



26 veterinary medical services at a reasonable cost to consumers.

27 (2) As used in this section, the term:

28 (a) "Approved program" means a master's program in  
29 veterinary clinical care, or the equivalent, in the United  
30 States or in its territories or possessions from an accredited  
31 school of veterinary medicine.

32 (b) "Supervision" means responsible supervision and  
33 control, and, except in cases of emergency, requires the easy  
34 availability or physical presence of a licensed veterinarian for  
35 consultation and direction of the actions of a veterinary  
36 professional associate. For the purposes of this paragraph, the  
37 term "easy availability" includes the ability to communicate by  
38 way of telecommunication.

39 (c) "Veterinary professional associate" means a person who  
40 has earned a master's degree from an approved program or who  
41 meets standards approved by the board and is authorized to  
42 perform veterinary medical services delegated by a supervising  
43 veterinarian.

44 (3) The title "veterinary professional associate" may be  
45 used only by an individual who has successfully completed an  
46 approved program.

47 (4) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal or state law, a  
48 veterinary professional associate may perform duties or actions,  
49 including those identified in s. 474.202(9) and (13), in which  
50 he or she is competent and has the necessary training, current

51 knowledge, and experience to perform, as assigned by a  
 52 veterinarian licensed in this state while working under the  
 53 supervision of that veterinarian. A veterinary professional  
 54 associate may not do either of the following:

55 (a) Prescribe medicinal drugs or drugs as defined in s.  
 56 465.003(15) or a controlled substance listed in s. 893.03.

57 (b) Except for veterinary sterilizations or veterinary  
 58 dental surgeries, perform a surgical procedure.

59 (5) Each veterinarian that is supervising a veterinary  
 60 professional associate is liable for any acts or omissions of  
 61 the veterinary professional associate acting under the  
 62 veterinarian's supervision and control.

63 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.