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To: House Agriculture Committee Members  
From: Dr. Karen Bradley, Government Relations Committee Chair  
Re: H.347, Veterinary Dentistry  
Date: January 24, 2014

I thought the information below and examples of other state regulations governing veterinary dentistry might be helpful to you when considering this legislation. I would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to call (223-6675 work or 272-6442 cell) or email ([karenbdvm@yahoo.com](mailto:karenbdvm@yahoo.com)) me at any time.

**State summary report of the authority of veterinary technicians and other non-veterinarians to perform dental procedures:** AVMA October 2013  
<https://www.avma.org/Advocacy/StateAndLocal/Pages/sr-dental-procedures.aspx>

### **Definition of Dentistry**

#### **As proposed in H. 347:**

(9) "Dental operation" means:

(A) The application or use of any instrument or device to any portion of an animal's tooth, gum or any related tissue for the prevention, cure or relief of any wound, fracture, injury or disease of an animal's tooth, gum or related tissue; and

(B) Preventive dental procedures including, but not limited to, the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, stains or the smoothing, filing or polishing of tooth surfaces.

(C) Nothing in this regulation shall prohibit, however, any person from utilizing cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes or similar items to clean an animal's teeth.

#### **Colorado**

A. "Dentistry" means:

1. The diagnosing, treating, correcting, changing, relieving, or preventing abnormalities of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area or associated structures, including surgical, non-surgical or related procedures;
2. The application or use of any instrument or device to any portion of an animal's tooth, gum, or any related tissue for the prevention, cure, or relief of any wound, fracture, injury, or disease of an animal's tooth, gum, or related tissue;
3. Preventive dental procedures including, but not limited to the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, stains, or the smoothing, filing, or polishing of tooth surfaces.
4. Utilization of cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, or toothbrushes on an animal's teeth is not included in this definition.

## California

The term "dental operation" as used in Business and Professions Code section 4826 means:

(1) The application or use of any instrument or device to any portion of an animal's tooth, gum or any related tissue for the prevention, cure or relief of any wound, fracture, injury or disease of an animal's tooth, gum or related tissue; and

(2) Preventive dental procedures including, but not limited to, the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, stains or the smoothing, filing or polishing of tooth surfaces.

(3) Nothing in this regulation shall prohibit, however, any person from utilizing cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice, toothbrushes or similar items to clean an animal's teeth.

## Idaho

13) "Dentistry" is the practice of veterinary medicine and means the application or use of any instrument or device to any portion of an animal's tooth, gum or any related tissue for the prevention, cure or relief of any wound, fracture, injury, disease or other condition of an animal's tooth, gum or related tissue. Dentistry includes, but is not limited to:

(a) "Preventive dental procedures" including, but not limited to, the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, stains, and floating to shape the teeth above the gum line or the smoothing, filing or polishing of tooth surfaces above the gum line; and

(b) "Operative dentistry/oral surgery" or any other dental procedure that invades the hard or soft oral tissue including a procedure that alters the structure of one (1) or more teeth, or repairs damaged and diseased teeth, or the deliberate extraction of one (1) or more teeth.

Limited exemption for cotton gauze, etc.: (u) Any person from utilizing cotton swabs, gauze, dental floss, dentifrice or toothbrushes to clean an animal's teeth.

## Dentistry in the Definition of the Practice of Veterinary Medicine in New England States

### Massachusetts

"Veterinary medicine", means and includes veterinary surgery, obstetrics, dentistry, and all other branches or specialties of veterinary medicine.

### Maine

Practice of veterinary medicine. "Practice of veterinary medicine" means:

A. The diagnosis, treatment, correction, change, relief or prevention of animal disease, deformity, defect, injury or other physical or mental condition, including the prescription or administration of a drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic or other imaging, therapeutic or diagnostic technique or nutritional substance or technique on, for or to any animal, including, but not limited to, acupuncture, dentistry, homeopathic or chiropractic procedures, physical or massage therapy, surgery including cosmetic surgery, implanting of microchips or similar devices or any manual, mechanical, biological or chemical procedure used for pregnancy testing or correcting sterility or infertility;

### Connecticut

**Sec. 20-197. License required. Practice defined.** No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry until he has obtained a license as provided in section 20-199. A person shall be construed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter, who holds himself out as being able to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition, or who either offers or undertakes, by any means or methods, to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition.

### **Rhode Island**

1.8 "Practice of veterinary medicine" means any person shall be regarded as practicing veterinary medicine, surgery and **dentistry** within the meaning of the Act who, either directly or indirectly, does any of the following:

(1) represents himself/herself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary surgery, or **veterinary dentistry** in any of its branches;

### **New Hampshire – not in definition**