



State Legislative Update

October - December 2022

This issue of the State Legislative Update includes select summaries of bills and regulations tracked by the AVMA and introduced in October through December 2022. For more information, please contact Rachel Cole (RCole@avma.org), Manager of State Advocacy.

Animal Shelters

A bill in **New Jersey** ([NJ A.4871](#)) would prohibit euthanizing an animal in shelters or pounds unless for health and safety reasons. **New Jersey's** [NJ S.3421](#) would prohibit the sale of cats, dogs, and rabbits by pet shops.

Loan repayment program

Supported by the **New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association**, legislation in **New Jersey** ([NJ S.3371](#)) would establish a veterinary medicine loan redemption program for state-licensed veterinarians with eligible qualifying loan expenses who work in underserved areas for five years and appropriate \$500,000 annually to the program.

Pet Insurance

In **New Jersey**, [NJ S.3327](#) would establish a legal framework for the sale of pet insurance in the state. The AVMA endorses the concept of pet health insurance that provides coverage to help defray the cost of veterinary medical care and encourages veterinary healthcare teams to proactively educate their clients about the existence of such resources. The AVMA also recognizes that viable pet health insurance programs may be an important approach for the veterinary profession to continue to provide high quality veterinary services. More information on AVMA's policy on pet insurance can be found on the AVMA [website](#).

Veterinarian-client-patient relationship

In **Alaska**, the Board of Veterinary of Veterinary Examiners published regulations ([AK 12 AAC 68.215](#)) defining a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). The provisions require an initial physical examination to establish a VCPR, which must be renewed every twelve months, but permits an initial evaluation of a patient through electronic or telephonic means in regions of the state where travel is impossible and there is no locally available veterinarian.

Animal Abuse Cruelty			
State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Colorado	CO 2022-00688	Would streamline the training, continuing education, renewal process, and statistics reporting for Bureau of Animal Protection agents.	Published 10/31/2022
Pennsylvania	PA HB 2912	Would: 1. Prohibit the importation or sale of dogs and cats from some dealers or kennels;	Introduced 10/27/2022

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Require duty of persons, kennels and animal testing facilities to offer dogs and cats for adoption; 3. Establish whistleblower protections for those reporting animal cruelty; and, 4. Impose penalties for violations. 	
New Jersey	NJ A.4936	Would allow employees of Division of Child Protection and Permanency, who investigate child abuse, to report animal abuse to humane law enforcement officer.	Prefiled 12/5/2022

Animal Shelters

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ A.4871	Would prohibit euthanizing animals in shelters or pounds except for health or safety reasons.	Prefiled 11/14/2022

Appropriations

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ S.3371	<p>Would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a veterinary medicine loan redemption program for state-licensed veterinarians with eligible qualifying loan expenses who work in underserved areas for five years; and, 2. Appropriate \$500,000 annually to the program. 	Prefiled 12/5/2022

Companion Animals

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ S.3421	Would prohibit the sale of cats, dogs, or rabbits by pet shops.	Prefiled 12/19/2022

Licensure

State	Link	Summary of Proposed Bill or Regulation	Status
Louisiana	LA LAC 46:LXXXV. Chapters 3-15	Would repeal the preceptor program as a requirement for DVM licensure.	Published 12/20/2022

Pet Insurance

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
New Jersey	NJ S.3327	Would create a comprehensive legal framework within which pet insurance may be sold in New Jersey.	Prefiled 11/14/2022

Pharmaceuticals | Prescription drug monitoring program

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
Washington, DC	DC DCMR 17-10316	Would expand the PDMP Advisory Committee from seven to thirteen members to include <i>ex officio</i> members from the Board of Veterinary Medicine and other related boards.	Published 9/16/2022

Veterinarian-client-patient relationship | Telemedicine

State	Link	Summary of proposed bill or regulation	Status
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<p style="text-align: center;">Alaska</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AK 12 AAC 68.215</u></p>	<p>Would define a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducting an initial physical meeting with the client and patient where the veterinarian performs a physical examination, and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient through medically appropriate visits to the premises where the patient is maintained; 2. Having sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the patient’s medical conditions; 3. Assuming responsibility for making clinical judgements for the health of the patient and need for medical therapy; 4. Maintaining patient records; and, 5. Providing oversight of treatment and being readily available to provide follow-up care in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen. <p>Would also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require a VCPR to maintained by electronic or telephonic means for 12 months per initial exam or premises visit; 2. Permit a licensed veterinarian or client to decline or discontinue a VCPR; 3. Not require a VCPR if a licensed veterinarian provides emergency care in good faith; and, 4. Permit initial evaluations of a patient through electronic or telephonic means in regions of the state where travel is impossible and there is no locally available veterinarian. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Published 12/6/22</p>
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