



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5804

LCO No. 3106

03106_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING EUTHANIZING DOGS AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEARINGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-358 of the 2006 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

4 (a) Any owner or the agent of any owner of any domestic animal or
5 poultry, or the Chief Animal Control Officer or any animal control
6 officer or any municipal animal control officer, regional animal control
7 officer or any police officer or state policeman, may kill any dog which
8 he observes pursuing or worrying any such domestic animal or
9 poultry.

10 (b) Any person who is bitten, or who shows visible evidence of
11 attack by a dog, cat or other animal when such person is not upon the
12 premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal may
13 kill such dog, cat or other animal during such attack. Such person shall
14 make complaint concerning the circumstances of the attack to the Chief
15 Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or the municipal

16 animal control officer or regional animal control officer of the town
17 wherein such dog, cat or other animal is owned or kept. Any such
18 officer to whom such complaint is made shall immediately make an
19 investigation of such complaint.

20 (c) If such officer finds that the complainant has been bitten or
21 attacked by such dog, cat or other animal when the complainant was
22 not upon the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other
23 animal the officer shall quarantine such dog, cat or other animal in a
24 public pound or order the owner or keeper to quarantine it in a
25 veterinary hospital, kennel or other building or enclosure approved by
26 the commissioner for such purpose. When any dog, cat or other animal
27 has bitten a person on the premises of the owner or keeper of such
28 dog, cat or other animal, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
29 control officer, any municipal animal control officer or regional animal
30 control officer may quarantine such dog, cat or other animal on the
31 premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal. The
32 commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control
33 officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional animal
34 control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or
35 disposal of any biting dog, cat or other animal as the commissioner or
36 such officer deems necessary. Notice of any such order shall be given
37 to the person bitten by such dog, cat or other animal within twenty-
38 four hours. The owner of such animal shall pay all fees as set forth in
39 section 22-333. On the fourteenth day of such quarantine the dog, cat
40 or other animal shall be examined by the commissioner or someone
41 designated by the commissioner to determine whether such quarantine
42 shall be continued or removed. Whenever any quarantine is ordered
43 under the provisions of this section, notice thereof shall be given to the
44 commissioner and to the person bitten or attacked by such dog, cat or
45 other animal within twenty-four hours. Any owner or keeper of such
46 dog, cat or other animal who fails to comply with such order shall be
47 fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars or imprisoned not more
48 than thirty days or both. If an owner or keeper fails to comply with a
49 quarantine or restraining order made pursuant to this subsection, the

50 Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer, any
51 municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer may
52 seize the dog, cat or other animal to insure such compliance and the
53 owner or keeper shall be responsible for any expenses resulting from
54 such seizure. Any person aggrieved by an order of any municipal
55 animal control officer, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
56 control officer or any regional animal control officer may request a
57 hearing before the commissioner within fourteen days of the issuance
58 of such order. After such hearing, the commissioner may affirm,
59 modify or revoke such order as the commissioner deems proper. Any
60 dog owned by a police agency of the state or any of its political
61 subdivisions is exempt from the provisions of this subsection when
62 such dog is under the direct supervision, care and control of an
63 assigned police officer, has been vaccinated annually and is subject to
64 routine veterinary care.

65 (d) Any dog, while actually worrying or pursuing deer, may be
66 killed by the Chief Animal Control Officer or an animal control officer
67 or by a conservation officer or special conservation officer appointed
68 by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or by any police
69 officer or state policeman. The owner or keeper of any dog found
70 worrying or pursuing a deer shall be fined not less than twenty-five
71 dollars nor more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more
72 than sixty days or both.

73 (e) Any person who kills any dog, cat or other animal in accordance
74 with the provisions of this section shall not be held criminally or civilly
75 liable therefor.

76 (f) The owner of any dog, cat or other animal which has bitten or
77 attacked a person and has been quarantined pursuant to subsection (c)
78 of this section may authorize the humane euthanization of such dog,
79 cat or other animal by a licensed veterinarian at any time before the
80 end of the fourteenth day of such quarantine. Any such dog, cat or
81 other animal so euthanized before the end of the fourteenth day of

82 quarantine shall be examined for rabies by the Connecticut
83 Department of Public Health virology laboratory or any other
84 laboratory authorized by the Department of Public Health to perform
85 rabies examinations. The veterinarian performing the euthanasia shall
86 be responsible for ensuring that the head of the euthanized animal is
87 delivered by him or his designated agent within forty-eight hours to an
88 appropriate laboratory designated by said department for rabies
89 examination.

90 (g) Repealed by P.A. 05-175, S. 24.

91 (h) If any dog bites another dog, the Chief Animal Control Officer,
92 any animal control officer or any regional animal control officer may
93 authorize the humane euthanization of the dog that has bitten another
94 dog only after a hearing before the commissioner and only after the
95 commissioner has authorized the euthanization of the dog.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2006	22-358

Statement of Purpose:

To require a hearing prior to euthanizing a dog that has attacked another dog.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]