



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Raised Bill No. 783**

LCO No. 2751

\*02751\_\_\_\_\_ENV\*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION.***

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 Section 22-327 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 July 1, 2009*):

3 As used in this chapter and in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act:

4 (1) "Adoption import permit" means a document issued by the  
5 Commissioner of Agriculture to a person, partnership, corporation,  
6 association, limited liability company, corporation or other entity  
7 responsible for arranging or implementing the importation of any dog  
8 or cat into the state for the purposes of adoption or relocation for  
9 adoption within the state;

10 [(1)] (2) "Animal" means any brute creature, including, but not  
11 limited to, dogs, cats, monkeys, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, birds  
12 and reptiles;

13 (3) "Animal isolation facility" means a building or structure  
14 approved by the commissioner that is used to house dogs and cats

15 imported into the state for the purpose of adoption and where such  
16 dogs and cats are segregated from the state's resident animal  
17 population.

18 [(2)] (4) "Chief Animal Control Officer", "Assistant Chief Animal  
19 Control Officer" and "animal control officer" mean, respectively, the  
20 Chief State Animal Control Officer, the Assistant Chief State Animal  
21 Control Officer and a state animal control officer appointed under  
22 section 22-328;

23 [(3)] (5) "Commercial kennel" means a kennel maintained for  
24 boarding or grooming dogs or cats, and includes, but is not limited to,  
25 any veterinary hospital which boards or grooms dogs or cats for  
26 nonmedical purposes;

27 [(4)] (6) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;

28 [(5)] (7) "Grooming facility" means any place, other than a  
29 commercial kennel, which is maintained as a business where dogs are  
30 groomed;

31 (8) "Importer" means any person, partnership, corporation,  
32 association, limited liability company or corporation or other entity  
33 responsible for arranging or implementing the movement of a dog or  
34 cat either internationally or from another state into this state for the  
35 purpose of adoption or relocation for adoption.

36 [(6)] (9) "Keeper" means any person, other than the owner,  
37 harboring or having in his possession any dog;

38 [(7)] (10) "Kennel" means one pack or collection of dogs which are  
39 kept under one ownership at a single location and are bred for show,  
40 sport or sale;

41 [(8)] (11) "Municipal animal control officer" means any such officer  
42 appointed under the provisions of section 22-331;

43        [(9)] (12) "Pet shop" means any place at which animals not born and  
44 raised on the premises are kept for the purpose of sale to the public;

45        [(10)] (13) "Poultry" means all domestic fowl and any pheasants or  
46 other game birds securely confined and lawfully owned and possessed  
47 by any person under the provisions of section 26-40;

48        [(11)] (14) "Regional animal control officer" and "assistant regional  
49 animal control officer" means a regional Connecticut animal control  
50 officer and an assistant regional Connecticut animal control officer  
51 appointed under the provisions of section 22-331a;

52        [(12)] (15) "Training facility" means any place, other than a  
53 commercial kennel or grooming facility, which is maintained as a  
54 business where dogs are trained.

55        Sec. 2. Section 22-344 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
56 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

57        (a) No person shall maintain a commercial kennel until he has  
58 obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such kennel  
59 under such regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation,  
60 disease and humane treatment of dogs or cats and the protection of the  
61 public safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of  
62 one hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be  
63 effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided the  
64 commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with  
65 and (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the  
66 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such kennel is  
67 to be maintained has certified that the kennel conforms to the  
68 municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed annually,  
69 not later than December thirty-first, in accordance with the provisions  
70 of this section, and may be transferred by the licensee to another  
71 premises upon approval of the commissioner.

