From: Feli Noeller
To: Rep. Mike Clampitt
Subject: NCVMB Proposed Practice Act Change
Date: Sunday, January 03, 2021 10:04:00 PM

Dear Representative Clampitt,

The NCVMB (North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board) will be presenting a proposal to the NC Legislature in the upcoming legislative session asking to change the NC veterinary practice act. Specifically, they propose that artificial insemination of companion animals (dogs and horses) should become a procedure that can only be performed by veterinarians. This proposal was voted on by the veterinary medical board without input of the veterinary community, but only as a result of a handful of anecdotal comments. The purpose for this proposed change is the necessity that only experienced and trained individuals should perform this procedure, but it will have the opposite effect.

As a practicing licensed veterinarian in NC, I am opposed to this change in the practice act. I am also a reputable dog breeder and exhibitor and offer reproductive services to those clients who request these services. The vast majority of my veterinary colleagues have no knowledge of nor interest in providing reproductive services. Even with my extensive training in reproductive medicine, I frequently refer patients to and rely on the expertise and services of a reproductive practice that is owned and operated by highly skilled and highly trained reproductive specialists that are not veterinarians. This proposed legislation will not only force the three NC reproductive practices to close, but will eliminate the availability of an invaluable service for many of my clients.

My communications with the president of the NCVMB confirm that the goal of this proposed change is to prevent untrained and unskilled individuals from performing AI (artificial insemination). However, this proposed change will result in the exact opposite, it will force veterinarians, the vast majority of whom have never been trained in and who have never performed this procedure, to inseminate animals. Furthermore, it will force reputable preservation breeders to once again resort to the 20 year old practice of shipping dogs across country to a suitable stud dog, in order to be inseminated naturally. Shipping dogs endangers their lives, and forcing reputable breeders to rely on natural insemination will re-introduce sexually transmitted diseases that were so common when I started breeding dogs 30 years ago, these diseases having now been all but eliminated from the vast majority of valuable breeding lines. We have come a long way in being able to ship fresh semen overnight and being able to freeze semen of valuable stud dogs.

As an aside, this legislation does not include the food and fiber industry (cattle, swine, goat, sheep, poultry). Farm workers will still be allowed to perform artificial insemination regardless of skill or training.

The proposed legislation is not in the best interest of the veterinary community nor is it in the best interest of preservation breeders. Please do not allow this proposal to change the veterinary practice act to go through. I am asking you to vote against this proposal.

Sincerely,
Feli Noeller, DVM
Veterinarian/Owner

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Sent from my iPad