

# If Passed, State Bills Could Have Large, Long-Term Effects On Animal Boarders, Farriers

## Farmers Who Care For Own Animals Not Affected

(Continued from Page A1)

Committee on Professional Licensure May 4, if the bill would be enacted into law, in its current version, those even applying "... therapeutic or diagnostic technique or nutritional substance or technique on, for, or to any animal..." without being a licensed veterinarian could face legal prosecution.

Hershey is concerned about the "finite" language of the bill. He noted that farriers should be allowed to continue what they should be doing by their profession. But the bill itself "is not near ready to go to the floor," he told *Lancaster Farming*. Revisions to the bill are necessary before it reaches its final form.

Hershey noted he has received letters from nurse technicians concerned that, in the current wording of the bill, their own livelihood could be threatened. The technicians were concerned about being replaced by cheaper labor in the field, Hershey indicated.

But farriers should be able to continue what they are trained to do and have been allowed to do, Hershey noted.

The consequences of having to be a licensed veterinarian in the Veterinary Practice Reform Act, to be able to do even what is considered "normal animal husbandry," noted a human chiropractor who owns horses, "effects a lot of people," said Peggy Dillon. "That's disturbing to me."

Not just those who board horses, but 4-H project boarders, kennels, "anybody who takes care of any animals," said Dillon, would be affected.

Some have indicated that people who board horses or other animals, including 4-H projects, would be restricted from attempting any type of therapies, including administering liniment or even giving animals nutritional supplements, to animals they don't own.

This could have a drastic effect on feed suppliers, nutritionists, feed mixing companies — all those who don't use a veterinarian in the process of providing nutritive products to animals that are boarded.

If passed, the bills may be similar to a state law in Texas that requires everybody "to get a prescription from the vet to buy Vitamin C for a horse," said Dillon, New Egypt, N.J.

The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) and American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) are both pushing for the adoption of the bill, working with state lobbyists.

According to Dr. Clifford Cummings, DVM with Northside Animal Hospital, Bethlehem, a lot of states are revising their veterinary practice acts to incorporate much-needed changes. These changes take into account the new "modalities" being practiced, including animal chiropractic, massage therapy, and holistic therapies, to name a few. To protect consumers, if animals are being treated with the new modalities, proper training and certification may be required.

The PVMA and AVMA needed to make these modifications in light of recent developments in treating animals.

For farriers, they have always been and will be continue to be

exempted, even if changes are adopted to the veterinary practice act, Cummings indicated. The Pennsylvania Professional Farriers Association (PPFA) gave the proposed changes their "blessing," he said.

Mirroring a similar Maryland bill enacted in the law, the changes were put in at the request of the PPFA, according to Cummings.

For other changes, the concern is relevant, according to several involved in using the new modalities. For one thing, antibiotics in feeds are suspected of being a threat, in some cases, to human health. How those feed antibiotics are to be regulated requires changes in the veterinary practice act, according to some practicing veterinarians. Nutritive substances include antibiotic and other additives to improve animal health.

The proposed changes could

dramatically effect those not properly trained in animal health care.

"When certain people start to extricate teeth or give drip lines, the people are overstepping their boundary" if they're not trained, Cummings noted. This bill takes into account referrals — right now veterinarians can't refer "anything to a human chiropractor," he said. Some of those chiropractors are treating animals at the farm.

According to Dave Duckett, Ambler, a long-time practicing farrier, a hearing originally scheduled for Sept. 21-22 in Seven Springs, Somerset County, was rescheduled in Room 461 of the Capitol Building in Harrisburg Sept. 14-15.

If passed in its current form, the bill could literally "intrude upon a person's freedom and right to choose" animal care, said Duckett. A portion of the bill exempts farriers, but limits their art to

horseshoeing only, according to the proposed changes. But the work of a farrier is more complex than merely applying a shoe to a horse.

Dave Duckett, FWCF, is a long-time farrier. Duckett's title, FWCF, means Fellow of Worshipful Company of Farriers, London, King's Charter. He began his farrier indenture in 1960. In England, farriers must undergo a four-year study followed by two years of service as a journeyman. In his 40-year career, Duckett has been honored as British, international, and world horseshoeing champion.

Duckett indicated that farriery is the "mother" to the profession of veterinary science. "It goes back a lot further than veterinary medicine," he noted, and is the basis of the veterinary practice. King Charles I in 1770 chartered the practice. In the bill itself, farriers are

already exempt — but, to the bafflement of the farriers, with limits on top of the exemption.

"Why would they place limits on something already exempt for more than 100 years?" said Duckett.

And with the new modalities, Duckett said none of them are taught in vet schools in America.

Those questions would have to be worked out.

According to several legislators, the bill's intent was to more clearly define the role of veterinarian. The bill amends the existing act of Dec. 27, 1974 (P.L. 995, No. 326), to further define the rights, privileges, and powers for the treatment of animals.

Some legislators believe the existence of the bill, according to Rep. Sheila Miller (R-129th), a co-sponsor, is to ward off those who

(Turn to Page A25)

AGRIPRO VARIETY  
**PATTON**


THE HIGH YIELD LEADER TAKING OVER THE SOFT WHEAT BELT

**Characteristics**

- High yielding
- Proven scab resistance
- Complete disease package
- Broad adaptation
- Very good resistance to soil viruses
- Medium maturity

**Management**

- Top performance in varied environments
- Very good no-till choice



AGRIPRO VARIETY  
**FOSTER**

GO ANYWHERE CONSISTENT PERFORMER

- Broad adaptation • Good disease package
- Scab tolerance

Developed by the University of Kentucky

AGRIPRO VARIETY  
**ELKHART**

THE HEAVYWEIGHT EARLY PERFORMER

- High test weight • Broad adaptation
- Good winterhardness

AGRIPRO VARIETY  
**SAWYER**

THE GO-ANYWHERE PERFORMER

- High yield potential • Broad adaptation
- Early maturity

**AgriPro**  
WHEAT

For more information, please contact your local AgriPro Wheat Associate, or call 877 WHEATAP