



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

2017 Wisconsin Act 166 [2017 Senate Bill 435]	Rendering First Aid to Animals
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Current law generally prohibits the practice of veterinary medicine without a license or temporary permit to practice veterinary medicine. 2017 Wisconsin Act 166 provides an exception to this prohibition that authorizes an emergency medical technician (EMT) or first responder to render first aid service to a domestic animal under certain circumstances.

Under the Act, an EMT or first responder who, in the course of responding to a call for service, encounters a domestic animal that is sick or injured may render any first aid service to the domestic animal before the animal is transferred to a veterinarian for further treatment if the first aid service is in the scope of practice of the license or certification of that EMT or first responder when applied to human beings. The Act also provides that an ambulance service provider, EMT, or first responder is immune from civil or criminal liability for any outcomes resulting from rendering first aid to an animal or from declining to render first aid to an animal.

Effective date: March 30, 2018

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.