SYNOPSIS
Requires veterinarians at for-profit veterinary facilities to provide written notification concerning absence of supervision after normal business hours; designated as “Betsy’s Law.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Substitute as adopted by the Senate.
SS for S903 HOLZAPFEL

AN ACT concerning after normal business hours supervision of
domestic companion animals at for-profit veterinary facilities,
designated as Betsy’s Law, and supplementing Title 45 of the
Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. a. Every veterinary facility in the State shall post its normal
business hours in a conspicuous location easily visible to the public.
b. (1) A veterinarian overseeing the care of a domestic
companion animal at a veterinary facility that does not provide
domestic companion animals with supervision after normal business
hours by a person physically on the premises shall provide written
notification to each person bringing a domestic companion animal
to the veterinary facility for care or treatment. The written
notification may be provided as a sign posted next to the posting
required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, as part of a sign
used to meet the posting requirement of that subsection, or on an
intake form provided to each person bringing a domestic companion
animal to the veterinary facility.

(2) The written notification provided in accordance with
paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include the following specific
language:

“This veterinary facility does NOT
provide supervision for animals after
normal business hours by a person
physically on these premises.”

This language shall be printed in no less than 12-point font in an
intake form and no less than 24-point font on a posted sign.
c. As used in this section:
“Domestic companion animal” means any animal commonly
referred to as a “pet,” which has been bought, bred, raised or
otherwise acquired, in accordance with local ordinances and State
and federal law, for the primary purpose of providing
companionship to the owner, rather than for business or agricultural
purposes.
“Normal business hours” means the times posted at a veterinary
facility indicating the hours that the veterinary facility is open for
business with supervising staff available.
“Veterinarian” means any person engaged in the licensed
practice of veterinary medicine as defined by R.S.45:16-8.1.
“Veterinary facility” means any place or establishment, operated
on a for-profit basis, where a domestic companion animal, which is
not owned by either the proprietor or care-giving veterinarian, is
treated, temporarily sheltered, fed, and watered for veterinary care purposes. “Veterinary facility” may include an animal or veterinary facility as defined in section I of P.L.1983, c. 98 (C.45:16-1.1).

d. A veterinarian who fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this section shall be subject to a public reprimand by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and any other penalties the board imposes.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This floor substitute, designated as “Betsy’s Law,” requires a veterinarian at a veterinary facility to provide written notification to a pet owner if a pet receiving care or treatment at the veterinary facility will not be supervised after normal business hours by a person physically on the premises.

The floor substitute requires every veterinary facility in the State to post its normal business hours in a conspicuous location that is easily visible to the public. The floor substitute specifies that the required written notification concerning the lack of supervision of a pet after normal business hours may be provided as a sign, part of a sign, or on an intake form, with the following specific language:

“This veterinary facility does NOT provide supervision for animals after normal business hours by a person physically on these premises.”

The bill specifies this language must be printed in no less than 12-point font in an intake form and no less than 24-point font on a posted sign.

Finally, the floor substitute provides that a veterinarian who refuses or fails to comply with the floor substitute’s requirements is subject to a public reprimand by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, and any other penalties the board imposes.