



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 6504***

LCO No. 3878



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE.***

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 22-327 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (1) "Animal" means any [brute creature, including, but not limited to,  
5 dogs, cats, monkeys, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, birds and reptiles]  
6 domestic animal bred, born and raised in captivity including, but not  
7 limited to, any cat, dog or other companion animal that may be kept in  
8 a home such as a ferret, rabbit, hamster, guinea pig, livestock, as defined  
9 in section 22-381, poultry and any bird, amphibian, fish or reptile  
10 offered for sale by a pet shop;

11 Sec. 2. Subdivision (10) of section 22-327 of the general statutes is  
12 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
13 *passage*):

14 (10) "Poultry" [means all domestic fowl and any pheasants or other  
15 game birds securely confined and lawfully owned and possessed by any

16 person under the provisions of section 26-40] has the same meaning as  
17 provided in section 22-326s;

18 Sec. 3. Section 22-327 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
19 subdivision (13) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

20 (NEW) (13) "Service animal" has the same meaning as provided in 28  
21 C.F.R. 35.104 and includes any animal in training to become a service  
22 animal.

23 Sec. 4. Section 22-329 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

25 [The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal  
26 control officer, any municipal] Any animal control officer or regional  
27 animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331, as  
28 amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this act, as applicable,  
29 or any law enforcement officer may interfere to prevent any act of  
30 cruelty upon any dog or other animal, and any person who interferes  
31 with or obstructs or resists [the commissioner or] any such officer in the  
32 discharge of such duty shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

33 Sec. 5. Section 22-329a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
34 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

35 (a) [The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or  
36 any municipal or regional animal control officer] Any animal control  
37 officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section  
38 22-328, 22-331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this  
39 act, as applicable, may take physical custody of any animal when such  
40 animal control officer has reasonable cause to believe that such animal  
41 is in imminent harm and is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of  
42 section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or  
43 53-252, and, not later than ninety-six hours after taking physical  
44 custody, shall proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section,  
45 except that if, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State  
46 Veterinarian, at any time after physical custody of such animal is taken,

47 such animal is so injured or diseased that it should be [destroyed]  
48  euthanized immediately, such officer may [humanely destroy or cause  
49 such animal to be humanely destroyed]  have such animal humanely  
50  euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

51 (b) [The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or  
52 any municipal or regional animal control officer]  Any animal control  
53  officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section  
54  22-328, 22-331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this  
55  act, as applicable, may take physical custody of any animal upon  
56 issuance of a warrant finding probable cause that such animal is  
57 neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-  
58 247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or 53-252, and shall  
59 thereupon proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section except  
60 that if, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian,  
61 at any time after physical custody of such animal is taken, such animal  
62 is so injured or diseased that it should be [destroyed]  euthanized  
63 immediately, such officer may [humanely destroy or cause such animal  
64 to be humanely destroyed]  have such animal humanely euthanized by  
65  a licensed veterinarian.

66 (c) Such officer shall file with the superior court which has venue over  
67 such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford  
68 at Hartford a verified petition plainly stating such facts of neglect or  
69 cruel treatment as to bring such animal within the jurisdiction of the  
70 court and praying for appropriate action by the court in accordance with  
71 the provisions of this section. Upon the filing of such petition, the court  
72 shall cause a summons to be issued requiring the owner or owners or  
73 person having responsibility for the care of the animal, if known, to  
74 appear in court at the time and place named.

75 (d) If physical custody of an animal has been taken pursuant to  
76 subsection (a) or (b) of this section and it appears from the allegations of  
77 the petition filed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and other  
78 affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided subsequent  
79 thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the animal's condition

80 or the circumstances surrounding its care require that temporary care  
81 and custody be immediately assumed to safeguard its welfare, the court  
82 shall either (1) issue an order to show cause why the court should not  
83 vest in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private agency  
84 or person the animal's temporary care and custody pending a hearing  
85 on the petition, or (2) issue an order vesting in some suitable state,  
86 municipal or other public or private agency or person the animal's  
87 temporary care and custody pending a hearing on the petition. A  
88 hearing on the order issued by the court pursuant to subdivision (1) or  
89 (2) of this subsection shall be held not later than fourteen days after the  
90 issuance of such order. The service of such order may be made by any  
91 officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or  
92 indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours  
93 prior to the date and time of such hearing. If the owner or owners or  
94 person having responsibility for the care of the animal is not known,  
95 notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given by publication  
96 in a newspaper having a circulation in the town in which such officer  
97 took physical custody of such animal not less than forty-eight hours  
98 prior to the date and time of such hearing.

