

REFERENCE TITLE: prohibition; cat declawing; exceptions

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HB 2516

Introduced by
Representatives Shah: Bliss, Gress, Martinez, Nguyen, Terech; Senator
Kavanagh

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 32-2201, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 32,
CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION
32-2240.04; RELATING TO VETERINARIANS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 32-2201, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:
4 32-2201. Definitions
5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
6 1. "Animal" means any animal other than human.
7 2. "Board" means the Arizona state veterinary medical examining
8 board.
9 3. "Certified veterinary technician" means either:
10 (a) A graduate of a minimum two-year American veterinary medical
11 association accredited program in veterinary technology who has passed a
12 national and a state veterinary technician examination.
13 (b) A person who is certified on or before December 31, 2010
14 pursuant to the rules adopted by the board.
15 4. "Consulting" means providing professional or expert advice that
16 is requested by a veterinarian licensed in this state and that is rendered
17 only on a specific case basis.
18 5. "Controlled substance" means any substance that is registered
19 and controlled under the controlled substances act (P.L. 91-513).
20 6. "Cremation" means the heating process that reduces animal
21 remains to bone fragments by combustion and evaporation.
22 7. "Crematory" means a building or portion of a building that is
23 licensed pursuant to article 8 of this chapter and that houses a retort in
24 which only animal remains are cremated.
25 8. "DECLAWING" OR "ONYCHECTOMY" MEANS ANY SURGICAL PROCEDURE IN
26 WHICH A PORTION OF AN ANIMAL'S PAW IS AMPUTATED IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE
27 ANIMAL'S CLAWS.
28 ~~8.~~ 9. "Direct supervision" means that a licensed veterinarian is
29 physically present at the location where animal health care is being
30 performed.
31 ~~9.~~ 10. "Gross incompetence" means any professional misconduct or
32 unreasonable lack of professional skill in ~~the performance of~~ PERFORMING
33 professional practice.
34 ~~10.~~ 11. "Gross negligence" means treatment of a patient or
35 practice of veterinary medicine resulting in injury, unnecessary suffering
36 or death that was caused by carelessness, negligence or the disregard of
37 established principles or practices.
38 ~~11.~~ 12. "Indirect supervision" means that a licensed veterinarian
39 is not physically present at the location where animal health care is
40 being performed but has given either written or oral instructions for
41 ~~treatment of~~ TREATING the animal patient.
42 ~~12.~~ 13. "Letter of concern" means an advisory letter to notify a
43 veterinarian that, while there is insufficient evidence to support
44 disciplinary action, the board believes the veterinarian should modify or
45 eliminate certain practices and that continuation of the activities that

1 led to the information being submitted to the board may result in action
2 against the veterinarian's license.

3 ~~13.~~ 14. "Licensed veterinarian" means a person who is currently
4 licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state.

5 ~~14.~~ 15. "Licensed veterinary faculty member" means a person who is
6 currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine as an employee of a
7 veterinary college in this state.

8 ~~15.~~ 16. "Malpractice" means treatment in a manner contrary to
9 accepted practices and with injurious results.

10 ~~16.~~ 17. "Medical incompetence" means lacking sufficient medical
11 knowledge or skills, or both, to a degree likely to endanger the health of
12 patients or lacking equipment, supplies or medication to properly perform
13 a procedure.

14 ~~17.~~ 18. "Negligence" means the failure of a licensed veterinarian
15 to exercise reasonable care in ~~the practice of~~ PRACTICING veterinary
16 medicine.

17 ~~18.~~ 19. "Regularly" means that veterinary services are offered to
18 the public once a month or more frequently.

19 ~~19.~~ 20. "Responsible veterinarian" means the veterinarian who is
20 responsible to the board for compliance by licensed veterinary premises
21 with the laws and rules of this state and of the federal government
22 pertaining to the practice of veterinary medicine and responsible for
23 establishing the policy at such premises.

