



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 253

LCO No. 1280

01280_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE ANIMAL IMPORTATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 22-344 of the 2012 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (e) (1) No animal importer shall import any dog or cat into this state
5 until such person registers as an animal importer with the
6 commissioner. Such registration shall be on a form as prescribed by the
7 commissioner. Such registration shall require the submission of the
8 following information: (A) The name, mailing address, business
9 address, telephone number and Internet address of such registrant, (B)
10 if such registrant is domiciled out-of-state, the name, Connecticut
11 address and phone number of a Connecticut-based agent for service of
12 process, and (C) the number of animals brought into the state during
13 the prior year by such animal importer and the state or country of
14 origin for each such animal. Such registration shall be accompanied by
15 payment of a fee of one hundred dollars and shall be valid until the
16 December thirty-first following such registration. Such registration

17 shall be renewed annually, in accordance with the provisions of this
18 subsection, provided the commissioner determines that such registrant
19 complies with any requirements provided by the commissioner as to
20 the health, safety and humane treatment of animals that is applicable
21 to animal importers. Such registration shall not be required for any
22 employee or volunteer of a registered animal importer or other person
23 who is required to be licensed pursuant to the provisions of this
24 chapter, provided such employee, volunteer or other person is not
25 otherwise an animal importer. Any person who violates the provisions
26 of this subdivision shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

27 (2) Any animal importer who intends to offer for sale, adoption or
28 transfer any imported dog or cat at a venue or location that is open to
29 the public or at an outdoor location, including, but not limited to, a
30 parking lot or shopping center, shall provide notice to the Department
31 of Agriculture and the municipal zoning enforcement officer of the
32 town where any such sale, adoption or transfer will occur, not later
33 than ten days prior to such event. Such notice shall state the date for
34 such sale, adoption or transfer event, the exact location of such event
35 and the anticipated number of animals for sale, adoption or transfer at
36 such event. Any person who fails to provide notice as required
37 pursuant to this subdivision shall be fined not more than one hundred
38 dollars per animal that is offered for sale, adoption or transfer at such
39 event.

40 (3) For the purpose of this subsection, "animal importer" means a
41 person who brings or accepts any dog or cat into this state from any
42 other sovereign entity with the intent and for the purpose of offering
43 such dog or cat to any person for sale, adoption or transfer, after such
44 dog or cat enters the state, in exchange for any fee, [sale,] voluntary
45 contribution, service or [any] other consideration, including, but not
46 limited to, ["Animal importer" includes] any commercial or nonprofit
47 animal rescue or adoption, humane relocation or delivery organization
48 that is not otherwise required to be licensed under the provisions of
49 this chapter.

50 (4) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to apply
51 to any animal importer who offers a dog or cat for sale to a pet shop
52 that is licensed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of
53 this section, provided such animal is delivered directly to a pet shop.

54 (5) The Commissioner of Agriculture may inspect any animal
55 imported by an animal importer or any record required to be kept by
56 such animal importer, provided such inspection shall not authorize the
57 entry of the commissioner into the residence of such animal importer.

58 Sec. 2. Section 22-344f of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes
59 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
60 *from passage*):

61 [(a) Any animal importer, as defined in section 22-344, shall, not
62 later than forty-eight hours after importing any dog or cat into this
63 state and prior to the sale, adoption or transfer of such dog or cat to
64 any person, provide for the examination of such dog or cat by a
65 veterinarian licensed under chapter 384. Thereafter, such animal
66 importer shall provide for the examination of such dog or cat by a
67 veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 every ninety days until such
68 dog or cat is sold, adopted or transferred, provided no such]

69 (a) No dog or cat imported into this state by an animal importer, as
70 defined in section 22-344, as amended by this act, shall be sold,
71 adopted or transferred to another person by [an] such animal importer
72 unless [(1) such dog or cat was examined by] a veterinarian licensed
73 under chapter 384 examines such dog or cat not more than fifteen days
74 prior to [the] such sale, adoption or transfer of such dog or cat [,] and
75 [(2)] such veterinarian determines that [provides such animal importer
76 with a written certificate stating that] such dog or cat is free of any
77 symptoms of any illness, infectious, contagious or communicable
78 disease. [Such certificate] The veterinary record of any such
79 examination shall list the name, address and contact information of
80 such animal importer. Any animal importer who violates the
81 provisions of this subsection shall be fined not more than five hundred

82 dollars for each animal that is the subject of such violation.

83 (b) Each animal importer shall maintain a record of the veterinary
84 services rendered to each dog or cat imported into this state by such
85 animal importer. Such record shall be maintained by such animal
86 importer for a period of three years. Any animal importer who violates
87 the provisions of this subsection shall be fined five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-344(e)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-344f

Statement of Purpose:

To revise the definition of "animal importer" to exclude any person who adopts a cat or dog while such animal is still out-of-state and to reduce the frequency of required veterinary examinations of imported cats or dogs prior to the sale, adoption or transfer of such animals.

[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.]