

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 61

By: Senator Hill
By: Representatives Vaught, Painter

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE VETERINARY TELEMEDICINE IN THIS STATE; TO SET CERTAIN STANDARDS FOR VETERINARY TELEMEDICINE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE VETERINARY TELEMEDICINE IN THIS STATE; AND TO SET CERTAIN STANDARDS FOR VETERINARY TELEMEDICINE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-101-102, concerning definitions within the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act and relating to the practice of veterinary medicine, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(21) "Large animal" means an animal that is livestock as defined by 7 U.S.C. § 1471, as existing on January 1, 2025, or is classified as a Category II animal under the National Veterinary Accreditation Program;

(22) "Small animal" means an animal that is classified as a Category I animal under the National Veterinary Accreditation Program, including without limitation a dog, cat, rat, mouse, gerbil, guinea pig, hamster, ferret, hedgehog, or lizard; and

(23)(A) "Veterinary telemedicine" means the practice of veterinary medicine in which the animal patient care, treatment, and services are provided by electronic communication, including telephone and audio-visual technology, consistent with the veterinarian's professional judgment.

(B) "Veterinary telemedicine" includes providing:



(i) Health information, opinion, guidance, or recommendation that is not specific to a particular animal; or

(ii) A timely assessment and decision as to whether to immediately refer an animal patient to a veterinarian for emergency or urgent care.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 101, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17-101-104. Veterinary telemedicine standards.

(a) Only a licensed veterinarian shall provide veterinary telemedicine to an animal patient located in this state.

(b) In an emergency or urgent situation, a licensed veterinarian may provide veterinary telemedicine without previously establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship if the licensed veterinarian establishes a veterinarian-client-patient relationship within:

(1) Seven (7) calendar days after providing the veterinary telemedicine services for a small animal; or

(2) Twenty-one (21) calendar days after providing the veterinary telemedicine services for a large animal.