24 ~~20.~~ 21. "Specialist" means a veterinarian who is certified as a
25 diplomate in a particular discipline by a national specialty board or
26 college recognized by the American veterinary medical association after
27 completing additional education and training, an internship or residency,
28 passing required examinations and meeting any other criteria required by
29 the various individual national specialty boards or colleges.

30 ~~21.~~ 22. "Supervising veterinarian" means a licensed veterinarian
31 who is responsible for the care rendered to an animal by a certified
32 veterinary technician or a veterinary assistant.

33 ~~22.~~ 23. "Temporary sites" means sites where outpatient veterinary
34 services are performed.

35 24. "TENDONECTOMY" MEANS A PROCEDURE IN WHICH THE TENDONS TO AN
36 ANIMAL'S LIMBS, PAWS OR TOES ARE CUT OR MODIFIED SO THAT THE CLAWS CANNOT
37 BE EXTENDED.

38 25. "THERAPEUTIC PURPOSE":

39 (a) MEANS A PURPOSE THAT ADDRESSES AN EXISTING OR RECURRING
40 INFECTION, DISEASE, INJURY OR ABNORMAL CONDITION IN AN ANIMAL'S CLAW THAT
41 JEOPARDIZES THE ANIMAL'S HEALTH AND FOR WHICH ADDRESSING THE INFECTION,
42 DISEASE, INJURY OR ABNORMAL CONDITION IS A MEDICAL NECESSITY.

43 (b) DOES NOT INCLUDE A COSMETIC OR AESTHETIC PURPOSE OR THE PURPOSE
44 OF MAKING A CAT MORE CONVENIENT TO KEEP OR HANDLE.

1 ~~23.~~ 26. "Twenty-four hour services" means veterinary services when
2 a veterinarian is on the premises twenty-four hours a day.

3 ~~24.~~ 27. "Veterinarian" means a person who has received a ~~doctor's~~
4 DOCTORAL degree in veterinary medicine from a veterinary college.

5 ~~25.~~ 28. "Veterinarian client patient relationship" means a
6 relationship between a veterinarian and a client or the owner or caretaker
7 of an animal in which the veterinarian meets all of the following:

8 (a) Assumes the responsibility for making medical judgments
9 regarding the animal's health and need for medical treatment and the
10 client, owner or caretaker has agreed to follow the veterinarian's
11 instructions.

12 (b) Has sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a
13 general or preliminary diagnosis of the animal's medical condition. For
14 the purposes of this subdivision, sufficient knowledge is obtained when
15 any of the following occurs:

16 (i) The veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted
17 with the keeping and caring of the animal as a result of examining the
18 animal.

19 (ii) The veterinarian makes medically appropriate and timely visits
20 to the premises where the animal is kept.

21 (iii) A veterinarian affiliated with the practice has reviewed the
22 medical record of such examinations or visits.

23 (iv) The veterinarian obtains current knowledge of the animal by
24 conducting a real-time electronic examination using an audio-video based
25 communication medium.

26 (c) Is readily available for a follow-up evaluation or has arranged
27 for either of the following:

28 (i) Emergency coverage.

29 (ii) Continuing care and treatment by another veterinarian who has
30 access to the animal's medical records.

31 ~~26.~~ 29. "Veterinary assistant" means an individual who provides
32 care under the direct supervision or indirect supervision of a
33 veterinarian or certified veterinary technician.

34 ~~27.~~ 30. "Veterinary college" means any veterinary college or
35 division of a university or college that offers the degree of doctor of
36 veterinary medicine or its equivalent and that conforms to the standards
37 required for accreditation by the American veterinary medical association.

38 ~~28.~~ 31. "Veterinary faculty member" means a person who has
39 received a ~~doctor's~~ DOCTORAL degree in veterinary medicine from a
40 veterinary college and who is an employee of a veterinary college in this
41 state.

42 ~~29.~~ 32. "Veterinary medicine" includes veterinary surgery,
43 obstetrics, dentistry, acupuncture, manipulation and all other branches or
44 specialties of veterinary medicine and prescribing, administering or
45 dispensing drugs and medications for veterinary purposes.

