To engage in preventive dental procedures on animals, including, but not limited
53 to, the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, or stains or the smoothing, filing,
54 or polishing of tooth surfaces.

55 (iii) Nothing in this subparagraph shall prohibit any person from utilizing cotton
56 swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes, or similar items to clean an
57 animal's teeth;

58 (C) To represent, directly or indirectly, publicly or privately, an ability and willingness
59 to do any act described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph;

60 (D) To use any title, words, abbreviation, or letters in a manner or under circumstances
61 which induce the belief that the person using them is legally authorized or qualified to
62 perform an act included in this paragraph. Such use shall be evidence of the intention
63 to represent oneself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine;

64 (E) To apply principles of environmental sanitation, food inspection, environmental
65 pollution control, zoonotic disease control, and disaster medicine in the promotion and
66 protection of public health as it specifically relates to animals. This subparagraph shall
67 apply only to licensed veterinarians and not to other qualified persons;

68 (F) To collect blood or other samples for the purpose of diagnosing diseases or related
69 conditions. This subparagraph shall not apply to unlicensed professionals employed by
70 or under contract with the United States Department of Agriculture or the Georgia
71 Department of Agriculture who are engaged in their official duties; or

72 (G) To administer ~~a rabies~~ an antirabies vaccination to any animal that the state
73 requires to be vaccinated, but shall not include the administration of an antirabies
74 vaccination by a licensed veterinary technician pursuant to Code Section 43-50-54.1.

75 (26) 'Practice veterinary technology' means:

76 (A) To perform animal patient care or other services that require a technical
77 understanding of veterinary medicine by a licensed veterinary technician on the basis
78 of written or oral instruction of a licensed veterinarian, excluding diagnosing,
79 prognosing, performing surgery, prescribing, or dispensing;

80 (B) To represent, directly or indirectly, publicly or privately, an ability and willingness
81 to engage in any act described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; ~~or~~

82 (C) To use any title, words, abbreviation, or letters, while engaged in the practice of
83 licensed veterinary technology, in a manner or under circumstances that induce the
84 belief that the person using them is qualified to engage in an act included in
85 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; or

86 (D) To administer an antirabies vaccination in accordance with Code
87 Section 43-50-54.1."

88 **SECTION 4.**

89 Said chapter is further amended in Article 3, relating to licensing, by adding a new Code
90 section to read as follows:

91 "43-50-54.1.
92 A licensed veterinary technician working under a licensed veterinarian's direct supervision,
93 as defined by the board pursuant to Code Section 43-50-54, may administer an antirabies
94 vaccination to any animal that the state requires to be vaccinated."

95 **SECTION 5.**

96 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.