99 (e) If physical custody of an animal has not been taken pursuant to  
100 subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and [the Chief Animal Control  
101 Officer, any animal control officer or any municipal or regional animal  
102 control] such officer has reasonable cause to believe that an animal is  
103 neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-  
104 247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or 53-252, such [animal  
105 control] officer may file a petition with the superior court which has  
106 venue over such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district  
107 of Hartford at Hartford, plainly stating such facts of neglect or cruel  
108 treatment as to bring the animal within the jurisdiction of the court and  
109 praying for appropriate action by the court to ensure the welfare of the  
110 animal including, but not limited to, physical removal and temporary  
111 care and custody of the animal, authorization of an animal control  
112 officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section  
113 22-328, 22-331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this  
114 act, as applicable, or a licensed veterinarian to provide care for the

115 animal on site, vesting of ownership of the animal, the posting of a bond  
116 in accordance with subsection (f) of this section and the assessment of  
117 costs in accordance with subsection (h) of this section. Upon the filing of  
118 such petition, the court shall cause a summons for an order to show  
119 cause to be issued requiring the owner or owners or person having  
120 responsibility for the care of the animal, if known, to appear in court at  
121 the time and place named. If the owner or owners or person having  
122 responsibility for the care of the animal is not known, notice of the time  
123 and place of the hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper  
124 having a circulation in the town where the animal is located not less than  
125 forty-eight hours prior to the date and time of the hearing. If it appears  
126 from the allegations of the petition filed pursuant to this subsection and  
127 other affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided  
128 subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the  
129 animal's condition or the circumstances surrounding its care require the  
130 immediate removal of the animal from the owner or owners or person  
131 having responsibility for the care of the animal to safeguard its welfare,  
132 the court shall issue an order vesting in some suitable state, municipal  
133 or other public or private agency or person the animal's temporary care  
134 and custody pending a hearing on the petition which hearing shall be  
135 held not later than ten days after the issuance of such order for such  
136 temporary care and custody. The service of such order may be made by  
137 any officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or  
138 indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours  
139 prior to the date and time of such hearing.

140 (f) If the court issues an order vesting the animal's temporary care  
141 and custody in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private  
142 agency or person, the owner or owners shall either relinquish  
143 ownership of the animal or post a surety bond or cash bond with the  
144 agency or person in whom the animal's temporary care and custody was  
145 vested. The surety bond or cash bond shall be in the amount of five  
146 hundred dollars for each animal placed in the temporary care or custody  
147 of such agency or person and shall secure payment for the reasonable  
148 expenses of the agency or person having temporary care and custody of  
149 the animal in caring and providing for such animal until the court makes

150 a finding as to the animal's disposition under subsection (g) of this  
151 section. The requirement that a bond be posted may be waived if such  
152 owner provides satisfactory evidence that such owner is indigent and  
153 unable to pay for such bond.

154 (g) (1) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is neglected or  
155 cruelly treated, it shall vest ownership of the animal in any state,  
156 municipal or other public or private agency which is permitted by law  
157 to care for neglected or cruelly treated animals or with any person found  
158 to be suitable or worthy of such responsibility by the court.

159 (2) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is so injured or  
160 diseased that it should be [~~destroyed~~] humanely euthanized, the court  
161 may order that such animal be humanely [~~destroyed~~] euthanized by a  
162 licensed veterinarian.

163 (3) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is not neglected or  
164 cruelly treated, it may cause the animal to be returned to its owner or  
165 owners or person having responsibility for its care or, if such owner or  
166 owners or person is unknown or unwilling to resume caring for such  
167 animal, it may vest ownership of the animal in any state, municipal or  
168 other public or private agency or person found to be suitable or worthy  
169 of such responsibility.

170 (4) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (1) or (2) of this  
171 subsection less than thirty days after the issuance of an order of  
172 temporary care and custody and the owner of the animal has posted a  
173 bond, the agency or person with whom the bond was posted shall return  
174 the balance of such bond, if any, to the owner. The amount of the bond  
175 to be returned to the owner shall be calculated at the rate of fifteen  
176 dollars per day per animal or twenty-five dollars per day per animal if  
177 the animal is a horse or other large livestock for the number of days less  
178 than thirty that such agency or person has not had temporary care and  
179 custody of the animal less any veterinary costs and expenses incurred  
180 for the welfare of the animal.

