



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 5827**

LCO No. 2797

\*02797 \_\_\_\_\_ ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL SHELTERS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 22-327 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Animal" means any brute creature, including, but not limited to,  
5 dogs, cats, monkeys, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, birds and reptiles;

6 (2) "Animal shelter" means a facility used to house ten or more  
7 animals over six months of age for the purpose of rescue or adoption;

8 [(2)] (3) "Chief Animal Control Officer", "Assistant Chief Animal  
9 Control Officer" and "animal control officer" mean, respectively, the  
10 Chief State Animal Control Officer, the Assistant Chief State Animal  
11 Control Officer and a state animal control officer appointed under  
12 section 22-328;

13 [(3)] (4) "Commercial kennel" means a kennel maintained for  
14 boarding or grooming dogs or cats, and includes, but is not limited to,

15 any veterinary hospital which boards or grooms dogs or cats for  
16 nonmedical purposes;

17 [(4)] (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;

18 [(5)] (6) "Grooming facility" means any place, other than a  
19 commercial kennel, which is maintained as a business where dogs are  
20 groomed;

21 [(6)] (7) "Keeper" means any person, other than the owner,  
22 harboring or having in his possession any dog;

23 [(7)] (8) "Kennel" means one pack or collection of dogs which are  
24 kept under one ownership at a single location and are bred for show,  
25 sport or sale;

26 [(8)] (9) "Municipal animal control officer" means any such officer  
27 appointed under the provisions of section 22-331;

28 [(9)] (10) "Pet shop" means any place at which animals not born and  
29 raised on the premises are kept for the purpose of sale to the public;

30 [(10)] (11) "Poultry" means all domestic fowl and any pheasants or  
31 other game birds securely confined and lawfully owned and possessed  
32 by any person under the provisions of section 26-40;

33 [(11)] (12) "Regional animal control officer" and "assistant regional  
34 animal control officer" means a regional Connecticut animal control  
35 officer and an assistant regional Connecticut animal control officer  
36 appointed under the provisions of section 22-331a; and

37 [(12)] (13) "Training facility" means any place, other than a  
38 commercial kennel or grooming facility, which is maintained as a  
39 business where dogs are trained.

40 Sec. 2. Section 22-342 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
41 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

42 (a) Any owner or keeper of a kennel who breeds more than two  
43 litters of dogs annually shall apply to the town clerk in the town in  
44 which such kennel is located for a kennel license. Any owner or keeper  
45 of a kennel who breeds not more than two litters of dogs annually may  
46 apply to the town clerk of the town in which such kennel is located for  
47 a kennel license. For the purposes of this section, annually shall refer to  
48 the kennel license year which begins July first. Such town clerk shall  
49 issue to such applicant a kennel license on a form prescribed by the  
50 commissioner for a period from the date of such application until the  
51 thirtieth day of the ensuing June. The license shall specify the name  
52 and number of the kennel, the name of the owner and the name of the  
53 keeper and shall be in lieu of any other license required for any dog of  
54 either sex which may be kept in such kennel during the period for  
55 which the license is issued. Each license may be renewed from year to  
56 year by the town clerk upon application of such owner or keeper. Each  
57 such owner or keeper shall cause to be kept, upon each dog in such  
58 kennel, while it is at large, a collar or harness of leather or other  
59 suitable material, to which collar or harness shall be securely attached  
60 a tag or plate upon which shall appear the number of the kennel  
61 license, the name of the town issuing the license and the year of  
62 license. Such plates or tags shall be furnished by the town clerk of the  
63 town in which such kennel is licensed, at a cost of ten cents each, in  
64 such numbers, not fewer than the number of dogs kept in such kennel,  
65 and at such time as the licensee may request. The fee for each kennel  
66 license, when no more than ten dogs are kept in the kennel, shall be  
67 fifty dollars, and for a license for a kennel containing more than ten  
68 dogs, the fee shall be one hundred dollars, except that in the case of a  
69 kennel started after the first day of July, the license fee for the  
70 remainder of the year shall be a proportional part of the fee charged  
71 for one year. If the owner or keeper of any established kennel fails to  
72 obtain the kennel license on or before June thirtieth, he shall pay one  
73 dollar for each dog kept therein, in addition to the regular kennel fee.

74 (b) All animal shelters shall be registered annually with the town  
75 clerk in the town in which the animal shelter is located. For the

76 purposes of this section, "annually" shall mean a registration year that  
77 begins July first. The animal shelter registration issued by the town  
78 clerk shall be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and shall be  
79 valid from the date of the application until the thirtieth day of the  
80 following June. The registration shall specify the name of the owner or  
81 keeper and the location of the animal shelter. The registration may be  
82 renewed from year to year by the town clerk upon application of the  
83 owner or keeper of the animal shelter. The fee for each animal shelter  
84 registration shall be twenty-five dollars. Twelve dollars and fifty cents  
85 shall be deposited into the animal population control fund established  
86 pursuant to section 22-380g and the balance shall be paid to the town  
87 treasurer or other proper fiscal officer, to be deposited in the town's  
88 dog fund established pursuant to section 22-347.

89 [(b)] (c) The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer or any  
90 state animal control officer may at any time inspect any kennel,  
91 including all facilities of any kennel in which dogs are bred or housed  
92 or any animal shelter, including all facilities of a shelter in which  
93 animals are housed, or cause [it] such kennel or animal shelter to be  
94 inspected by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian appointed by the  
95 commissioner. If, in the judgment of the commissioner, such kennel or  
96 animal shelter is not being maintained in good repair and in a sanitary  
97 and humane manner or if the commissioner finds that communicable  
98 or infectious disease or other unsatisfactory conditions exist in the  
99 kennel [, he] or animal shelter, the commissioner may issue such  
100 orders as [he] the commissioner deems necessary for the correction of  
101 such conditions and may quarantine the premises and animals. If the  
102 owner or keeper of such kennel or animal shelter fails to comply with  
103 such orders, the commissioner shall revoke or suspend the kennel  
104 license or animal shelter registration of such owner or keeper.

105 [(c)] (d) Any person aggrieved by any order issued under the  
106 provisions of this section may appeal to the Superior Court in  
107 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

108        [(d)] (e) Any person [maintaining] owning or operating a kennel or  
 109        animal shelter after such license or registration has been revoked or  
 110        suspended as [herein] provided in this section shall be fined not more  
 111        than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or  
 112        both.

113        [(e)] (f) Any owner or keeper of a kennel who breeds more than two  
 114        litters of dogs annually [and] or any owner or keeper who operates an  
 115        animal shelter that (1) fails to apply for a [kennel] license as required  
 116        [in subsection (a) of] in this section, or (2) fails to allow an inspection of  
 117        such facility as required in subsection [(b)] (c) of this section shall be  
 118        fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than  
 119        one year, or both.

120        Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2008) The provisions of section 22-  
 121        327 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and section 22-342  
 122        of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall not apply to  
 123        municipal and state operated facilities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2008	22-327
Sec. 2	October 1, 2008	22-342
Sec. 3	October 1, 2008	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To protect the health and welfare of animals housed in animal shelters.

*[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.]*