



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 9152



Offered by:

REP. GRESKO, 121<sup>st</sup> Dist.

SEN. COHEN, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6504

File No. 434

Cal. No. 326

**"AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE."**

1 Strike sections 9 and 10, in their entirety and renumber the remaining  
2 sections and internal references accordingly

3 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
4 internal references accordingly:

5 "Sec. 501. Section 20-197 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
6 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

7 (a) No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry  
8 until [he] such person has obtained a license as provided in section 20-  
9 199. A person shall be construed to practice veterinary medicine,  
10 surgery or dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter, who holds  
11 himself or herself out as being able to diagnose, administer biologics for,  
12 treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury,  
13 deformity or physical condition, or who either offers or undertakes, by  
14 any means or methods, to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat,

15 operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury,  
16 deformity or physical condition. The euthanizing of animals in  
17 accordance with applicable state and federal drug laws by the  
18 Connecticut Humane Society, the floating of teeth in horses by persons  
19 experienced in that practice and the performance of myofascial trigger  
20 point therapy by persons experienced in that practice shall not be  
21 deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine. For the purposes of  
22 this section, "floating teeth" means using hand-held rasps to reduce or  
23 eliminate sharp or uneven edges on a horse's upper and lower molars  
24 to avoid injury to the tongue and cheeks and to improve chewing food,  
25 but does not include treating decay or tumors or extracting teeth. For  
26 the purposes of this section, "myofascial trigger point therapy" means  
27 the use of specific palpation, compression, stretching and corrective  
28 exercise for promoting optimum athleticism, and "persons experienced  
29 in that practice" means persons who, prior to October 1, 2003, have  
30 attended a minimum of two hundred hours of classroom, lecture and  
31 hands-on practice in myofascial trigger point therapy, including animal  
32 musculoskeletal anatomy and biomechanics, theory and application of  
33 animal myofascial trigger point techniques, factors that habituate a  
34 presenting condition and corrective exercise.

35 (b) No veterinarian licensed under this chapter may practice  
36 veterinary medicine on an animal without first establishing a  
37 veterinarian-client-patient relationship with the animal and the owner  
38 of the animal or person responsible for the care of the animal, except  
39 that a veterinarian licensed under this chapter may provide, in good  
40 faith, emergency or urgent care to an animal when no veterinarian-  
41 client-patient relationship has been established if the owner of the  
42 animal or person responsible for the care of such animal cannot be  
43 identified. A veterinarian shall be deemed to have established a  
44 veterinarian-client-patient relationship if the following conditions have  
45 been met:

46 (1) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility of making  
47 medical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need for  
48 the provision of medical care or treatment to the animal and has

49 instructed the owner of the animal or person responsible for the care of  
50 the animal on the appropriate course of medical care or treatment of the  
51 animal;

52 (2) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to make  
53 at least a preliminary or general diagnosis of the animal;

54 (3) The owner of the animal or person responsible for the care of the  
55 animal has agreed to follow the veterinarian's recommendations  
56 regarding medical care or treatment of the animal;

57 (4) The veterinarian is available for a follow-up evaluation of the  
58 animal or has arranged for (A) emergency or urgent care coverage for  
59 the animal, or (B) continuing medical care or treatment of the animal, as  
60 designated by the veterinarian, by another licensed veterinarian who (i)  
61 has access to the animal's medical records, or (ii) can provide reasonable  
62 and appropriate medical care or treatment to the animal;

63 (5) The veterinarian oversees the medical care or treatment of the  
64 animal; and

65 (6) The veterinarian (A) has performed a physical examination of the  
66 animal, or (B) is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the  
67 animal by virtue of providing timely and appropriate medical care or  
68 treatment to another animal at the same location where the animal is  
69 kept.

70 (c) A veterinarian-client-patient relationship may not be established  
71 solely through veterinary telemedicine. After a veterinarian-client-  
72 patient relationship has been established, such relationship may be  
73 maintained through veterinary telemedicine in between medically  
74 necessary examinations of the animal by the veterinarian or timely  
75 medical visits by the veterinarian to the location where the animal is  
76 kept. If there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship, a veterinarian  
77 may only provide general advice using electronic means and shall not  
78 provide any specific advice regarding the animal, including, but not  
79 limited to, any diagnosis or recommended medical care or treatment of

80 the animal. As used in this subsection, "veterinary telemedicine" means  
81 the exchange of medical information regarding the status of an animal's  
82 health or the delivery of a medical diagnosis, care or treatment of an  
83 animal through electronic means, including, but not limited to,  
84 telephone, video, mobile applications or an Internet web site-based  
85 platform."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	July 1, 2021	20-197