181 (5) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (3) of this

182 subsection after the issuance of an order of temporary care and custody  
183 and the owner of the animal has posted a bond, the agency or person  
184 with whom the bond was posted shall return such bond to such owner.

185 (h) If the court finds that the animal is neglected or cruelly treated,  
186 the expenses incurred by the state or a municipality in providing proper  
187 food, shelter and care to an animal it has taken custody of under  
188 subsection (a) or (b) of this section and the expenses incurred by any  
189 state, municipal or other public or private agency or person in providing  
190 temporary care and custody pursuant to an order vesting temporary  
191 care and custody, calculated at the rate of fifteen dollars per day per  
192 animal or twenty-five dollars per day per animal if the animal is a horse  
193 or other large livestock until the date ownership is vested pursuant to  
194 subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section shall be paid by the  
195 owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the  
196 animal. In addition, all veterinary costs and expenses incurred for the  
197 welfare of the animal that are not covered by the per diem rate shall be  
198 paid by the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the  
199 animal.

200 (i) If the court vests ownership of the animal in the Commissioner of  
201 Agriculture or a municipality, the commissioner or the municipality  
202 may conduct or participate in a public auction of the animal under such  
203 conditions the commissioner or the municipality deems necessary or the  
204 commissioner or the municipality may consign the animal to an auction  
205 or sell the animal through an open advertised bid process whereby bid  
206 price and demonstration of sufficient knowledge and ability to care for  
207 such animal are factors for the commissioner's or municipality's  
208 consideration. All moneys collected from the sale of animals sold by the  
209 Commissioner of Agriculture through such open advertised bid process  
210 shall be deposited in the animal abuse cost recovery account established  
211 in subsection (j) of this section. All moneys collected from the sale of  
212 animals sold by a municipality through such open advertised bid  
213 process shall be deposited by the town treasurer or other fiscal officer in  
214 the town's general fund. The commissioner or the municipality may also  
215 vest ownership of any such animal in an individual or a public or private

216 nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization.

217 (j) There is established a separate, nonlapsing account within the  
218 General Fund, to be known as the "animal abuse cost recovery account".  
219 All moneys collected from sales at public auction of animals seized by  
220 the Department of Agriculture pursuant to this section shall be  
221 deposited into the account. Deposits of moneys may be made into the  
222 account from public or private sources, including, but not limited to, the  
223 federal government or municipal governments.

224 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any  
225 moneys received by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to  
226 subsection (j) of this section shall be deposited in the General Fund and  
227 credited to the animal abuse cost recovery account. The account shall be  
228 available to the Commissioner of Agriculture for the purpose of the  
229 housing, care and welfare of any animal seized by the department, until  
230 final disposition of such animal. Additionally, the account may be used  
231 for the purpose of providing reimbursement to any municipality for the  
232 costs of providing temporary care to such animal if such temporary care  
233 exceeded thirty days in duration and such costs exceeded the amount of  
234 any surety bond or cash bond posted pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
235 section provided the total annual reimbursement to municipalities from  
236 said account for such purpose shall not exceed twenty-five thousand  
237 dollars. Nothing in this section shall prevent the commissioner from  
238 obtaining or using funds from sources other than the account for the  
239 housing, care and welfare of any animal seized by the department  
240 pursuant to this section.

241 Sec. 6. Section 22-331 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
242 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

243 (a) In each municipality of the state having a population of more than  
244 twenty-five thousand which has adopted the provisions of chapter 113,  
245 or otherwise provided for a merit system for its employees, the chief of  
246 police, or such other appointing authority as the charter may designate,  
247 shall, appoint a full-time municipal animal control officer and such  
248 assistants as are deemed necessary, subject to the provisions of said



249 chapter 113 or other merit system, to administer and enforce the laws  
250 relating to dogs or other domestic animals. Any person so appointed  
251 may be or become a member of the police department and for such  
252 purpose the legislative body of such municipality may waive any  
253 requirements as to age, sex, physical condition, education and training  
254 applicable to other members of the police department. Any person so  
255 appointed as a member of the police department shall be fully eligible  
256 to participate in the retirement system of such department.

