



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5323

LCO No. 1443

01443_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING BITING DOGS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 22-358 of the 2012 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

4 (c) (1) If such officer finds that the complainant has been bitten or
5 attacked by such dog, cat or other animal when the complainant was
6 not upon the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other
7 animal the officer shall quarantine such dog, cat or other animal in a
8 public pound or order the owner or keeper to quarantine it in a
9 veterinary hospital, kennel or other building or enclosure approved by
10 the commissioner for such purpose. When any dog, cat or other animal
11 has bitten a person on the premises of the owner or keeper of such
12 dog, cat or other animal, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
13 control officer, any municipal animal control officer or regional animal
14 control officer may quarantine such dog, cat or other animal on the
15 premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal. The
16 commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control

17 officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional animal
18 control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or
19 disposal of any biting dog, cat or other animal as the commissioner or
20 such officer deems necessary. Notice of any such order shall be given
21 to the person bitten by such dog, cat or other animal within twenty-
22 four hours. The owner of such animal shall pay all fees as set forth in
23 section 22-333. On the fourteenth day of such quarantine the dog, cat
24 or other animal shall be examined by the commissioner or someone
25 designated by the commissioner to determine whether such quarantine
26 shall be continued or removed. Whenever any quarantine is ordered
27 under the provisions of this section, notice thereof shall be given to the
28 commissioner and to the person bitten or attacked by such dog, cat or
29 other animal within twenty-four hours.

30 (2) A Chief Animal Control Officer, animal control officer,
31 municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer who
32 finds that the complainant has been bitten or attacked by a dog may, in
33 lieu of a quarantine or an order under subdivision (1) of this
34 subsection, order (A) the dog and owner or keeper to complete a six-
35 week or longer dog obedience school program, (B) the owner or keeper
36 to install a physical barrier around a part of the premises of the owner
37 where the dog can be contained, (C) that the dog be moved to another
38 location approved by the officer, where an attack on a person would be
39 very unlikely due to the rural nature of the other location or fencing on
40 the location, or (D) that the dog be muzzled when not on the premises
41 of the owner or keeper of the dog.

42 (3) Any owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal who fails
43 to comply with [such] an order under this subsection shall be fined not
44 more than two hundred fifty dollars or imprisoned not more than
45 thirty days or both. If an owner or keeper fails to comply with a
46 quarantine or restraining order made pursuant to this subsection, the
47 Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer, any
48 municipal animal control officer or regional animal control officer may
49 seize the dog, cat or other animal to insure such compliance and the

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	22-358(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To provide additional options for animal control officers to respond to incidents of attacks or biting by dogs.

[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.]