72        (b) No person shall maintain a pet shop until he has obtained from

73 the commissioner a license to maintain such pet shop under such  
74 regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and  
75 humane treatment of animals and the protection of the public safety.  
76 Upon written application and the payment of a fee of two hundred  
77 dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be effective until  
78 the ensuing December thirty-first provided the commissioner finds (1)  
79 that such regulations have been complied with and (2) in the case of  
80 each initial application for such license, that the zoning enforcement  
81 official of the municipality wherein such pet shop is to be maintained  
82 has certified that the pet shop conforms to the municipal zoning  
83 regulations. Such pet shop license may be transferred by the licensee to  
84 another premises upon the approval of the commissioner. The  
85 commissioner, after consultation with the Commissioners of Public  
86 Health and Environmental Protection, shall establish and maintain,  
87 pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54, a list of  
88 animals which are deemed to be injurious to the health and safety of  
89 the public or whose maintenance in captivity is detrimental to the  
90 health and safety of the animal. The sale or offer of sale of any animal  
91 which is on said list is prohibited and any person who violates this  
92 provision shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

93 (c) No person shall engage in the business of grooming or  
94 maintaining a grooming facility until such person has obtained from  
95 the commissioner a license to maintain such facility under such  
96 regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and  
97 humane treatment of such animals and the protection of the public  
98 safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of one  
99 hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be  
100 effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided the  
101 commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with,  
102 and (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the  
103 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such  
104 grooming is to be maintained has certified that the facility conforms to  
105 the municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed  
106 annually, not later than December thirty-first, in accordance with the

107 provisions of this section, and may be transferred by the licensee to  
108 other premises upon approval of the commissioner.

109 (d) No person shall maintain a training facility until such person has  
110 obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such facility  
111 under such regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation,  
112 disease and humane treatment of such animals and the protection of  
113 public safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of  
114 one hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be  
115 effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided the  
116 commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with  
117 and (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the  
118 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such training  
119 facility is to be maintained has certified that the facility conforms to the  
120 municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed annually  
121 upon the terms required for the original license and may be transferred  
122 by the licensee to another premises upon approval of the  
123 commissioner.

124 (e) No person shall maintain an animal isolation facility until such  
125 person has obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such  
126 facility under such regulations as the commissioner may provide as to  
127 sanitation, disease and humane treatment of such animals and the  
128 protection of public safety. Upon written application and the payment  
129 of a fee of one hundred dollars per year, the commissioner shall issue a  
130 license to be effective until the ensuing December thirty-first provided  
131 that prior to the issuance of such license the commissioner finds (1)  
132 that all applicable laws and regulations have been complied with, and  
133 (2) in the case of each initial application for such license, that the  
134 zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein such animal  
135 isolation facility is to be maintained has certified that the facility  
136 conforms to the municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be  
137 renewed annually upon the terms required for the original license and  
138 may be transferred by the licensee to another premises upon approval  
139 by the commissioner.

140 [(e)] (f) The commissioner may, at any time, inspect or cause to be  
141 inspected by his agents any such animal isolation facility, commercial  
142 kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility, and if, in his  
143 judgment such animal isolation facility, kennel, pet shop, grooming  
144 facility or training facility is not being maintained in a sanitary and  
145 humane manner or in a manner that protects the public safety, or if he  
146 finds that contagious, infectious or communicable disease or other  
147 unsatisfactory conditions exist, he may issue such orders as he deems  
148 necessary for the correction of such conditions and may quarantine the  
149 premises and animals. If the owner or keeper of such animal isolation  
150 facility, kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility fails to  
151 comply with the regulations or orders of the commissioner, or fails to  
152 comply with any provision of the statutes or regulations relating to  
153 dogs or other animals, the commissioner may revoke or suspend such  
154 license. Any person aggrieved by any order issued under the  
155 provisions of this section may appeal therefrom in accordance with the  
156 provisions of section 4-183. Any person maintaining any animal  
157 isolation facility, commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or  
158 training facility without having obtained a license for the same or after  
159 any such license has been revoked or suspended as provided herein  
160 shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars. The provisions of  
161 this section shall not apply to veterinary hospitals, except those  
162 boarding or grooming dogs for nonmedical purposes, and other  
163 establishments where all the dogs or animals were born and raised on  
164 the premises where they are kept for sale.