257 (b) Except as provided in section 22-331a, as amended by this act, the  
258 chief or superintendent of police in each other city or town having a  
259 police department and the selectmen or chief executive officer in each  
260 town which has no police department, or such other appointing  
261 authority as the charter of such town may designate, in their respective  
262 jurisdictions, shall appoint a municipal animal control officer and such  
263 assistants as are deemed necessary to administer and enforce the laws  
264 relating to dogs and other [domestic] animals. Such officer and  
265 assistants shall have such qualifications as the commissioner may  
266 prescribe and shall serve for a term of at least one year.

267 (c) Each appointment made under the provisions of this section shall  
268 be reported promptly to the commissioner. Each person appointed  
269 under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall, and any  
270 person appointed under the provisions of subsection (b) of this section  
271 may, be paid a salary and expenses in lieu of the fees provided in section  
272 22-334 and the amount thereof shall be transferred from the dog fund  
273 account to the appropriation of the proper department.

274 (d) The municipal animal control officer so appointed in any [city]  
275 municipality the limits of which are not coterminous with those of the  
276 [town] municipality in which it is located shall have authority as such  
277 municipal animal control officer throughout such town, and the town  
278 treasurer or other fiscal officer shall annually reimburse the [city]  
279 municipality, from the dog fund account, for the salaries and expenses  
280 of such officer or his or her assistants. The municipal animal control  
281 officer so appointed in any town having a borough within its limits shall

282 have authority as such municipal animal control officer throughout the  
283 limits of such town. If, in any [city or town] municipality, the officer or  
284 officers charged with such duty fail to report such appointment, the  
285 commissioner shall notify such officer or officers to make and report  
286 such appointment within ten days of receipt of such notification, and, if  
287 such appointment is not made within such time, the commissioner shall  
288 appoint a municipal animal control officer for such [city or town]  
289 municipality.

290 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any  
291 special act, municipal charter or ordinance, any chief elected official of  
292 any municipality or a regional animal control facility may appoint, on a  
293 temporary basis not to exceed ninety days, any animal control officer or  
294 regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331, as  
295 amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this act, as applicable,  
296 to act as an animal control officer in such municipality or region. Any  
297 animal control officer or regional animal control officer who provides  
298 services pursuant to an appointment made in accordance with this  
299 subsection shall have all the powers and authority granted to such  
300 animal control officer in the municipality or region in which such officer  
301 is appointed. Any such appointment made pursuant to this section shall  
302 be made in writing and be approved by each of the chief elected officials  
303 of the municipalities affected by such appointment and by each regional  
304 animal control facility that is affected by such appointment. Such  
305 written appointment shall include, at a minimum, information  
306 concerning the compensation to be paid to such officer, insurance  
307 provided to such officer and the use of equipment, if any for such officer.  
308 The Commissioner of Agriculture shall be notified, in writing, of any  
309 such appointment made pursuant to this subsection not later than five  
310 days following such appointment.

311 Sec. 7. Section 22-331a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
312 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

313 Any two or more towns each of which has a population of less than  
314 fifty thousand, and which have or will provide a dog pound facility

315 within their region, by action of their [legislative bodies] board of  
316 selectmen, town council or other governing body, may agree to be  
317 served by a regional animal control officer. Upon certification of such  
318 agreement to the commissioner with assurances from the towns so  
319 certifying that they will provide and continue to provide adequate  
320 facilities and compensation for such officer, the commissioner may, after  
321 giving due regard to the regional aspects of the proposed facilities and  
322 whether the proposed region would be in the best interests of the towns  
323 so certifying, establish such region. Each person so appointed shall have  
324 the same powers and duties within the region to which he is assigned  
325 as a municipal animal control officer in each town therein. All costs of  
326 maintaining and operating such pounds and administering and  
327 enforcing the laws relating to dogs within such regions shall be paid in  
328 accordance with the provisions of the agreement certified to the  
329 commissioner under this section. Any pound facility operated pursuant  
330 to this section shall meet the construction, maintenance and sanitation  
331 standards established pursuant to section 22-336 and any regulations  
332 adopted pursuant to said section, including, but not limited to,  
333 standards for the handling and transportation of dogs and other  
334 domestic animals.

