

**House File 456 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 456

BY PETTENGILL

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing that the use of animal massage or applied  
2 animal behavior science performed when treating a horse is  
3 not the practice of veterinary medicine or regulated by the  
4 Iowa board of veterinary medicine.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 169.3, subsection 10, Code 2015, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 10. a. "*Practice of veterinary medicine*" means any of the  
4 following:

5 ~~a.~~ (1) To diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve or  
6 prevent, for a fee, any animal disease, deformity, defect,  
7 injury or other physical or mental conditions or cosmetic  
8 surgery; including the prescription or administration of any  
9 drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic,  
10 or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique, for  
11 a fee; or to evaluate or correct sterility or infertility, for  
12 a fee; or to render, advise or recommend with regard to any of  
13 the above for a fee.

14 ~~b.~~ (2) To represent, directly or indirectly, publicly or  
15 privately, an ability or willingness to do an act described in  
16 paragraph ~~"a"~~ subparagraph (1).

17 ~~c.~~ b. ~~To~~ "*Practice of veterinary medicine*" includes the use  
18 of any title, words, abbreviation, or letters in a manner or  
19 under circumstances which induce the belief that the person  
20 using them is qualified to do any act described in paragraph  
21 "a".

22 c. "*Practice of veterinary medicine*" does not include the use  
23 of animal massage or applied animal behavior science performed  
24 solely for purposes of treating a horse as provided in section  
25 169.4A.

26 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 169.4B Exclusions — animal massage or  
27 applied animal behavior science.

28 1. The use of animal massage or applied animal behavior  
29 science performed solely for purposes of treating a horse shall  
30 not be regulated by the board. A person who performs such  
31 animal massage or applied animal behavior science shall not be  
32 subject to the provisions of this chapter.

33 2. a. The use of animal massage shall be limited to doing  
34 any of the following:

35 (1) Manipulating the muscle or connective tissue of the

1 body, excluding osseous tissue.

2 (2) Treating the muscle tonus system for the purpose of  
3 enhancing health or muscle relaxation.

4 (3) Increasing range of motion, reducing stress, relieving  
5 pain, or improving circulation.

6 b. The use of animal massage includes but is not limited  
7 to myotherapy; massotherapy; therapeutic massage including  
8 hydrotherapy, and superficial hot or and cold applications;  
9 vibration or topical applications; or the use of a device that  
10 mimics the actions of the human hand when performing a function  
11 described in paragraph "a".

12 3. The use of applied animal behavior science must utilize a  
13 technique that evaluates or modifies animal behavior, assesses  
14 behavioral pathology, or provides socialization training.

15 4. The use of animal massage or applied animal behavior  
16 science does not include any of the following:

17 a. An accepted livestock management practice.

18 b. The diagnosis or treatment of a physical or mental  
19 disease, deformity, defect, wound, laceration, bone dislocation  
20 or fracture, or an injury to a cell, organ, or blood vessel.

21 c. An adjustment or manipulation of any articulation of the  
22 animal's spine.

23 d. Acupuncture involving the use of needles.

24 e. The administration or prescription of drugs.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 This bill provides that the use of animal massage and  
29 applied animal behavior science performed solely for purposes  
30 of treating a horse is not considered as part of the practice  
31 of veterinary medicine. Its use is not regulated by the Iowa  
32 board of veterinary medicine, and a person who performs animal  
33 massage or applied animal behavior science is not subject to  
34 the "Iowa Veterinary Practice Act" (Code chapter 169). The  
35 bill provides that animal massage must involve manipulating

1 muscles or connective tissue; treating the muscle tonus system  
2 to enhance health or muscle relaxation; or increasing range  
3 of motion, reducing stress, relieving pain, or improving  
4 circulation. The bill provides that the use of applied animal  
5 behavior science must utilize a technique that evaluates or  
6 modifies animal behavior, assesses behavioral pathology, or  
7 provides socialization training.