165 (f) The provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section  
166 requiring certification by the zoning enforcement official that every  
167 commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility and training facility  
168 conforms to the zoning regulations of the municipality wherein such  
169 kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility is maintained  
170 shall not apply to any person who is licensed under said subsections  
171 and maintained any such kennel, pet shop or grooming facility prior to  
172 October 1, 1977, provided such person does not relocate such kennel,  
173 pet shop, grooming facility or training facility in a zone in which such

174 kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility is not a  
175 permitted use. In addition, the provisions of said subsections requiring  
176 certification by the zoning enforcement official that every commercial  
177 kennel, pet shop, grooming facility and training facility conforms to  
178 the zoning regulations of the municipality wherein such kennel, pet  
179 shop, grooming facility or training facility is maintained shall not  
180 apply when a zone in which such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility  
181 or training facility is maintained is changed to a use which does not  
182 permit such kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility in  
183 such zone.

184       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) Each person, partnership,  
185 corporation, association, limited liability company or corporation or  
186 other entity importing into this state any dog or cat for the purposes of  
187 adoption or relocation for adoption shall meet all requirements of  
188 section 22-354 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and, in  
189 addition, shall cause each dog or cat to be accompanied with an  
190 adoption import permit issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture, in  
191 a form prescribed by the commissioner, not more than fourteen days  
192 prior to the entry of such dog or cat into the state. Each animal  
193 imported shall be uniquely identified with a microchip and a  
194 corresponding visible tag displaying the microchip number. Each  
195 permit shall state the importer's name, address and phone number and  
196 the animal's species, gender, age, breed, color, microchip identifier  
197 number, state or country of origin, and the name and address of the  
198 designated animal isolation facility.

199       (b) The commissioner may refuse to grant an adoption import  
200 permit for any dog or cat if the commissioner determines that such dog  
201 or cat may have been exposed to any infectious or contagious disease  
202 or if such dog or cat is from any country, state or geographic location  
203 subject to disease-related quarantine. The commissioner may, at any  
204 time, revoke an adoption import permit previously issued and then  
205 outstanding for the importation of any dog or cat into this state if the  
206 commissioner determines that such dog or cat may have been exposed

207 to any infectious or contagious disease or if such dog or cat is from any  
208 country, state or geographic location subject to a disease-related  
209 quarantine. The commissioner and the state shall not be liable for any  
210 damages caused by such revocation.

211 (c) The commissioner may, in his discretion, revoke any adoption  
212 import permit for cause, including, but not limited to, a determination  
213 by the commissioner that the permit holder is in violation of section  
214 53-247 or 22-354 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

215 (d) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction  
216 for the first offense and such person shall be fined not more than one  
217 hundred dollars or imprisoned not more that thirty days, or both. For  
218 each subsequent offense, such person shall be fined not more that one  
219 thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

220 (e) The commissioner may make any order he or she deems  
221 necessary to prevent the spread of any infectious or contagious disease  
222 or to prevent the illegal treatment of any dog or cat imported into the  
223 state for adoption or relocation for adoption.

224 (f) An adoption import permit shall not be required for the  
225 importation of any dog or cat into the state by a person for the purpose  
226 of adoption or relocation of such dog or cat for such person's  
227 individual or familial ownership within the state.

228 (g) Nothing in this section shall prevent the commissioner from  
229 seeking any other remedy provided by law.

230 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) An animal isolation facility  
231 shall provide a quarantine room used exclusively for the purposes of  
232 isolating any dog or cat being imported into the state for adoption or  
233 relocation for adoption. Such room shall: (1) Be physically separate  
234 from any other room used to maintain other animals or from any  
235 human living area, (2) be completely enclosed by walls that extend  
236 from floor to ceiling, (3) be equipped with adequate ventilation to

237 allow fresh air to circulate into the room, and (4) be equipped with a  
238 sink having hot and cold running water, to be used exclusively for  
239 cleaning and maintenance of the room, the dogs or cats and the  
240 equipment and utensils housed and used in such room. The  
241 quarantine room and its contents shall be thoroughly cleaned and  
242 disinfected before receiving any new shipment of animals imported for  
243 adoption purposes after all animals from any previous shipment have  
244 been removed from such room. Such room shall not be used to house  
245 or maintain other animals, for storage, as a restroom, as a public access  
246 area or for any other such purpose.