335 Sec. 8. Section 22-332 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
336 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

337 (a) [The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or  
338 any municipal animal control officer] Any animal control officer or  
339 regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-  
340 331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this act, as  
341 applicable, shall be responsible for the enforcement of this chapter and  
342 shall make diligent search and inquiry for any violation of any of its  
343 provisions. Any such officer may take into custody (1) any dog found  
344 roaming in violation of the provisions of section 22-364, (2) any dog not  
345 having a tag or plate on a collar about its neck or on a harness on its  
346 body as provided by law or which is not confined or controlled in  
347 accordance with the provisions of any order or regulation relating to  
348 rabies issued by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of

349 this chapter, or (3) any dog or other [domestic] animal found injured on  
350 any highway, neglected, abandoned or cruelly treated. The officer shall  
351 impound such dog or other [domestic] animal at the pound serving the  
352 town where the dog or other [domestic] animal is taken unless, in the  
353 opinion of a licensed veterinarian, the dog or other [domestic] animal is  
354 so injured or diseased that it should be [destroyed]  euthanized  
355 immediately, in which case the municipal animal control officer of such  
356 town may [cause the dog or other domestic animal to be mercifully  
357 killed]  have such dog or other animal humanely euthanized by a  
358 licensed veterinarian or disposed of as the State Veterinarian may direct.  
359 The [municipal animal control] officer shall immediately notify the  
360 owner or keeper of any dog or other [domestic] animal so taken, if  
361 known, of its impoundment. [Such officer shall immediately notify the  
362 owner or keeper of any other domestic animal which is taken into  
363 custody, if such owner or keeper is known.] If the owner or keeper of  
364 any such dog or other domestic animal is unknown, the officer shall  
365 immediately tag or employ [such] other suitable means of official  
366 identification of the dog or other domestic animal [as may be approved  
367 by the Chief Animal Control Officer] and shall promptly cause (A) a  
368 description of such dog or other domestic animal to be published once  
369 in the lost and found column of a newspaper having a circulation in such  
370 town or that has a state-wide circulation, and (B) a photograph or  
371 description of such dog or other domestic animal and the date on which  
372 such dog or other domestic animal is no longer legally required to be  
373 impounded to be posted on a national pet adoption Internet web site or  
374 an Internet web site that is maintained or accessed by the animal control  
375 officer and that is accessible to the public through an Internet search,  
376 except such posting shall not be required if: (i) The dog or other  
377 domestic animal is held pending the resolution of civil or criminal  
378 litigation involving such dog or other domestic animal, (ii) the officer  
379 has a good faith belief that the dog or other domestic animal would be  
380 adopted by or transferred to a public or private nonprofit rescue  
381 organization for the purpose of placing such dog or other domestic  
382 animal in an adoptive home even in the absence of such posting, (iii) the  
383 dog or other domestic animal's safety will be placed at risk, or (iv) such

384 animal control officer determines that such dog or other domestic  
385 animal is feral and not adoptable. If any animal control officer does not  
386 have the technological resources to post such information on an Internet  
387 web site as required by subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, such  
388 officer may contact a public or private animal rescue organization and  
389 request that such organization post such information, at such  
390 organization's expense, on an Internet web site that is accessible to the  
391 public through an Internet search. To the extent practicable, any such  
392 posting by an animal control officer or a public or private animal rescue  
393 organization shall remain posted for the duration of such dog's or other  
394 domestic animal's impoundment in the municipal or regional dog  
395 pound.

396 (b) If such dog or other domestic animal is not claimed by and  
397 released to the owner within seven days after the date of publication,  
398 [the municipal animal control] such officer, upon finding such dog or  
399 other [domestic] animal to be in satisfactory health, may have a licensed  
400 veterinarian spay or neuter such dog and sell such dog or other  
401 [domestic] animal to any person who satisfies such officer that such  
402 person is purchasing such dog or other [domestic] animal as a pet and  
403 that such person can give it a good home and proper care. [The  
404 municipal animal control] Such officer may retain possession of such  
405 dog or other domestic animal for such additional period of time as such  
406 [animal control] officer may deem advisable in order to place such dog  
407 or other [domestic] animal as a pet and may have a licensed veterinarian  
408 spay or neuter such dog. If, within such period, any dog or other  
409 domestic animal is not claimed by and released to the owner or keeper  
410 or purchased as a pet, the officer shall cause such dog or other  
411 [domestic] animal to be [mercifully killed] humanely euthanized by a  
412 licensed veterinarian or disposed of as the State Veterinarian may direct.  
413 Any veterinarian who so [destroys] euthanizes a dog shall be paid from  
414 the dog fund account. No person who [so destroys] euthanizes a dog or  
415 other [domestic] animal shall be held criminally or civilly liable therefor  
416 nor shall any licensed veterinarian who spays or neuters a dog pursuant  
417 to this section be held civilly liable, [including, but not limited to,  
418 liability for reconstructive neutilical implantation surgery.]

