

**House File 726 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 726

BY STAED

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act allowing veterinary assistants to administer rabies  
2 vaccinations.

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

1 Section 1. Section 169.20, Code 2021, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **169.20 Veterinary assistants.**

4 1. A veterinarian may employ certified veterinary  
5 assistants for any purpose other than diagnosis, prescription,  
6 or surgery. ~~Veterinary assistants~~

7 2. Except as provided in subsection 3, a veterinary  
8 assistant must act under the direct supervision of a licensed  
9 veterinarian.

10 3. Regardless of whether the veterinary assistant is acting  
11 under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, the  
12 veterinary assistant may administer a rabies vaccination in the  
13 same manner as a veterinarian.

14 ~~2.~~ 4. The board shall issue ~~certificates~~ a certificate  
15 to a ~~veterinary assistants~~ assistant who ~~have~~ has met the  
16 educational, experience, and testing requirements as the board  
17 shall specify by rule. The certificate is not a license and  
18 does not expire. The certificate may be suspended or revoked,  
19 or any other disciplinary action may be taken as specified in  
20 section 272C.3, subsection 2. All disciplinary actions shall  
21 be taken pursuant to [section 169.14](#).

22 Sec. 2. Section 351.35, Code 2021, is amended to read as  
23 follows:

24 **351.35 ~~How Rabies vaccination — how and when.~~**

25 The rabies vaccination required by [section 351.33](#) shall  
26 be an injection of antirabies vaccine approved by the ~~state~~  
27 department of agriculture and land stewardship, and the  
28 frequency of revaccination necessary for approved vaccinations  
29 shall be as established by ~~such~~ the department. The vaccine  
30 shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian ~~and shall~~  
31 ~~be given as~~ or certified veterinary assistant as provided in  
32 chapter 169. The vaccine shall be administered in a manner  
33 approved by the ~~state~~ department of agriculture and land  
34 stewardship. The veterinarian or a veterinary assistant shall  
35 issue a tag with the certificate of vaccination, and such tag

1 shall at all times be attached to the collar of the dog.

2 Sec. 3. Section 351.45, subsection 3, paragraph c, Code  
3 2021, is amended to read as follows:

4 c. A veterinarian licensed or a veterinary assistant  
5 certified as provided in chapter 169.

6 EXPLANATION

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

9 This bill amends the "Iowa Veterinary Practice Act" (Code  
10 chapter 169). Currently, a veterinary assistant certified by  
11 the Iowa board of veterinary medicine may perform services  
12 associated with the practice of veterinary medicine other than  
13 diagnosis, prescription, or surgery, if acting under the direct  
14 supervision of such veterinarian and in compliance with rules  
15 adopted by the board. The bill allows a certified veterinary  
16 assistant to administer a rabies vaccination in the same manner  
17 as a veterinarian licensed by the board (amended Code section  
18 169.20). The bill also amends Code chapter 351 which provides  
19 for the control of dogs by counties, including by requiring  
20 dogs be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. The  
21 bill provides that the vaccination may be administered by a  
22 veterinary assistant. The bill provides that a veterinary  
23 assistant is not subject to the criminal offense of tampering  
24 with a rabies vaccination tag in the same manner as current law  
25 provides that a veterinarian is not subject to that criminal  
26 offense.