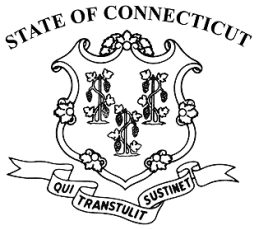

Substitute House Bill No. 5575

Public Act No. 23-138

AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REVISE MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTER REGULATIONS.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) Each municipal or regional dog pound shall provide mechanical heating and cooling systems of appropriate design and capacity to maintain an indoor ambient temperature of between fifty-five and eighty degrees Fahrenheit, unless other temperatures are medically required by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

(b) (1) In any municipal or regional dog pound, dogs shall not share the same primary enclosure, except dams or foster dams and their puppies.

(2) In any municipal or regional dog pound, primary enclosures shall be provided for each cat with space equal to or more than the space requirements for cats pursuant to 9 CFR 3.6(a) and 9 CFR 3.6(b), as amended from time to time.

(3) Whenever dogs or cats are kept in respective groups at any municipal or regional dog pound, the following shall apply:

(A) Females in heat shall not be kept with males;

(B) Any dog or cat exhibiting a vicious or aggressive disposition shall be kept separately; and

(C) Puppies or kittens four months of age or less shall not be kept with adult dogs or cats other than their dams or foster dams.

(c) (1) Any dog or cat that has or is suspected of having a contagious disease at any municipal or regional dog pound shall be isolated from and have no nose-to-nose contact with healthy animals.

(2) Any dog or cat at a municipal or regional dog pound that has or is suspected of having a contagious disease shall be examined, treated and handled as directed by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

(d) The Commissioner of Agriculture may enforce the provisions of this section, as necessary, to protect the health and well-being of any animal at a municipal or regional dog pound.

Sec. 2. Section 22-336 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Each city or town, other than towns participating in a regional dog pound, shall (1) provide and maintain for use as a dog pound a suitable building, which shall be made comfortable for the detention and care of dogs and other domestic animals and kept in a sanitary condition, or (2) provide, through written agreement, for the detention and care of impounded dogs or other domestic animals by a licensed veterinarian, or in a licensed veterinary hospital, licensed commercial kennel, a dog pound maintained by another city or town, or other suitable facility approved by the commissioner. Any city or town may provide for the use of such building or facility to shelter other domestic animals that are found injured, mistreated or roaming in a manner that endangers the domestic animal or the public. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the construction and maintenance of dog pounds or other facilities

where impounded dogs or other domestic animals are kept, and the care, handling and transportation of dogs or other domestic animals by municipal animal control officers. The commissioner may inspect any dog pound or other facility where impounded dogs or other domestic animals are kept and may issue such orders as the commissioner deems necessary to correct any improper conditions found to exist. A report of any such inspection and the findings from such inspection shall be provided to the applicable municipal animal control officer not later than five days after such inspection. Such animal control officer shall provide a copy of the inspection report and any such findings to the chief elected official of such city or town and the applicable police department or supervisor of such municipal animal control officer not later than thirty days after receipt of such report and findings. If such orders are not complied with, the commissioner may request the Attorney General to bring an action for their enforcement, including suit for an injunction in the judicial district in which the dog pound or facility is located.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Any revision to regulations concerning the construction and maintenance of dog pounds adopted by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to section 22-336 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, that was initiated as of the effective date of this section, shall be submitted to the legislative regulation review committee not later than September 1, 2023.

Approved June 26, 2023