419 (c) The town treasurer or other fiscal officer shall pay from the dog  
420 fund account the advertising expense incurred under the provisions of  
421 this section upon receipt of an itemized statement together with a copy  
422 of the advertisement as published. Any person who purchases a dog as  
423 a pet shall pay a fee of five dollars and procure a license and tag for such  
424 dog from the town clerk, in accordance with the provisions of section  
425 22-338. In addition to the five-dollar fee, any person who purchases a  
426 dog as a pet may be charged the cost the municipality incurred, if any,  
427 to spay or neuter and vaccinate the dog, provided such charge shall not  
428 exceed one hundred fifty dollars.

429 (d) No regional or municipal dog pound facility, municipality,  
430 [regional or municipal animal control officer] animal control officer or  
431 regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-  
432 331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this act, as  
433 applicable, or public or private nonprofit animal rescue organization  
434 that arranges for the provision of treatment by a licensed veterinarian to  
435 an injured, sick or diseased animal pursuant to a contract described in  
436 section 22-332e shall be held civilly liable for such actions unless such  
437 actions are performed in a wanton, reckless or malicious manner. No  
438 licensed veterinarian who provides treatment free of charge or for a  
439 reduced fee, to an injured, sick or diseased animal as a direct result of a  
440 contract described in section 22-332e shall be held civilly liable for the  
441 provision of such treatment unless such actions are performed in a  
442 wilful, wanton or reckless manner.

443 Sec. 9. Section 22-344f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
444 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

445 (a) Any animal importer and any person who operates or maintains  
446 an animal shelter, as defined in section 22-344, shall, not later than forty-  
447 eight hours after importing any dog or cat into this state and prior to the  
448 sale, adoption or transfer of such dog or cat to any person, provide for  
449 the examination of such dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed under  
450 chapter 384. Thereafter, such animal importer or person who operates  
451 or maintains an animal shelter shall provide for the examination of such

452 dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 every ninety  
453 days until such dog or cat is sold, adopted or transferred, provided no  
454 such dog or cat shall be sold, adopted or transferred to another person  
455 by an animal importer or person who operates or maintains an animal  
456 shelter unless (1) such dog or cat was examined by a veterinarian  
457 licensed under chapter 384 not more than fifteen days prior to the sale,  
458 adoption or transfer of such dog or cat, and (2) such veterinarian  
459 provides such animal importer or person who operates or maintains an  
460 animal shelter with a written certificate stating that such dog or cat is  
461 free of any symptoms of any illness, infectious, contagious or  
462 communicable disease. Such certificate shall list the name, address and  
463 contact information of such animal importer or person who operates or  
464 maintains an animal shelter. Any animal importer or person who  
465 operates or maintains an animal shelter who violates the provisions of  
466 this subsection shall be fined [not more than five hundred dollars for  
467 each animal that is the subject of such violation] for a first violation, two  
468 hundred fifty dollars for each animal that is the subject of such violation,  
469 and for any subsequent violation, five hundred dollars for each animal  
470 that is the subject of such violation.

471 (b) Each animal importer and each person who operates or maintains  
472 an animal shelter shall maintain a record of the veterinary services  
473 rendered to each dog or cat imported into this state by such animal  
474 importer or person. Such record shall be maintained by such animal  
475 importer or person for a period of three years. Any animal importer or  
476 such person who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be fined  
477 [five hundred dollars] two hundred fifty dollars for a first violation and  
478 five hundred dollars for any subsequent violation.

479 Sec. 10. Section 22-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
480 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

481 Any [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability who  
482 is the owner or keeper of a [dog which has been trained and educated  
483 to guide and assist such person in traveling upon the public streets or  
484 highways or otherwise] service animal shall receive a license and tag for