247 (b) The importer of any dog or cat transported into the state for the  
248 purposes of adoption or relocation for adoption shall, within twenty-  
249 four hours after the arrival of such dog or cat at an animal isolation  
250 facility, give notice in writing to the commissioner. Such notice shall  
251 state the importer's name, address and phone number and the animal's  
252 adoption import permit number, species, gender, age, breed, color,  
253 microchip identifier number, state or country of origin, and the name  
254 of the animal isolation facility where the animal was taken.

255 (c) Each dog or cat or group of dogs or cats arriving into the state  
256 under the same adoption import permit number shall be isolated in a  
257 quarantine room by the animal isolation facility licensee from any  
258 member of the state's resident animal population for a minimum of  
259 forty-eight hours prior to its release for adoption. An animal isolation  
260 facility licensee shall maintain records of each animal so isolated.  
261 These records shall include the adoption import permit number, a  
262 copy of the interstate or international health certificate, the rabies  
263 vaccination certificate, if age appropriate, the species, gender, age,  
264 breed, color, microchip identifier number, importer's name, address,  
265 and phone number, the animal's state or country of origin, and the  
266 animal's release date and disposition upon release. No other dog or cat  
267 being imported into the state in the same shipment for adoption or  
268 relocation for adoption shall be placed in the quarantine room until all  
269 animals in any previous shipment have been released.

270 (d) An animal isolation facility licensee shall provide for  
271 examination of each dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed under  
272 chapter 384 of the general statutes. The animal isolation facility  
273 licensee shall maintain a record of the veterinary services rendered for  
274 each dog or cat housed at such facility. Each animal shall be certified  
275 by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 of the general statutes to  
276 be in good health and, when age appropriate, shall be vaccinated  
277 against rabies and issued a rabies vaccination certificate prior to  
278 release from the facility. A copy of all medical records of each animal  
279 shall be made available to the Commissioner of Agriculture upon  
280 request and to the new owner upon adoption. No dog or cat shall be  
281 released from an animal isolation facility prior to receipt of a health  
282 certificate issued by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 of the  
283 general statutes.

284 (e) The Commissioner of Agriculture may make any order he or she  
285 deems necessary to prevent the spread of any infectious or contagious  
286 disease or to prevent the illegal treatment of any dog or cat imported  
287 into the state for adoption or relocation for adoption.

288 (f) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Commissioner of  
289 Agriculture from seeking any other remedy provided by law.

290 (g) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction  
291 for the first offense and such person shall be fined not more than one  
292 hundred dollars or imprisoned not more that thirty days, or both. For  
293 each subsequent offense, such person shall be fined not more that one  
294 thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

295 Sec. 5. Section 22-354 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
296 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

297 Any dog or cat imported into this state for any purpose shall be  
298 accompanied by [a] an official certificate of health issued no earlier  
299 than thirty days prior to the date of importation by a licensed,  
300 graduate veterinarian stating that such dog or cat is free from

301 [symptoms] clinical signs of any infectious, contagious or  
 302 communicable disease, and that such dog or cat, if three months of age  
 303 or older, is currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. A  
 304 copy of such official health certificate shall be forwarded promptly to  
 305 the commissioner from the [livestock sanitary] animal health official of  
 306 the state of origin. Any dog or cat originating from a rabies quarantine  
 307 area must have permission of the State Veterinarian prior to  
 308 importation into this state. No person, firm or corporation shall import  
 309 or export for the purposes of sale, adoption or relocation for adoption  
 310 or offering for sale, adoption or relocation for adoption any dog or cat  
 311 under the age of eight weeks unless such dog or cat is transported with  
 312 its dam and no person, firm or corporation shall sell or offer for  
 313 adoption or relocation for adoption within the state any dog or cat  
 314 under the age of eight weeks. Any person, firm or corporation  
 315 violating the provisions of this section or bringing any dog or cat into  
 316 this state from an area under quarantine for rabies shall be fined not  
 317 more than [one] five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than  
 318 thirty days or both.

319 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) Animals imported into the state  
 320 for the purposes of adoption or sale shall not be eligible for  
 321 participation in the animal population control program established  
 322 pursuant to section 22-380g of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	22-327
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	22-344
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	22-354
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To protect the state's human and animal populations and to protect animals imported into the state for adoption.

*[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.]*