



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Committee Bill No. 5707

LCO No. 4965



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES THAT CONDUCT RESEARCH USING CATS OR DOGS TO OFFER SUCH CATS OR DOGS TO ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS PRIOR TO EUTHANIZING ANY SUCH CAT OR DOG AND PROVIDING FOR THE PROPER SHELTERING OF DOGS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, "animal adoption or animal rescue organization" means any
3 collaboration of individuals or any nonprofit organization that is
4 exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
5 Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal
6 revenue code of the United States, as amended from time to time that
7 has, as part of such collaboration's or organization's purposes, the sale
8 or placement of animals that were removed from animal shelters,
9 municipal dog pounds or an individual's home.

10 (b) Each constituent unit of the state system of higher education,
11 each public institution of higher education and each independent
12 institution of higher education shall offer for adoption by an animal
13 adoption or animal rescue organization any cat or dog that such

14 constituent unit or institution of higher education possesses for the
15 purpose of conducting research or testing provided such offer occurs
16 after the completion of any such research or testing, such research or
17 testing does not require the destruction of such cat or dog and such
18 animal is no longer needed by such constituent unit or institution of
19 higher education. Any constituent unit of higher education or
20 institution of higher education that is required to offer a cat or dog for
21 adoption pursuant to this section may enter into an agreement with an
22 animal adoption or animal rescue organization for the purpose of
23 complying with the provisions of this section.

24 Sec. 2. Section 22-350a of the general statutes is repealed and the
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

26 (a) No person shall tether a dog to a stationary object or to a mobile
27 device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley by means of:
28 (1) A tether that does not allow such dog to walk at least eight feet,
29 excluding the length of such dog as measured from the tip of such
30 dog's nose to the base of such dog's tail, in any one direction, (2) a
31 tether that does not have swivels on both ends to prevent twisting and
32 tangling, unless a person is in the presence of such dog, (3) a coat
33 hanger, choke collar, prong-type collar, head halter or any other collar,
34 halter or device that is not specifically designed or properly fitted for
35 the restraint of such dog, (4) a tether that has weights attached or that
36 contains metal chain links more than one-quarter of an inch thick, or
37 (5) a tether that allows such dog to reach an object or hazard,
38 including, but not limited to, a window sill, edge of a pool, fence,
39 public road or highway, porch or terrace railing that poses a risk of
40 injury or strangulation to such dog if such dog walks into or jumps
41 over such object or hazard, unless a person is in the presence of such
42 dog. The provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall
43 not be construed to apply to: (A) Any veterinary practice licensed
44 pursuant to section 20-197 that tethers a dog in the course of such
45 veterinary practice, (B) any exhibition, show, contest or other
46 temporary event in which the skill, breeding or stamina of such dog is

47 judged or examined, (C) any exhibition, class, training session or other
48 temporary event in which such dog is used in a lawful manner to hunt
49 a species of wildlife during the hunting season for such species of
50 wildlife or in which such dog receives training in a lawful manner to
51 hunt such species of wildlife, (D) the temporary tethering of a dog at
52 any camping or recreation area as expressly authorized by the
53 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or (E) the
54 temporary tethering of a dog at a grooming facility in the course of
55 grooming such dog.

56 (b) [No person shall tether a dog outdoors to a stationary object or
57 to a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or a pulley,
58 when a weather advisory or warning is issued by local, state or federal
59 authorities or when outdoor environmental conditions, including, but
60 not limited to, extreme heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or hail, pose an
61 adverse risk to the health or safety of such dog based on such dog's
62 breed, age or physical condition, unless tethering is for a duration of
63 not longer than fifteen minutes.] When a weather advisory or warning
64 is issued by local, state or federal authorities or when outdoor
65 environmental conditions, including, but not limited to, extreme heat,
66 cold, wind, rain, snow, ice, sleet or hail pose an adverse risk to the
67 health or safety of a dog based on such dog's age, physical condition or
68 the length or thickness of such dog's hair or fur, no person shall: (1)
69 Tether a dog outdoors to a stationary object or to a mobile device,
70 including, but not limited to, a trolley or a pulley, or (2) place such dog
71 outdoors without readily available access to proper shelter unless such
72 tethering or placement is for a duration of not longer than fifteen
73 minutes.

74 (c) No person shall confine a dog in any cage or any other structure
75 unless such structure constitutes a proper shelter.

76 (d) For purposes of this section, "proper shelter" means any
77 structure that: (1) Has four walls and a roof and is of sound
78 construction such that the walls and roof will not sag or collapse on the

79 confined dog and the floor of such structure will not sag or collapse
80 beneath the weight of the confined dog, (2) provides sufficient space
81 such that the confined dog is able to stand up, turn around and lie
82 down with limbs outstretched, (3) provides adequate protection from
83 outdoor environmental conditions, including, but not limited to, a
84 windbreak in such structure's doorway and dry bedding of a kind and
85 quantity appropriate to the health and safety needs of the confined dog
86 based on the confined dog's age and physical condition and the length
87 and thickness of such confined dog's hair or fur, (4) provides a
88 reasonably sanitary, obstruction-free and habitable environment such
89 that snow, ice, rain water and water from other sources, excreta and
90 any other waste or debris have not excessively accumulated inside,
91 underneath, or within ten feet, on all sides, of such structure, (5)
92 provides the confined dog with easy access to a regular diurnal
93 lighting cycle of either natural or artificial light and to water that is
94 sanitary and in a liquid state, and (6) contains flooring that does not
95 consist of dirt or coated or uncoated wire, and that does not permit the
96 paws of the confined dog to pass through any opening in such
97 flooring. "Proper shelter" does not include any structure with an
98 appearance that indicates the inadequacy of such structure by: (A) The
99 small or excessive size of such structure, (B) a lack of structural
100 soundness of such structure, (C) the use of poor or inappropriate
101 construction materials for such structure, (D) the absence of insulation
102 or dry bedding sufficient to protect the confined dog from outdoor
103 environmental conditions, (E) evidence of crowding or unsanitary
104 conditions within or outside such structure, or (F) the appearance or
105 physical condition of the confined dog.

106 [(c)] (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any
107 protection afforded to any dog pursuant to any other provision of the
108 general statutes, regulations of the Connecticut state agencies, local
109 ordinance or local regulation.

110 [(d)] (f) Any person who confines or tethers a dog for an
111 unreasonable period of time or in violation of the provisions of

112 subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall have committed an infraction
113 and shall be fined one hundred dollars for the first offense, two
114 hundred dollars for a second offense, and not less than two hundred
115 fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars for a third or
116 subsequent offense. Each day that a person violates the provisions of
117 this section shall constitute a separate offense.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2015	22-350a

Statement of Purpose:

To require state and private colleges and universities that use cats or dogs in laboratory research or testing to offer such cats or dogs for adoption by animal rescue organizations after such testing and to establish standards for the provision of proper shelter to 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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.; REP. KUPCHICK, 132nd Dist.
REP. HENNESSY, 127th Dist.

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