485 such [dog] service animal from the town clerk of the town where such  
486 [dog] service animal is owned or kept. Such license and tag shall be  
487 issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, and no fee  
488 shall be required of the owner or keeper of any such [dog] service  
489 animal. [When any such dog has not been previously licensed by the  
490 town clerk to whom application is being made, such town clerk shall not  
491 license such dog or issue to the owner a license and tag unless written  
492 evidence is exhibited to such clerk that the dog is trained and educated  
493 and intended in fact to perform such guide service for such applicant.]  
494 Any person who has a [dog] service animal placed with such person  
495 temporarily, including for breeding purposes, by a nonprofit  
496 organization established for the purpose of training or educating [guide  
497 dogs to so assist blind, deaf or mobility impaired persons] service  
498 animals shall receive a license and tag for such [dog] service animal from  
499 the town clerk of the town where such [dog] service animal is kept. Such  
500 license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of  
501 section 22-340, and no fee shall be required for such license and tag,  
502 provided such person presents written evidence that such [dog] service  
503 animal was placed with such person by such organization. [As used in  
504 this section and section 46a-44, "deaf person" means a person who  
505 cannot readily understand spoken language through hearing alone and  
506 who may also have a speech defect which renders such person's speech  
507 unintelligible to most people with normal hearing.]

508 Sec. 11. Section 22-364b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
509 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

510 The owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on  
511 a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and  
512 is in proximity to a [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a  
513 disability who is accompanied by [his guide dog] a service animal,  
514 provided the [guide dog] service animal is in the direct custody of such  
515 [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person, is wearing a harness, vest or  
516 [an orange-colored] leash and collar which makes it readily-identifiable  
517 as a [guide dog] service animal and is licensed in accordance with  
518 section 22-345, as amended by this act. Any person who violates the



519 provisions of this section shall have committed an infraction. If an  
520 owner or keeper of a dog violates the provisions of this section and, as  
521 a result of such violation, such dog attacks and injures the [guide dog]  
522 service animal, such owner or keeper shall be liable, as provided in  
523 section 22-357, for any damage done to such [guide dog] service animal,  
524 and such liability shall include liability for any costs incurred by such  
525 [blind, deaf or mobility-impaired] person with a disability for the  
526 veterinary care, rehabilitation or replacement of the injured [guide dog]  
527 service animal and for reasonable attorney's fees.

528 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision  
529 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Agriculture shall develop a  
530 waiver request process and form for the owner, keeper or veterinarian  
531 for any animal that was attacked and that may have been exposed to  
532 rabies as a result of such attack to request a reduction of the requisite  
533 quarantine period for such animal from six months to four months if  
534 such owner, keeper or veterinarian submits proof with such waiver  
535 request that such animal was vaccinated for rabies not more than ninety-  
536 six hours after such attack. Such waiver request process and form shall  
537 be: (1) Posted on the Internet web site of the Department of Agriculture,  
538 (2) made publicly available and accessible, and (3) made known to  
539 veterinarians throughout the state by said department.

540 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 22-380g of the general statutes is  
541 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
542 *31, 2021*):

543 (b) Not more than [ten] twenty per cent of the funds deposited in the  
544 animal population control account in accordance with subsection (f) of  
545 section 14-21h, subsection (a) of section 22-338, section 22-380f and  
546 section 22-380l shall be used for the sterilization and vaccination of feral  
547 cats program in accordance with subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this  
548 section.

549 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 22-380i of the general statutes is  
550 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
551 *31, 2021*):

552 (a) The program established under section 22-380g, as amended by  
 553 this act, shall provide for payment to any participating veterinarian of  
 554 an amount equivalent to the voucher issued pursuant to section 22-380f  
 555 for each animal sterilization and vaccinations, coincident with  
 556 sterilization, performed by such veterinarian upon a dog or cat owned  
 557 by an eligible owner. For a sterilization procedure, such voucher shall  
 558 be in the amount of [~~one hundred twenty~~] two hundred dollars for a  
 559 female dog, one hundred sixty dollars for a male dog, [~~seventy~~] one  
 560 hundred ten dollars for a female cat and [~~fifty~~] eighty dollars for a male  
 561 cat. In the case of a sterilization fee exceeding the amount of the voucher,  
 562 the eligible owner shall pay the participating veterinarian the difference  
 563 between such fee and the amount of the voucher. Such voucher shall be  
 564 in the amount of [~~twenty~~] thirty dollars, in addition to the amount  
 565 designated for sterilization, for vaccinations coincident with the  
 566 sterilization of a dog or cat owned by an eligible owner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-327(1)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-327(10)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-327
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22-329
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22-329a
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	22-331
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	22-331a
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	22-332
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	22-344f
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	22-345
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	22-364b
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>October 31, 2021</i>	22-380g(b)
Sec. 14	<i>October 31, 2021</i>	22-380i(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To make various revisions to animal-related statutes concerning domestic and companion animals and rabies quarantine periods.

*[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.]*