



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

***Raised Bill No. 6591***

LCO No. 4114



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE EUTHANIZATION OF ANY CAT OR DOG TO BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding any  
2 provision of the general statutes, whenever any cat or dog is  
3 euthanized, such euthanization shall be performed in a humane  
4 manner by a licensed veterinarian, provided nothing in this section  
5 shall be construed to limit the euthanization of any cat or dog as  
6 provided in section 22-358 of the general statutes. Nothing in this  
7 section shall be deemed to apply to the euthanization of any farm  
8 animal or livestock, to the euthanization of any cat or dog by any law  
9 enforcement officer in the course of his or her duties or by the  
10 Connecticut Humane Society.

11 Sec. 2. Section 20-197 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
12 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

13 (a) No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or  
14 dentistry [until he] or shall euthanize an animal, except as provided in

15 subsection (b) of this section, until such person has obtained a license  
16 as provided in section 20-199. A person shall be construed to practice  
17 veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry, within the meaning of this  
18 chapter, who holds himself or herself out as being able to diagnose,  
19 administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or  
20 bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition, or who  
21 either offers or undertakes, by any means or methods, to diagnose,  
22 administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any animal or  
23 bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition. The  
24 [euthanizing of animals in accordance with applicable state and federal  
25 drug laws by the Connecticut Humane Society, the] floating of teeth in  
26 horses by persons experienced in that practice and the performance of  
27 myofascial trigger point therapy by persons experienced in that  
28 practice shall not be deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine.  
29 For the purposes of this section, "floating teeth" means using hand-  
30 held rasps to reduce or eliminate sharp or uneven edges on a horse's  
31 upper and lower molars to avoid injury to the tongue and cheeks and  
32 to improve chewing food, but does not include treating decay or  
33 tumors or extracting teeth. For the purposes of this section, "myofascial  
34 trigger point therapy" means the use of specific palpation,  
35 compression, stretching and corrective exercise for promoting  
36 optimum athleticism, and "persons experienced in that practice" means  
37 persons who, prior to October 1, 2003, have attended a minimum of  
38 two hundred hours of classroom, lecture and hands-on practice in  
39 myofascial trigger point therapy, including animal musculoskeletal  
40 anatomy and biomechanics, theory and application of animal  
41 myofascial trigger point techniques, factors that habituate a presenting  
42 condition and corrective exercise.

43 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the killing or  
44 euthanizing of a dog or cat pursuant to section 22-358, the killing or  
45 euthanizing of any farm animal or livestock or the euthanizing of an  
46 animal by the Connecticut Humane Society.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	20-197

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require, in most circumstances, that euthanasia of a dog or cat be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

*[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.]*