

AN ACT

relating to the confidentiality of certain information held by a veterinarian.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 801.353, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d-1) and (g) and amending Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(d-1) The privilege provided by this section is waived by the client or the owner of the animal treated by the veterinarian in a proceeding to substantiate and collect on a debt incurred for veterinary services.

(f) A veterinarian does not violate this section by providing the name or address of a client, or the rabies vaccination status of a specific client's specific animal, to a public health authority, veterinarian, [ex] physician, or other licensed health care professional who requests the identity of the client to obtain information for:

(1) the verification of a rabies vaccination; ~~[ex]~~

(2) other treatment involving a life-threatening situation; or

(3) a public health purpose.

(g) A public health authority that receives information under Subsection (f) shall maintain the confidentiality of the information, may not disclose the information under Chapter 552,

1 Government Code, and may not use the information for a purpose that
2 does not directly relate to the protection of public health and
3 safety.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 413 was passed by the House on April 7, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 413 on May 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 413 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 16, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor