



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 556

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1069

Senate, April 13, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN DOMESTIC ANIMAL RELATED STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (e) to (h), inclusive, of section 22-329a of the
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (e) If physical custody of an animal has not been taken pursuant to
5 subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and such officer has reasonable cause
6 to believe that an animal is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of
7 section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or
8 53-252, such officer may file a petition with the superior court which has
9 venue over such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district
10 of Hartford at Hartford, plainly stating such facts of neglect or cruel
11 treatment as to bring the animal within the jurisdiction of the court and
12 praying for appropriate action by the court to ensure the welfare of the
13 animal, including, but not limited to, physical removal and temporary
14 care and custody of the animal, an order to compel the owner of any

15 such animal to provide care in a manner that the court determines is
16 necessary, authorization of an animal control officer or regional animal
17 control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a,
18 as applicable, or a licensed veterinarian to provide care for the animal
19 on site, vesting of ownership of the animal, the posting of a bond in
20 accordance with subsection (f) of this section and the assessment of costs
21 in accordance with subsection (h) of this section. Upon the filing of such
22 petition, the court shall cause a summons for an order to show cause to
23 be issued requiring the owner or owners or person having responsibility
24 for the care of the animal, if known, to appear in court at the time and
25 place named. If the owner or owners or person having responsibility for
26 the care of the animal is not known, notice of the time and place of the
27 hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper having a
28 circulation in the town where the animal is located not less than forty-
29 eight hours prior to the date and time of the hearing. If it appears from
30 the allegations of the petition filed pursuant to this subsection and other
31 affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided subsequent
32 thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the animal's condition
33 or the circumstances surrounding its care require the immediate
34 removal of the animal from the owner or owners or person having
35 responsibility for the care of the animal to safeguard its welfare, the
36 court shall issue an order vesting in some suitable state, municipal or
37 other public or private agency or person the animal's temporary care
38 and custody pending a hearing on the petition which hearing shall be
39 held not later than ten days after the issuance of such order for such
40 temporary care and custody. The service of such order may be made by
41 any officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or
42 indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours
43 prior to the date and time of such hearing.

44 (f) If the court issues an order vesting the animal's temporary care
45 and custody in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private
46 agency or person, the owner or owners shall either relinquish
47 ownership of the animal or post a [surety bond or] cash bond with the
48 agency or person in whom the animal's temporary care and custody was
49 vested or with such agency's counsel of record in the case. The [surety

50 bond or] cash bond shall be in the amount of [five hundred] one
51 thousand dollars for each animal placed in the temporary care or
52 custody of such agency or person and shall secure payment for the
53 reasonable expenses of the agency or person having temporary care and
54 custody of the animal in caring and providing for such animal until the
55 court makes a finding as to the animal's disposition under subsection (g)
56 of this section. The requirement that a bond be posted may be waived if
57 such owner provides satisfactory evidence that such owner is indigent
58 and unable to pay for such bond.

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

64 (2) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is so injured or
65 diseased that it should be humanely euthanized, the court may order
66 that such animal be humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

67 (3) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is not neglected or
68 cruelly treated, it may cause the animal to be returned to its owner or
69 owners or person having responsibility for its care or, if such owner or
70 owners or person is unknown or unwilling to resume caring for such
71 animal, it may vest ownership of the animal in any state, municipal or
72 other public or private agency or person found to be suitable or worthy
73 of such responsibility.

74 (4) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (1) or (2) of this
75 subsection less than thirty days after the issuance of an order of
76 temporary care and custody and the owner of the animal has posted a
77 bond, the agency or person with whom the bond was posted shall return
78 the balance of such bond, if any, to the owner. The amount of the bond
79 to be returned to the owner shall be calculated at the rate of fifteen
80 dollars per day per animal or twenty-five dollars per day per animal if
81 the animal is a horse or other large livestock for the number of days less
82 than thirty that such agency or person has not had temporary care and

83 custody of the animal less any veterinary costs and expenses incurred
84 for the welfare of the animal.

85 (5) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (3) of this
86 subsection after the issuance of an order of temporary care and custody
87 and the owner of the animal has posted a bond, the agency or person
88 with whom the bond was posted shall return such bond to such owner.

89 (h) If the court finds that the animal is neglected or cruelly treated,
90 the expenses incurred by the state or a municipality in providing proper
91 food, shelter and care to an animal it has taken custody of under
92 subsection (a) or (b) of this section and the expenses incurred by any
93 state, municipal or other public or private agency or person in providing
94 temporary care and custody pursuant to an order vesting temporary
95 care and custody, calculated at the rate of [fifteen] twenty dollars per
96 day per animal or [twenty-five] thirty dollars per day per animal if the
97 animal is a horse or other large livestock until the date ownership is
98 vested pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section shall
99 be paid by the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the
100 care of the animal. In addition, all veterinary costs and expenses
101 incurred for the welfare of the animal [that are not covered by the per
102 diem rate] shall be paid by the owner or owners or person having
103 responsibility for the animal.

104 Sec. 2. Section 22-334 of the general statutes is repealed and the
105 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

106 On or before the tenth day of each month, each municipal animal
107 control officer shall [present to the chief administrative officer of the
108 town a sworn statement of the services rendered by the municipal
109 animal control officer in the performance of official duties during the
110 previous month] report their services rendered in the performance of
111 their official duties for the previous month to the Commissioner of
112 Agriculture and the chief administrative officer for the town or region
113 in which such services were rendered. The commissioner shall prescribe
114 and provide the forms for such statements. [and a copy of each such
115 statement shall be forwarded to the commissioner by the chief

116 administrative officer promptly upon receipt. Upon presentation of
117 such statement, each municipal animal control officer, other than an
118 officer employed on a salary basis, shall be paid by such city or town
119 from the dog fund account (1) five dollars for each dog returned to its
120 owner or sold as a pet and four dollars for each dog captured,
121 impounded and killed, or otherwise disposed of as provided in this
122 chapter, (2) such expenses as the appointing authority may approve and
123 (3) such other remuneration as the officers having jurisdiction thereof
124 direct. Each municipal animal control officer employed on a salary basis
125 shall be paid, in addition to a regular salary, a bonus of one dollar for
126 each dog returned to its owner or sold as a pet. Each municipal animal
127 control officer shall pay to the town treasurer or other fiscal officer for
128 deposit in the dog fund account all moneys received by the officer in the
129 performance of official duties. Each regional animal control officer shall
130 pay to the commissioner for deposit with the State Treasurer all such
131 moneys received by the officer. Such moneys shall be deposited in the
132 dog fund account and credited to the town from which it was collected
133 for purposes of payment of the amount due under subsection (b) of
134 section 22-331a.]

135 Sec. 3. Section 22-342 of the general statutes is repealed and the
136 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

137 (a) Any owner or keeper of a [kennel who] facility that breeds more
138 than two litters of dogs annually shall apply to the town clerk in the
139 town in which such [kennel] facility is located for a breeding kennel
140 facility license. Any owner or keeper of a [kennel who] facility that
141 breeds not more than two litters of dogs annually may apply to the town
142 clerk of the town in which such [kennel] facility is located for a breeding
143 kennel facility license. For the purposes of this section, annually shall
144 refer to the breeding kennel facility license year which begins July first.
145 Such town clerk shall issue to such applicant a breeding kennel facility
146 license on a form prescribed by the commissioner for a period from the
147 date of such application until the thirtieth day of the ensuing June. The
148 license shall specify the name and number of the breeding kennel, the
149 name of the owner and the name of the keeper and shall be in lieu of

150 any other license required for any dog of either sex which may be kept
151 in such breeding kennel during the period for which the license is
152 issued. Each license may be renewed from year to year by the town clerk
153 upon application of such owner or keeper. Each such owner or keeper
154 shall cause to be kept, upon each dog in such breeding kennel, while it
155 is at large, a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material, to
156 which collar or harness shall be securely attached a tag or plate upon
157 which shall appear the number of the breeding kennel facility license,
158 the name of the town issuing the license and the year of license. Such
159 plates or tags shall be furnished by the town clerk of the town in which
160 such breeding kennel facility is licensed, at a cost of ten cents each, in
161 such numbers, not fewer than the number of dogs kept in such breeding
162 kennel, and at such time as the licensee may request. The fee for each
163 breeding kennel facility license, when no more than ten dogs are kept in
164 the breeding kennel, shall be fifty dollars, and for a license for a breeding
165 kennel containing more than ten dogs, the fee shall be one hundred
166 dollars, except that in the case of a breeding kennel started after the first
167 day of July, the license fee for the remainder of the year shall be a
168 proportional part of the fee charged for one year. If the owner or keeper
169 of any established [kennel] facility fails to obtain the breeding kennel
170 facility license, as required by this section, on or before June thirtieth,
171 [he] such owner or keeper shall pay one dollar for each dog kept therein,
172 in addition to the regular breeding kennel facility license fee.

173 (b) [The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer or any state
174 animal control officer may at any time inspect any kennel including all
175 facilities of any kennel in which dogs are bred or housed or cause it to
176 be inspected by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian appointed by the
177 commissioner. If, in the judgment of the commissioner, such kennel is
178 not being maintained in good repair and in a sanitary and humane
179 manner or if the commissioner finds that communicable or infectious
180 disease or other unsatisfactory conditions exist in the kennel, he may
181 issue such orders as he deems necessary for the correction of such
182 conditions and may quarantine the premises and animals. If the owner
183 or keeper of such kennel fails to comply with such orders, the
184 commissioner shall revoke or suspend the kennel license of such owner

185 or keeper.] Any facility used as a breeding kennel may be inspected by
186 any animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331 or 22-
187 331a with jurisdiction in the municipality in which the breeding kennel
188 facility is located and upon receipt of any complaint concerning such
189 facility. Such inspection may include review of the sanitary conditions
190 in which the dogs are kept, compliance with any dog's access to proper
191 and wholesome food, water, exercise and veterinary care when
192 necessary, including rabies vaccinations and records of veterinary care
193 and the transfer of dogs or puppies to new owners. Any crate or other
194 enclosures in which dogs are kept for more than four hours shall be
195 clean and in good repair such that they do not pose a hazard to the dogs
196 and shall be of sufficient size as to allow the dogs to stand, sit, lie down,
197 turn around and make normal postural movements. If any such animal
198 control officer finds conditions exist in the breeding kennel facility that
199 may adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of the dogs, such
200 officer may issue such orders as are necessary for the correction of such
201 conditions. If such animal control officer suspects a communicable or
202 infectious disease is present, such officer may order the licensee to
203 consult a licensed veterinarian in this state at such licensee's own
204 expense to address the suspected health condition. The licensee shall be
205 required to implement any recommendations and orders of the animal
206 control officer and any recommendations of the attending veterinarian.
207 The municipality may suspend, revoke or refuse to issue any license
208 under this section for cause.

209 (c) Any person aggrieved by any order issued under the provisions
210 of this section may appeal to the [Superior Court in accordance with the
211 provisions of section 4-183] superior court of the judicial district in
212 which such municipality is located, provided such appeal is made not
213 later than fifteen days after the date of the order.

214 (d) Any person maintaining a breeding kennel facility after such
215 license has been revoked or suspended as herein provided shall be
216 guilty of a class [B] D misdemeanor.

217 (e) Any owner or keeper of a breeding kennel who breeds more than

218 two litters of dogs annually and (1) fails to apply for a breeding kennel
219 facility license as required in subsection (a) of this section, [or] (2) fails
220 to allow an inspection of such facility as required in subsection (b) of
221 this section, or (3) fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to
222 subsection (b) of this section, shall for a first offense have committed an
223 infraction and for a second or subsequent offense be guilty of a class [B]
224 D misdemeanor.

225 (f) Any person found guilty of violating section 53-247 shall not be
226 eligible to hold a license issued pursuant to this section. Any business
227 entity with any person with a controlling interest who is found guilty of
228 violating section 53-247 shall not be eligible to hold a license issued
229 pursuant to this section.

230 Sec. 4. Section 22-344 of the general statutes is repealed and the
231 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

232 (a) (1) No person shall maintain a commercial kennel until [he] such
233 person has obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such
234 kennel under such regulations as the commissioner provides as to
235 sanitation, disease and humane treatment of dogs or cats and the
236 protection of the public safety. Upon written application and the
237 payment of a fee of four hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue
238 such license to be effective until the second December thirty-first
239 following issuance provided the commissioner finds (A) that such
240 regulations have been complied with, and (B) in the case of each initial
241 application for such license, that the zoning enforcement official of the
242 municipality wherein such kennel is to be maintained has certified that
243 the kennel conforms to the municipal zoning regulations. Such license
244 shall be renewed biennially, not later than December thirty-first, in
245 accordance with the provisions of this section, and may be transferred
246 by the licensee to another premises upon approval of the commissioner.

247 (2) Any person who maintains a commercial kennel and who
248 advertises the services of such commercial kennel shall cause the license
249 number for such commercial kennel, as issued pursuant to this section,
250 to clearly appear in such advertisement. The commissioner may adopt

251 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to prescribe the
252 requirements for the appearance of the license number of a commercial
253 kennel in any form of advertisement. Such regulation may include, but
254 need not be limited to, the size, font and location of such license number
255 for any given form of advertisement.

256 (3) For purposes of this subsection, no person who boards three or
257 fewer cats or dogs in his or her residence shall be required to obtain a
258 commercial kennel license pursuant to this subsection.

259 (b) No person shall maintain a pet shop until [he] such person has
260 obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such pet shop
261 under such regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation,
262 disease and humane treatment of animals and the protection of the
263 public safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of four
264 hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be
265 effective until the second December thirty-first following issuance
266 provided the commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been
267 complied with, and (2) in the case of each initial application for such
268 license, that the zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein
269 such pet shop is to be maintained has certified that the pet shop
270 conforms to the municipal zoning regulations. Application for renewal
271 of such license shall be made biennially by not later than the second
272 December thirty-first following issuance. Such pet shop license may be
273 transferred by the licensee to another premises upon the approval of the
274 commissioner. The commissioner, after consultation with the
275 Commissioners of Public Health and Energy and Environmental
276 Protection, shall establish and maintain, pursuant to regulations
277 adopted in accordance with chapter 54, a list of animals which are
278 deemed to be injurious to the health and safety of the public or whose
279 maintenance in captivity is detrimental to the health and safety of the
280 animal. The sale or offer of sale of any animal which is on said list is
281 prohibited and any person who violates this provision shall be fined not
282 more than five hundred dollars.

283 (c) No person shall engage in the business of grooming or

284 maintaining a grooming facility until such person has obtained from the
285 commissioner a license to maintain such facility under such regulations
286 as the commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and humane
287 treatment of such animals and the protection of the public safety. Upon
288 written application and the payment of a fee of two hundred dollars, the
289 commissioner shall issue such license to be effective until the second
290 December thirty-first following issuance provided the commissioner
291 finds (1) that such regulations have been complied with, and (2) in the
292 case of each initial application for such license, that the zoning
293 enforcement official of the municipality wherein such grooming is to be
294 maintained has certified that the facility conforms to the municipal
295 zoning regulations. Such license shall be renewed biennially, not later
296 than the second December thirty-first following issuance, in accordance
297 with the provisions of this section, and may be transferred by the
298 licensee to other premises upon approval of the commissioner.

299 (d) No person shall maintain a training facility until such person has
300 obtained from the commissioner a license to maintain such facility
301 under such regulations as the commissioner provides as to sanitation,
302 disease and humane treatment of such animals and the protection of
303 public safety. Upon written application and the payment of a fee of two
304 hundred dollars, the commissioner shall issue such license to be
305 effective until the second December thirty-first following issuance
306 provided the commissioner finds (1) that such regulations have been
307 complied with, and (2) in the case of each initial application for such
308 license, that the zoning enforcement official of the municipality wherein
309 such training facility is to be maintained has certified that the facility
310 conforms to the municipal zoning regulations. Such license shall be
311 renewed biennially not later than the second December thirty-first
312 following issuance upon the terms required for the original license and
313 may be transferred by the licensee to another premises upon approval
314 of the commissioner.

315 (e) (1) No animal importer shall import any dog or cat into this state
316 until such person registers as an animal importer with the
317 commissioner. Such registration shall be on a form as prescribed by the

318 commissioner. Such registration shall require the submission of the
319 following information: (A) The name, mailing address, business
320 address, telephone number and Internet address of such registrant, (B)
321 if such registrant is domiciled out-of-state, the name, Connecticut
322 address and phone number of a Connecticut-based agent for service of
323 process, and (C) the number of animals brought into the state during the
324 prior year by such animal importer and the state or country of origin for
325 each such animal. Such registration shall be accompanied by payment
326 of a fee of two hundred dollars and shall be valid until the second
327 December thirty-first following such registration. Such registration shall
328 be renewed biennially not later than the second December thirty-first
329 following issuance, in accordance with the provisions of this subsection,
330 provided the commissioner determines that such registrant complies
331 with any requirements provided by the commissioner as to the health,
332 safety and humane treatment of animals that is applicable to animal
333 importers. Such registration shall not be required for any employee or
334 volunteer of a registered animal importer or other person who is
335 required to be licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter,
336 provided such employee, volunteer or other person is not otherwise an
337 animal importer. Any person who violates the provisions of this
338 subdivision shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

339 (2) Any animal importer who intends to offer for sale, adoption or
340 transfer any dog or cat at a venue or location that is open to the public
341 or at an outdoor location, including, but not limited to, a parking lot or
342 shopping center, shall provide notice to the Department of Agriculture
343 and the municipal zoning enforcement officer of the town where any
344 such sale, adoption or transfer will occur, not later than ten days prior
345 to such event. Such notice shall state the date for such sale, adoption or
346 transfer event, the exact location of such event and the anticipated
347 number of animals for sale, adoption or transfer at such event. Any
348 person who fails to provide notice as required pursuant to this
349 subdivision shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars per animal
350 that is offered for sale, adoption or transfer at such event.

351 (3) For the purpose of this subsection, "animal importer" means a

352 person who brings any dog or cat into this state from any other
353 sovereign entity for the purpose of offering such dog or cat to any
354 person for sale, adoption or transfer in exchange for any fee, sale,
355 voluntary contribution, service or any other consideration. "Animal
356 importer" includes any commercial or nonprofit animal rescue or
357 adoption, humane relocation or delivery organization that is not
358 otherwise required to be licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

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

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

367 (6) Not later than December 31, 2013, the Commissioner of
368 Agriculture shall prescribe the conditions that constitute the humane
369 treatment of animals that are applicable to animal importers. Such
370 conditions shall include, but not be limited to, the appropriate shelter,
371 availability of food and water and standard of care to be provided by an
372 animal importer to such animals.

373 (f) No [person] individual or private entity shall operate or maintain
374 an animal shelter until [he or she] such individual or private entity
375 registers such animal shelter with the commissioner to operate and
376 maintain such animal shelter under such regulations as the
377 commissioner provides as to sanitation, disease and humane treatment
378 of dogs or cats and the protection of the public safety. Upon written
379 application and payment of a fee of fifty dollars to offset administrative
380 costs of such registrations, the commissioner shall issue such
381 registration to be effective until the second December thirty-first
382 following issuance provided the commissioner finds [(A)] (1) that such
383 regulations have been complied with, and [(B)] (2) in the case of each
384 initial application for such registration, that the zoning enforcement

385 official of the municipality wherein such animal shelter is to be operated
386 or maintained has certified that the animal shelter conforms to the
387 municipal zoning regulations. Such registration shall be renewed
388 biennially, not later than December thirty-first, in accordance with the
389 provisions of this section, and may be transferred by the registrant to
390 another premises upon approval of the commissioner. For purposes of
391 this subsection, "animal shelter" means any individual or private entity
392 that operates a building or facility that is used solely to house homeless
393 animals for the purpose of rescue or adoption and that is not operated
394 within a private residence.

395 (g) The commissioner may, at any time, inspect or cause to be
396 inspected by the commissioner's agents any such commercial kennel,
397 animal shelter, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility, and if, (1)
398 in the commissioner's judgment such commercial kennel, animal
399 shelter, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility is not being
400 maintained in a sanitary and humane manner or in a manner that
401 protects the public safety, (2) the commissioner finds that contagious,
402 infectious or communicable disease or other unsatisfactory conditions
403 exist, or (3) in the case of a pet shop, the commissioner finds any
404 violation of the provisions of section 22a-381d, the commissioner may
405 issue a fine to such commercial kennel, animal shelter, pet shop,
406 grooming facility or training facility of not more than five hundred
407 dollars for each animal that is the subject of such violation, may issue
408 such orders as the commissioner deems necessary for the correction of
409 such conditions and may quarantine the premises and animals. If the
410 owner or keeper of such commercial kennel, animal shelter, pet shop,
411 grooming facility or training facility fails to comply with the regulations
412 or orders of the commissioner, or fails to comply with any provision of
413 the statutes or regulations relating to dogs or other animals, the
414 commissioner may refuse to issue or renew, revoke or suspend such
415 license or registration, as applicable. Any person aggrieved by any order
416 issued under the provisions of this section may appeal therefrom in
417 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183. Any person
418 maintaining any commercial kennel, animal shelter, pet shop, grooming
419 facility or training facility without having obtained a license or

420 registration for the same, as applicable or after any such license or
421 registration has been revoked or suspended as provided herein shall be
422 fined not more than two hundred dollars. The provisions of this section
423 shall not apply to veterinary hospitals, except those boarding or
424 grooming dogs for nonmedical purposes, and other establishments
425 where all the dogs or animals were born and raised on the premises
426 where they are kept for sale.

427 (h) The provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section
428 requiring certification by the zoning enforcement official that every
429 commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility and training facility
430 conforms to the zoning regulations of the municipality wherein such
431 kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility is maintained
432 shall not apply to any person who is licensed under said subsections
433 and maintained any such commercial kennel, pet shop or grooming
434 facility prior to October 1, 1977, provided such person does not relocate
435 such commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility
436 in a zone in which such commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility
437 or training facility is not a permitted use. In addition, the provisions of
438 said subsections and subsection (f) requiring certification by the zoning
439 enforcement official that every commercial kennel, animal shelter, pet
440 shop, grooming facility and training facility conforms to the zoning
441 regulations of the municipality wherein such commercial kennel,
442 animal shelter, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility is
443 maintained shall not apply when a zone in which such commercial
444 kennel, animal shelter, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility is
445 maintained is changed to a use which does not permit such commercial
446 kennel, animal shelter, pet shop, grooming facility or training facility in
447 such zone.

448 (i) Any person found guilty of violating section 53-247 shall not be
449 eligible to hold a license issued pursuant to this section. Any business
450 entity with any person with a controlling interest who is found guilty of
451 violating section 53-247 shall not be eligible to hold a license issued
452 pursuant to this section.

453 Sec. 5. Section 22-344b of the general statutes is repealed and the
454 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

455 (a) A pet shop licensee shall, prior to offering a dog or cat for sale and
456 thereafter at intervals of fifteen days until such dog or cat is sold,
457 provide for examination of such dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed
458 under chapter 384. Such licensee shall maintain [a] an electronic or
459 paper record of the veterinary examinations and services rendered for
460 each dog or cat offered for sale.

461 (b) (1) If, (A) within twenty days of sale, any such dog or cat becomes
462 ill or dies of any illness which existed in such dog or cat at the time of
463 the sale, or (B) within six months of sale, any such dog or cat is
464 diagnosed with a congenital defect that adversely affects or will
465 adversely affect the health of such dog or cat, such licensee shall: (i)
466 Reimburse such consumer for the value of the actual services and
467 medications provided to such dog or cat by any veterinarian licensed
468 pursuant to chapter 384 for the treatment of such illness or congenital
469 defect upon the presentation by such consumer to such licensee of a
470 certificate from such veterinarian that such dog or cat suffers or suffered
471 from such illness or congenital defect, provided such reimbursement
472 shall not exceed (I) the full purchase price of such dog or cat for any dog
473 or cat purchased for five hundred dollars or more, and (II) five hundred
474 dollars for any dog or cat purchased for less than five hundred dollars.
475 No licensee may require the consumer to return such dog or cat to such
476 licensee to receive such reimbursement, or (ii) at the option of such
477 consumer, replace the dog or cat or refund in full the purchase price of
478 such dog or cat: (I) In the case of illness or such congenital defect, upon
479 return of the dog or cat to the pet shop and the receipt of a certificate
480 from a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 and selected by the
481 consumer, stating that the dog or cat is ill from a condition which existed
482 at the time of sale, or suffers from such congenital defect, and (II) in the
483 case of death, the receipt of a certificate from a veterinarian licensed
484 under chapter 384 and selected by the consumer, stating that the dog or
485 cat died from an illness or a congenital defect which existed at the time
486 of sale. The presentation of such certificate shall be sufficient proof to

487 claim reimbursement or replacement and the return of such deceased
488 dog or cat to the pet shop shall not be required. Any such consumer may
489 seek the assistance of the Commissioner of Agriculture in the event that
490 the licensee fails to reimburse such consumer in accordance with the
491 provisions of this subsection. No such refund or replacement shall be
492 made if such illness or death resulted from maltreatment or neglect by
493 a person other than the licensee or such licensee's agent or employee. A
494 licensee shall not be subject to the obligations imposed by this
495 subsection for the sale of a cat where such cat has been spayed or
496 neutered prior to its sale. In the event the licensee fails to comply with a
497 demand for reimbursement or replacement, the consumer may bring an
498 action in the Superior Court to enforce the provisions of this section.

499 (2) Each pet shop licensee who sells dogs or cats shall post a statement
500 of customer rights pursuant to this section in a location that is readily
501 visible to the public and also provide a copy of such statement to any
502 purchaser of a dog or cat at the time of purchase. The commissioner shall
503 prescribe the content of such statement. Any statement of customer
504 rights posted pursuant to this section shall be printed in black lettering
505 of not less than twenty point size upon a white background. Any
506 licensee who violates the provisions of this subdivision shall be fined
507 two hundred fifty dollars.

508 (c) Any licensee who violates any provision of subsection (a) [or
509 subdivision (1) of subsection (b)] of this section shall be fined not more
510 than five hundred dollars. [Any fine assessed pursuant to this
511 subsection for a failure to reimburse a consumer, as described in
512 subsection (b) of this section, shall not preclude or be in lieu of any such
513 reimbursement.]

514 Sec. 6. Section 22-347 of the general statutes is repealed and the
515 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

516 Within thirty days after receipt of the fees for dog licenses and tags,
517 each town clerk shall deduct one dollar for each dog licensed, two
518 dollars for each kennel license issued and fifty cents for each
519 replacement tag issued and pay the balance to the town treasurer or

520 other proper fiscal officer. Each town treasurer or fiscal officer, as the
521 case may be, shall keep a separate dog fund account of all fees received
522 from the town clerk, and all receipts from the municipal animal control
523 officer and expended by said officer under the provisions of this chapter,
524 and shall pay to the Commissioner of Agriculture, on September first of
525 each year, fifty per cent of all moneys received from the sale of licenses
526 prior to July first, or forty per cent of all such moneys if the town has
527 made a survey of unlicensed dogs in accordance with the provisions of
528 section 22-349, and include with such payment a statement of the
529 number of licenses issued during such year. All moneys received from
530 licenses sold after June thirtieth and all moneys received from the
531 municipal animal control officer and all license fees returned to the town
532 by the State Treasurer, at the request of the commissioner, [under the
533 provisions of section 22-348] shall be kept by the town treasurer or other
534 fiscal officer in the separate dog fund account. The town treasurer or
535 other fiscal officer shall, on the ensuing September first, send fifty per
536 cent, or forty per cent as the case may be, of all license fees in such
537 account to the commissioner, including any penalty fees collected
538 pursuant to section 22-338. All payments to the commissioner shall be
539 accompanied by an account thereof in a form prescribed by the
540 commissioner and a copy of such account shall be sent to the
541 commissioner. Upon the failure of any town treasurer or other fiscal
542 officer to pay any amount due pursuant to this section, or any portion
543 thereof, within forty-five days from its due date, the commissioner shall
544 add interest of one and one-fourth per cent per month or fraction thereof
545 on the amount unpaid per month or fraction thereof from the due date
546 of such payment to the date of payment and a penalty in the amount of
547 ten per cent of the amount unpaid or fifty dollars, whichever is greater.
548 All funds in the dog fund account, except such funds as are to be sent to
549 the commissioner, shall be used only for the compensation of municipal
550 animal control officers, license certificates, tags, the construction and
551 maintenance of dog pounds, the detention and care of impounded dogs
552 in accordance with section 22-336, municipal animal control officer's
553 equipment, dog supplies and such veterinary fees as are provided for
554 by law or regulations and shall not be used for any other purpose except

555 upon written approval of the commissioner. No fees paid into the
556 treasury of the town for tags or licenses for dogs shall be paid back to
557 the persons from whom they were collected.

558 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 22-354 of the general statutes is
559 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
560 *2023*):

561 (a) Any dog or cat imported into this state shall be accompanied by a
562 certificate of health issued no earlier than thirty days prior to the date of
563 importation by a licensed, graduate veterinarian accredited by the
564 United States Department of Agriculture stating that such dog or cat is
565 free from symptoms of any infectious, contagious or communicable
566 disease, and that such dog or cat, if three months of age or older, is
567 currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. A copy of such
568 health certificate shall be forwarded promptly to the commissioner from
569 the livestock sanitary official of the state of origin. Any dog or cat
570 originating from a rabies quarantine area shall have permission of the
571 State Veterinarian prior to importation into this state. No person, firm
572 or corporation shall import or export for the purposes of sale, adoption
573 or transfer or offering for sale, adoption or transfer any dog or cat under
574 the age of eight weeks unless such dog or cat is transported with its dam
575 and no person, firm or corporation shall sell or offer for adoption or
576 transfer within the state any dog or cat under the age of eight weeks.
577 Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this
578 subsection or bringing any dog or cat into this state from an area under
579 quarantine for rabies shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars.

580 Sec. 8. Section 22-359 of the general statutes is repealed and the
581 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

582 (a) The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may make
583 such orders for the testing for rabies, adequate confinement, quarantine,
584 control or [destruction] humane euthanasia of any dog, cat or other
585 animal as [he deems] necessary to prevent the spread of rabies and to
586 protect the public. [therefrom provided, notwithstanding the provisions
587 of section 22-358, a] Any local director of health may order the

588 [destruction] humane euthanasia of any unowned animal [which] that
589 is not currently vaccinated for rabies for the purpose of rabies testing if
590 the director finds that the animal has bitten a person and the health or
591 life of such person may be threatened. [Any person who fails to comply
592 with any order made under the provisions of this section shall be fined
593 not more than one hundred dollars.]

594 (b) The commissioner [, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
595 control officer or any municipal animal control officer] or any animal
596 control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a
597 shall quarantine any animal in a public pound, veterinary hospital,
598 kennel or other building or enclosure approved by the commissioner for
599 such purpose, if in the determination of the commissioner or such
600 officer, such animal is rabid or is suspected of being rabid, or has been
601 bitten by, or may have been bitten by, or has been in contact with or
602 exposed to, a rabid animal or an animal suspected of carrying rabies or
603 any wild animal as defined in subsection (d) of this section. The length
604 of such quarantine period shall be determined by the commissioner or
605 the State Veterinarian who shall take into account the age, general health
606 and vaccination history of the animal as well as current accepted
607 veterinary practices. Any suspected or confirmed case of rabies shall be
608 reported by such officer to the [commissioner by a local director of
609 health or board of health or any veterinarian within] State Veterinarian
610 not later than twenty-four hours of receipt of such information.

611 (c) Whenever a person, companion animal or other animal has been
612 bitten or attacked by a dog, cat or ferret, any [state, municipal or
613 regional] animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328,
614 22-331 or 22-331a shall quarantine such biting or attacking dog, cat or
615 ferret for ten days. During such quarantine such biting or attacking dog,
616 cat or ferret shall be observed for clinical signs of rabies. On the tenth
617 day of such quarantine, such dog, cat or ferret shall be examined by the
618 State Veterinarian or a person designated by the State Veterinarian to
619 determine whether such quarantine shall be continued or removed. The
620 quarantine of a biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret shall conform to one
621 of the following: (1) When the biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret has a

622 current rabies vaccination, the biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret shall
623 be quarantined in a public pound or in a veterinary hospital or in a
624 commercial kennel approved by the State Veterinarian for such purpose
625 or on the premises of the owner or keeper of such biting dog, cat or ferret
626 when such premises is adequate for the confinement of such animal, as
627 determined by the authority that issued such order; or (2) when the
628 biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret does not have a current rabies
629 vaccination, the biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret shall be
630 quarantined in a public pound or in a veterinary hospital or in a
631 commercial kennel approved by the State Veterinarian for such
632 purpose, or the dog, cat or ferret may be quarantined or confined on the
633 premises of the owner or keeper of the biting or attacking dog, cat or
634 ferret due to medical necessity determined by a licensed veterinarian
635 when such premises is adequate for the confinement of such animal and
636 acceptable to the municipality or agency issuing the quarantine order
637 and provided such animal is vaccinated for rabies by a licensed
638 veterinarian on the tenth day of such quarantine.

639 (d) The management, confinement, quarantine or disposition of
640 biting or attacking animals other than dogs, cats or ferrets shall be
641 determined by the State Veterinarian who shall take into account the
642 age, general health, rabies vaccination status of the biting or attacking
643 animal, the rabies vaccination status of the animal exposed to or bitten
644 by rabid or suspected rabid wildlife and the current national
645 recommendations for the prevention and control of rabies.

646 (e) The owner or keeper of any animal that has been quarantined or
647 confined pursuant to this section may authorize the humane euthanasia
648 of such animal by a licensed veterinarian at any time before the end of
649 the quarantine or confinement period for the purpose of testing such
650 animal for rabies. Any animal so euthanized shall be examined for
651 rabies by the Connecticut Department of Public Health [virology
652 laboratory] Laboratory or any laboratory authorized by the Connecticut
653 Department of Public Health. The veterinarian performing the
654 euthanasia shall be responsible for ensuring that the head of the
655 euthanized animal is delivered to the appropriate laboratory for rabies

656 examination not later than forty-eight hours after such euthanasia. The
657 costs of any such quarantine, veterinary examination, rabies
658 vaccination, euthanasia and rabies testing shall be the responsibility of
659 the owner or keeper of any animal quarantined or confined pursuant to
660 this section.

661 [(b)] (f) Any dog, cat or other animal held in quarantine [which] that
662 is clinically diagnosed as rabid by [two licensed veterinarians, at least
663 one of whom shall be engaged in private practice,] a licensed
664 veterinarian or the State Veterinarian shall be humanely euthanized
665 immediately without prior notice to the owner or keeper of same. No
666 person who [kills] humanely euthanizes any animal in accordance with
667 this subsection shall be held criminally or civilly liable therefor. Any
668 animal that is humanely euthanized pursuant to this subsection shall be
669 examined for rabies by the Connecticut Department of Public Health
670 Laboratory or any laboratory authorized by the Connecticut
671 Department of Public Health. The veterinarian performing the
672 euthanasia shall be responsible for ensuring that the head of the
673 euthanized animal is delivered to the appropriate laboratory for rabies
674 examination not later than forty-eight hours after being euthanized.

675 [(c)] (g) Any animal, other than a dog, [which] that is quarantined
676 pursuant to this section which is not claimed by its owner or keeper
677 [within the period] not later than five days after the expiration of such
678 quarantine may be sold or given away by the municipal or regional
679 animal control officer [, if he finds that] provided the animal is in good
680 health. The animal may only be sold or given away as a pet to a person
681 who satisfies [the] such officer that the animal will be given a good home
682 and proper care. The municipal animal control officer may retain
683 possession of such animal for such additional period of time as [he may
684 deem advisable in order] necessary to place such animal. Any animal,
685 other than a dog, [which] that is quarantined pursuant to this section
686 [which] and that is not claimed by its owner or keeper [within the period
687 of] not later than five days after the expiration of such quarantine and
688 [which] that is not sold by the municipal or regional animal control
689 officer [within] not later than five days [of] after the expiration of such

690 quarantine, may be disposed of at the direction of the State Veterinarian.
691 No person who disposes of any animal in accordance with this
692 subsection shall be held criminally or civilly liable therefor.

693 [(d) The commissioner, any] (h) Any animal control officer appointed
694 pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a or any state or municipal
695 police officer may immediately kill any wild animal [which is
696 displaying] that displays behavior [which] that causes the
697 commissioner, the State Veterinarian, a state or municipal police officer
698 or such animal control officer to reasonably conclude that such animal
699 is rabid. For purposes of this [subsection] section, "wild animal" means
700 any mammal which is ferae naturae or wild by nature.

701 [(e)] (i) The commissioner shall institute such measures as the
702 commissioner deems necessary to prevent the transmission of rabies
703 associated with animals in public settings, including, but not limited to,
704 fairs, shows, exhibitions, petting zoos, riding stables, farm tours, pet
705 shops and educational exhibits.

706 [(f)] (j) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
707 chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection [(e)] (i) of this
708 section. Such regulations may include requirements for the vaccination
709 of animals against rabies, identification of animals, identification of
710 owners or keepers of such animals, animal enclosures, posting of public
711 advisories, reporting of rabies exposure incidents, records deemed
712 necessary and proper relating to the vaccination of animals against
713 rabies, and any other methods determined by the commissioner to
714 prevent the transmission of rabies. Such regulations may consider the
715 species of animal, the characteristics of the public settings and the nature
716 and type of contact the public may have with animals.

717 (k) Any suspected or confirmed case of rabies shall be reported to the
718 State Veterinarian by the testing diagnostic laboratory or a local director
719 of health or any licensed veterinarian not later than twenty-four hours
720 after receipt of such information.

721 (l) Any person who fails to comply with any order issued pursuant

722 to this section shall be fined two hundred fifty dollars. Any dog, cat or
723 other animal subject to a quarantine or confinement order issued
724 pursuant to this section whose owner or keeper fails to comply with
725 such quarantine order may be seized by any state, municipal or regional
726 animal control officer and held in quarantine until such quarantine is
727 complete and the dog, cat or other animal is examined by a licensed
728 veterinarian. All costs associated with a failure to comply with a
729 quarantine or confinement order issued pursuant to this section,
730 including, but not limited to, the costs of seizure, care, handling,
731 veterinary examination and rabies vaccination shall be paid by the
732 owner or keeper of such animal prior to the release of such animal to
733 such owner or keeper.

734 Sec. 9. Section 22-364b of the general statutes is repealed and the
735 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

736 The owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on
737 a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and
738 is in proximity to a [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a
739 disability accompanied by [his guide dog] a service animal, provided
740 [the guide dog] such service animal is in the direct custody of such
741 [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person [, is wearing a harness or an
742 orange-colored leash and collar which makes it readily-identifiable as a
743 guide dog] and is licensed in accordance with section 22-345. Any
744 person who violates the provisions of this section shall have committed
745 an infraction. If an owner or keeper of a dog violates the provisions of
746 this section and, as a result of such violation, such dog attacks and
747 injures the [guide dog] service animal, such owner or keeper shall be
748 liable, as provided in section 22-357, for any damage done to such [guide
749 dog] service animal, and such liability shall include liability for any costs
750 incurred by such [blind, deaf or mobility-impaired] person for the
751 veterinary care, rehabilitation or replacement of the injured [guide dog]
752 service animal and for reasonable attorney's fees.

753 Sec. 10. Section 22-367 of the general statutes is repealed and the
754 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

755 Any person owning, keeping or harboring a dog or cat or maintaining
756 a breeding kennel or commercial kennel who violates any provision of
757 this chapter for the violation of which no other penalty is provided, or
758 any regulation legally made and published [for restraining or
759 destroying dogs or cats,] shall be fined not less than two hundred fifty
760 dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both. No commercial
761 kennel shall board any dog or cat unless the owner of the dog or cat
762 presents a certificate of vaccination as required by this chapter.
763 [Constables, municipal animal control officers, regional animal control
764 officers, the] The Chief Animal Control Officer, [the] any animal control
765 [officers, and all prosecuting officers] officer and any municipal or
766 regional control officer shall diligently inquire after, and prosecute for,
767 any violation of any provision of this chapter. [, and the commissioner
768 shall, upon the complaint of any person that such officer is dilatory or
769 negligent in the performance of the officer's duties concerning the
770 enforcement of any such provision, take such action as the officer deems
771 necessary to secure such enforcement.]

772 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 22-380i of the general statutes is
773 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
774 *passage*):

775 (a) The program established under section 22-380g shall provide for
776 payment to any participating veterinarian of an amount equivalent to
777 the voucher issued pursuant to section 22-380f for each animal
778 sterilization and vaccinations, coincident with sterilization, performed
779 by such veterinarian upon a dog or cat owned by an eligible owner. For
780 a sterilization procedure, the Commissioner of Agriculture shall
781 establish a rate of reimbursement biennially that is not more than
782 seventy-five per cent of the market rate or the fee charged by
783 veterinarians in the state. [as of October 31, 2021.] In the case of a
784 sterilization fee exceeding the amount of the voucher, the eligible owner
785 shall pay the participating veterinarian the difference between such fee
786 and the amount of the voucher. Such voucher shall be in the amount of
787 thirty dollars, in addition to the amount designated for sterilization, for
788 vaccinations coincident with the sterilization of a dog or cat owned by

789 an eligible owner.

790 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 51-164n of the general statutes is
791 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
792 *passage*):

793 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person
794 who is alleged to have committed (1) a violation under the provisions of
795 section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 2-71h, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35 or 7-41, subsection (c)
796 of section 7-66, section 7-83, 7-147h, 7-148, 7-148f, 7-148o, 7-283, 7-325, 7-
797 393, 8-12, 8-25, 8-27, 9-63, 9-322, 9-350, 10-185, 10-193, 10-197, 10-198, 10-
798 230, 10-251, 10-254, 10a-35, 12-52, 12-54, 12-129b or 12-170aa, subdivision
799 (3) of subsection (e) of section 12-286, section 12-286a, 12-292, 12-314b or
800 12-326g, subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of
801 section 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-476c, 12-487, 13a-71,
802 13a-107, 13a-113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-124, 13a-139,
803 13a-140, 13a-143b, 13a-253, 13a-263 or 13b-39f, subsection (f) of section
804 13b-42, section 13b-90 or 13b-100, subsection (a) of section 13b-108,
805 section 13b-221 or 13b-292, subsection (a) or (b) of section 13b-324,
806 section 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or 13b-410c,
807 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414 or 14-4,
808 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, subsection (d) of
809 section 14-12, subsection (f) of section 14-12a, subsection (a) of section
810 14-15a, section 14-16c, 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (f) of section 14-34a,
811 subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-44j, 14-49, 14-50a, 14-58
812 or 14-62a, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a or 14-67a,
813 subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) or (i) of section 14-80h,
814 section 14-97a or 14-98, subsection (a), (b) or (d) of section 14-100a,
815 section 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-145a or 14-146, subsection
816 (b) of section 14-147, section 14-152, 14-153, 14-161 or 14-163b, subsection
817 (f) of section 14-164i, section 14-213b or 14-219, subdivision (1) of section
818 14-223a, subsection (d) of section 14-224, section 14-240, 14-250, 14-253a,
819 14-261a, 14-262, 14-264, 14-266, 14-267a, 14-269, 14-270, 14-272b, 14-274,
820 14-275 or 14-275a, subsection (c) of section 14-275c, section 14-276,
821 subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-277, section 14-278, 14-279 or 14-280,
822 subsection (b), (e) or (h) of section 14-283, section 14-283d, 14-283e, 14-

823 283f, 14-283g, 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa, 14-298a, 14-300, 14-300d, 14-
824 300f, 14-319, 14-320, 14-321, 14-325a, 14-326, 14-330 or 14-332a,
825 subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of section 14-386a, section 15-15e, 15-25 or 15-
826 33, subdivision (1) of section 15-97, subsection (a) of section 15-115,
827 section 16-15, 16-16, 16-44, 16-256e, 16-278 or 16a-15, subsection (a) of
828 section 16a-21, section 16a-22, subsection (a) or (b) of section 16a-22h,
829 section 16a-106, 17a-24, 17a-145, 17a-149 or 17a-152, subsection (b) of
830 section 17a-227, section 17a-465, subsection (c) of section 17a-488, section
831 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-137, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-87, subsection (b) of
832 section 19a-87a, section 19a-91, 19a-102a, 19a-102b, 19a-105, 19a-107,
833 19a-113, 19a-215, 19a-216a, 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224, 19a-286, 19a-287,
834 19a-297, 19a-301, 19a-309, 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338, 19a-339, 19a-340,
835 19a-425, 19a-442, 19a-502, 19a-565, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-153a, 20-158, 20-231,
836 20-233, 20-249, 20-257, 20-265, 20-324e, 20-329c or 20-329g, subsection (b)
837 of section 20-334, section 20-341l, 20-366, 20-482, 20-597, 20-608, 20-610,
838 20-623, 21-1, 21-38, 21-39, 21-43, 21-47, 21-48 or 21-63, subsection (d) of
839 section 21-71, section 21-76a or 21-100, subsection (c) of section 21a-2,
840 subdivision (1) of section 21a-19, section 21a-20 or 21a-21, subdivision
841 (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-25, section 21a-26 or 21a-30,
842 subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section 21a-46, 21a-61, 21a-63, 21a-70b
843 or 21a-77, subsection (b) or (c) of section 21a-79, section 21a-85 or 21a-
844 154, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-159, section 21a-278b,
845 subsection (c), (d) or (e) of section 21a-279a, section 21a-421eee, 21a-
846 421fff, 21a-421hhh, subsection (a) of section 21a-430, section 22-12b, 22-
847 13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-26g, 22-30, 22-34, 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39, 22-
848 39f, 22-49, 22-54, 22-61j or 22-61l, subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of
849 section 22-61l, subsection (f) of section 22-61m, subdivision (1) of
850 subsection (f) of section 22-61m, section 22-84, 22-89, 22-90, 22-96, 22-98,
851 22-99, 22-100 or 22-111o, subsection (d) of section 22-118l, section 22-167,
852 subsection (c) of section 22-277, section 22-278, 22-279, 22-280a, 22-318a,
853 22-320h, 22-324a or 22-326, subsection (b), subdivision (1) or (2) of
854 subsection (e) or subsection (g) of section 22-344, as amended by this act,
855 subsection (a) or (b) of section 22-344b, as amended by this act, [section
856 22-344c,] subsection (d) of section 22-344d, section 22-344f, 22-350a, 22-
857 354, as amended by this act, 22-359, as amended by this act, 22-366, 22-

858 391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-415, 22-415c, 22a-66a or 22a-246, subsection (a) of
859 section 22a-250, section 22a-256g, subsection (e) of section 22a-256h,
860 section 22a-363 or 22a-381d, subsections (c) and (d) of section 22a-381e,
861 section 22a-449, 22a-450, 22a-461, 23-4b, 23-38, 23-45, 23-46 or 23-61b,
862 subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 23-65, section
863 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43, section 25-43d, 25-135, 26-
864 18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-43, 26-49, 26-54, 26-55, 26-
865 56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 26-61,
866 section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76, section 26-79, 26-87, 26-89,
867 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-107, 26-114a, 26-117,
868 subsection (b) of section 26-127, 26-128, 26-128a, 26-131, 26-132, 26-138,
869 26-139 or 26-141, subdivision (1) of section 26-186, section 26-207, 26-215,
870 26-217 or 26-224a, subdivision (1) of section 26-226, section 26-227, 26-
871 230, 26-231, 26-232, 26-244, 26-257a, 26-260, 26-276, 26-280, 26-284, 26-
872 285, 26-286, 26-287, 26-288, 26-290, 26-291a, 26-292, 26-294, 27-107, 28-13,
873 29-6a, 29-16, 29-17, 29-25, 29-143o, 29-143z or 29-156a, subsection (b), (d),
874 (e), (g) or (h) of section 29-161q, section 29-161y or 29-161z, subdivision
875 (1) of section 29-198, section 29-210, 29-243 or 29-277, subsection (c) of
876 section 29-291c, section 29-316 or 29-318, subsection (b) of section 29-
877 335a, section 29-381, 30-19f, 30-48a or 30-86a, subsection (b) of section
878 30-89, subsection (c) or (d) of section 30-117, section 31-3, 31-10, 31-11,
879 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23, 31-24, 31-25, 31-32, 31-36,
880 31-38, 31-40, 31-44, 31-47 or 31-48, subsection (b) of section 31-48b,
881 section 31-51, 31-51g, 31-52, 31-52a, 31-53 or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c)
882 of section 31-69, section 31-70, 31-74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-
883 134, subsection (i) of section 31-273, section 31-288, 31-348, 33-624, 33-
884 1017, 34-13d or 34-412, subdivision (1) of section 35-20, subsection (a) of
885 section 36a-57, subsection (b) of section 36a-665, section 36a-699, 36a-
886 739, 36a-787, 38a-2 or 38a-140, subsection (a) or (b) of section 38a-278,
887 section 38a-479qq, 38a-479rr, 38a-506, 38a-548, 38a-626, 38a-680, 38a-713,
888 38a-733, 38a-764, 38a-786, 38a-828, 38a-829, 38a-885, 42-133hh, 42-230,
889 42-470 or 42-480, subsection (a) or (c) of section 43-16q, section 45a-283,
890 45a-450, 45a-634 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of section 46a-54,
891 section 46a-59, 46a-81b, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 46b-38d, 47-34a, 47-47 or
892 47-53, subsection (i) of section 47a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (k)

893 of section 47a-21, section 49-2a, 49-8a, 49-16, 52-143 or 52-289, subsection
 894 (j) of section 52-362, section 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-
 895 264, 53-280, 53-290a, 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-314, 53-321, 53-322, 53-
 896 323 or 53-331, subsection (b) of section 53-343a, section 53-344,
 897 subsection (b) or (c) of section 53-344b, subsection (b) of section 53-345a,
 898 section 53-377, 53-422 or 53-450 or subsection (i) of section 54-36a, or (2)
 899 a violation under the provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a violation of any
 900 regulation adopted in accordance with the provisions of section 12-484,
 901 12-487 or 13b-410, or (4) a violation of any ordinance, regulation or
 902 bylaw of any town, city or borough, except violations of building codes
 903 and the health code, for which the penalty exceeds ninety dollars but
 904 does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars, unless such town, city or
 905 borough has established a payment and hearing procedure for such
 906 violation pursuant to section 7-152c, shall follow the procedures set
 907 forth in this section.

908 Sec. 13. Sections 22-344c and 22-348 of the general statutes are
 909 repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-329a(e) to (h)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-334
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-342
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22-344
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	22-344b
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	22-347
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	22-354(a)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	22-359
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	22-364b
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	22-367
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	22-380i(a)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	51-164n(b)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 8(h), "state or" was added for consistency.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Department of Agriculture	GF - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Department of Agriculture	Animal Population Control - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Agriculture	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill makes numerous changes in the domestic animal statutes, administered by the Department of Agriculture (DoAg), and results in the fiscal impacts described below.

Section 3 reduces the charges for maintaining a breeding kennel facility after a license has been revoked and for failing to comply with breeding kennel facility licensing requirements, from a class B misdemeanor to a class D misdemeanor. This results in a potential savings to the Judicial Department and a potential revenue loss from fines. The average marginal cost for supervision in the community is

less than \$800¹ each year.

Section 5 allows consumers to bring civil action against licensees for alleged failures to comply which does not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. The court system disposes of over 250,000 cases annually and the number of cases is not anticipated to be great enough to need additional resources.

Additionally, **Section 5** results in a potential minimal revenue loss to the state beginning in FY 24 to the extent fines are not collected from those who violate the "pet lemon law." It allows a consumer to bring a lawsuit in court for enforcement action if a pet shop fails to reimburse a consumer under the existing "pet lemon law," and it removes the statutory fine of up to \$500 for a licensee who violates the law.

Section 8 may result in a revenue gain, beginning in FY 23, since it increases the fine, from up to \$100 to \$250, for anyone who violates a rabies order issued by DoAg. The total amount of any additional revenue (\$150 per fine) is dependent on the number of rabies orders found to be in violation.

Section 10 may result in a revenue gain to DoAg beginning in FY 23 as it expands the applicability of the general penalty to a violation of any regulation concerning domestic animals, not just regulations pertaining to restraining or destroying dogs or cats. It also expands the group of individuals who may be charged with violations of the general penalty. (The penalty is a fine of at least \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both.)

Section 11 may result in increased costs to the animal population control account administered by DoAg, starting in FY 24, as it requires the agency to establish a biennial reimbursement rate for payments made to veterinarians that is 75% of market rate. Currently, the

¹ Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

reimbursement rate is up to 75% of the market rate or fee charged by veterinarians as of October 31, 2021, with no provision for adjustments. It is expected that as market rates increase, so would costs from this account, to comply with this requirement. The available cash balance in the APCA is currently \$676,935.

Section 13, which repeals the \$0.10 allocation from each dog license fee to UConn for canine disease research, has no fiscal impact as it codifies current practice. No payments have been made for this purpose for the past two fiscal years.

The bill makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes that have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations, and the actual reimbursement rates set by veterinarians.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1069****AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN DOMESTIC ANIMAL RELATED STATUTES.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

SUMMARY§ 1 — NEGLECTED OR CRUELLY TREATED ANIMALS

Allows animal control officers to get court orders requiring an animal's owner to provide necessary care for the animal; increases the cash bond amount required when the animal is given to another temporarily; increases the per diem rate an animal's owner must pay to cover the cost of the temporary care

§ 2 — MUNICIPAL ACO REPORTING

Requires municipal ACOs to report monthly to the Department of Agriculture and the town's or region's chief administrative officer on the official duties and services performed in the prior month; eliminates obsolete language about how ACOs are paid

§ 3 — BREEDING KENNEL FACILITY LICENSE

Renames a kennel license as a breeding kennel facility license; disqualifies people who are guilty of animal cruelty from holding a breeding kennel facility license; allows municipal and regional ACOs, instead of DoAg, to inspect breeding kennel facilities; generally reduces penalties related to violating breeding kennel facility requirements; adds a penalty for not complying with an ACO's orders

§ 4 — BUSINESS ENTITY LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS

Disqualifies people who are guilty of animal cruelty from holding certain licenses; allows the DoAg commissioner to refuse to issue or renew a license or registration for not complying with relevant laws, regulations, and orders

§ 5 — ENFORCEMENT OF THE PET LEMON LAW AND PET SHOP VETERINARY RECORDS

Allows a consumer to bring a lawsuit in Superior Court against a pet shop licensee that fails to comply with the state's pet lemon law; eliminates a fine for the same failure; allows a pet shop licensee to keep electronic or paper records of veterinary services given to dogs and cats offered for sale

§ 7 — HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR IMPORTED CATS AND DOGS

Requires the veterinarians who issue health certificates for imported cats and dogs be accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

§ 8 — RABIES

Makes numerous changes in the statutes related to rabies, such as allowing the DoAg commissioner or his designee to order rabies testing; increasing the penalty for violating

a rabies-related order; requiring suspected or confirmed cases of rabies to be reported to the state veterinarian within 24 hours; and requiring the owner or keeper of an animal that is seized for failure to abide by a quarantine order to pay all costs associated with the animal's seizure and care before reclaiming the animal

§ 9 — SERVICE ANIMALS

Updates language by replacing “guide dogs” with “service animals” to conform with federal law

§ 10 — GENERAL PENALTY AND ENFORCEMENT

Applies the general penalty under Chapter 435 of the general statutes to violations of related regulations instead of those specific to restraining or destroying cats and dogs; provides that ACOs must enforce the chapter's provisions and removes the requirements that constables do so; eliminates a requirement that the DoAg commissioner take enforcement action when an ACO is negligent in his or her duties

§ 11 — ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM

Requires the DoAg commissioner to update the veterinarian reimbursement payment levels under the program biennially

§§ 6, 12 & 13 — REPEALED STATUTES AND TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES

Repeals statutes related to (1) municipal licensing for keeping 10 or more dogs capable of breeding, (2) DoAg setting standards of care for those dogs and cats in a breeding cattery, and (3) allocating a portion of dog license fees to UConn for canine disease research; makes related technical and conforming changes

SUMMARY

This bill makes numerous changes in the domestic animal statutes, as summarized in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage unless otherwise specified below.

§ 1 — NEGLECTED OR CRUELLY TREATED ANIMALS

Allows animal control officers to get court orders requiring an animal's owner to provide necessary care for the animal; increases the cash bond amount required when the animal is given to another temporarily; increases the per diem rate an animal's owner must pay to cover the cost of the temporary care

The bill allows animal control officers (ACOs), when an animal is found to be neglected or cruelly treated, to seek a court order to require the animal's owner to provide necessary care for the animal. This would be an option in addition to other court orders ACOs may already request by law (e.g., removal and temporary care and custody).

Under current law, when a court orders an animal to be temporarily

placed with another person or agency, the animal's owner must either relinquish the animal or post a surety or cash bond of \$500 with the person or agency in whom the animal's temporary care and custody was vested. The bill eliminates the surety bond option and instead requires a \$1,000 cash bond, which may be posted with the person, agency, or the agency's counsel of record in the case.

By law, if the court finds an animal is neglected or cruelly treated, the animal's owner, or other person responsible for the animal, must pay for the expenses incurred by the state, a municipality, or other person or agency for the animal's temporary care and custody. The bill increases the per diem rate that the person must pay. Currently, the law requires the amount owed to be calculated at a per animal per day rate of \$15, or \$25 if the animal is a horse or other large livestock. The bill increases these amounts to \$20 and \$30, respectively.

In addition, the bill requires the animal's owner or other responsible person to pay for all veterinary costs incurred for the welfare of the animal while in temporary custody. Under current law, those costs must be paid for if they are not otherwise covered by the per diem rate.

§ 2 — MUNICIPAL ACO REPORTING

Requires municipal ACOs to report monthly to the Department of Agriculture and the town's or region's chief administrative officer on the official duties and services performed in the prior month; eliminates obsolete language about how ACOs are paid

The bill requires municipal ACOs to report monthly, by the 10th day, to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) and the chief administrative officer for the town or region where services were rendered on the official duties and services they performed in the prior month. The DoAg commissioner must prescribe the forms for the reporting.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that ACOs file sworn statements with their monthly report. Currently, ACOs must file their sworn statements and reports with the chief administrative officer, who then forwards them to DoAg.

Additionally, the bill removes obsolete language about ACOs being

paid based on the number of dogs they handled in the prior month.

§ 3 — BREEDING KENNEL FACILITY LICENSE

Renames a kennel license as a breeding kennel facility license; disqualifies people who are guilty of animal cruelty from holding a breeding kennel facility license; allows municipal and regional ACOs, instead of DoAg, to inspect breeding kennel facilities; generally reduces penalties related to violating breeding kennel facility requirements; adds a penalty for not complying with an ACO's orders

License Eligibility

The bill renames a kennel license as a “breeding kennel facility license.” By law, a person who breeds more than two litters of dogs a year must apply to their town clerk for a license, while a person who breeds up to two litters a year may apply for a license. The bill makes any person, and any business entity with a person with a controlling interest, who is found guilty of animal cruelty ineligible to hold a breeding kennel facility license.

Facility Inspections and ACO Orders

The bill allows municipal and regional ACOs, instead of the agriculture commissioner and state ACOs, to inspect breeding kennel facilities, including after receiving a complaint about the facility. An inspection may include a review of sanitary conditions; the animals’ access to proper and wholesome food, water, exercise, proper enclosures, and necessary veterinary care; records of veterinary care; and the transfer of dogs or puppies to new owners.

The bill requires that any crate or enclosure used at a facility to keep dogs in for more than four hours must be clean; in good repair; and of sufficient size so that the dogs can stand, sit, lie down, turn around, and make normal postural movements.

The ACO may issue orders to correct any deficiencies found during an inspection. If the ACO suspects a communicable or infectious disease, the ACO may order the licensee to consult a veterinarian at their own expense. The licensee must implement any recommendations from the ACO and veterinarian.

Under the bill, a person aggrieved by any related ACO orders may

appeal to the Superior Court serving the municipality, but must do so within 15 days after the order's date.

Penalties

The bill authorizes the municipality to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a breeding kennel facility license for cause.

Currently, anyone operating a breeding kennel facility after their license was revoked or suspended is guilty of a class B misdemeanor (punishable by up to six months in prison, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both). The bill reduces the penalty to a class D misdemeanor (punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250, or both).

Additionally, it reduces the penalty, from a class B misdemeanor to an infraction for a first offense and a class D misdemeanor for a subsequent offense, for failing to (1) get a breeding kennel facility license when required or (2) allow an inspection of the facility. It also extends the same penalty to failing to comply with an ACO's order.

§ 4 — BUSINESS ENTITY LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS

Disqualifies people who are guilty of animal cruelty from holding certain licenses; allows the DoAg commissioner to refuse to issue or renew a license or registration for not complying with relevant laws, regulations, and orders

The bill makes any person, and any business entity with a person with a controlling interest, who is found guilty of animal cruelty ineligible to hold a commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility, or training facility license.

By law, the DoAg commissioner may revoke or suspend a commercial kennel, pet shop, grooming facility, or training facility license or an animal shelter registration for failure to comply with state laws and regulations and commissioner orders. The bill also authorizes him to refuse to issue or renew a license or registration for the same reasons.

The bill specifies that any individual or private entity (rather than any person) that wants to operate an animal shelter must register the shelter with the DoAg commissioner and comply with applicable laws and

regulations.

§ 5 — ENFORCEMENT OF THE PET LEMON LAW AND PET SHOP VETERINARY RECORDS

Allows a consumer to bring a lawsuit in Superior Court against a pet shop licensee that fails to comply with the state's pet lemon law; eliminates a fine for the same failure; allows a pet shop licensee to keep electronic or paper records of veterinary services given to dogs and cats offered for sale

Pet Lemon Law Enforcement

By law, if a pet shop licensee fails to reimburse a consumer in accordance with the state's pet lemon law (see *Background*), the consumer may seek help from the DoAg commissioner. Under the bill, if a licensee fails to reimburse or replace an animal as required under the pet lemon law, the consumer may bring a lawsuit in Superior Court for enforcement action.

Currently, a licensee who violates the pet lemon law is fined up to \$500. The bill eliminates the statutory fine.

Pet Shop Veterinary Records

The bill allows pet shop licensees to maintain either electronic or paper records of veterinary services provided for dogs and cats offered for sale. By law, they must have a licensed veterinarian examine each dog or cat every 15 days until the animal is sold and keep the exam records. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, a violator is subject to a fine of up to \$500.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

Background — Pet Lemon Law

By law, a pet shop licensee must reimburse a customer for veterinarian expenses incurred for a dog or cat that within (1) 20 days after sale, becomes ill or dies of an illness that it had at the time of sale or (2) six months after sale, is diagnosed with a congenital defect that adversely affects its health. The law requires the licensee to reimburse the value of the actual veterinarian services and medications given to the animal, but the reimbursement is limited to (1) the purchase price of the animal if it was purchased for \$500 or more and (2) \$500 if the animal

was purchased for less than \$500. At the customer's option, the pet shop licensee must instead replace the animal or refund the animal's purchase price.

§ 7 — HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR IMPORTED CATS AND DOGS

Requires the veterinarians who issue health certificates for imported cats and dogs be accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

By law, cats and dogs imported into the state must come with a health certificate stating that they are free of any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease and, for any over three months old, vaccinated for rabies. Current law requires a licensed, graduate veterinarian to issue the health certificates. The bill requires that the veterinarian be accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 8 — RABIES

Makes numerous changes in the statutes related to rabies, such as allowing the DoAg commissioner or his designee to order rabies testing; increasing the penalty for violating a rabies-related order; requiring suspected or confirmed cases of rabies to be reported to the state veterinarian within 24 hours; and requiring the owner or keeper of an animal that is seized for failure to abide by a quarantine order to pay all costs associated with the animal's seizure and care before reclaiming the animal

DoAg Orders

By law, the DoAg commissioner may order an animal to be confined, controlled, or destroyed to prevent the spread of rabies and protect the public. The bill also allows him to order an animal to be tested for rabies and quarantined and allows his designee to make any of these orders on his behalf.

Under current law, anyone who violates an order is subject to a fine of up to \$100. The bill instead subjects a violator to a \$250 fine.

Reports of Rabies

Currently, local health directors or boards and veterinarians must report a suspected or confirmed rabies case to the DoAg commissioner within 24 hours. The bill instead requires an ACO, diagnostic lab, local health director, or veterinarian to report this information to the state

veterinarian in the same timeframe.

Biting and Attacking Animals

By law, ACOs may quarantine (for 10 days) a dog, cat, or ferret that bites or attacks a person or another animal to watch for signs of rabies. The law also requires the state veterinarian to determine the management, confinement, quarantine, or disposition of a biting or attacking animal other than a dog, cat, or ferret. When making her decisions, the state veterinarian must consider the animal's age, health, rabies vaccination status, and national recommendations for preventing and controlling rabies. The bill also requires her to consider the rabies vaccination status of the animal bitten or attacked.

Quarantined Animal With Rabies

Under current law, any quarantined animal that is clinically diagnosed as rabid by two veterinarians, including one in private practice, must be humanely euthanized. The bill instead requires one veterinarian or the state veterinarian to make the diagnosis before euthanizing the animal. By law, the euthanasia must happen immediately without prior notice to the animal's owner or keeper, and the veterinarian carrying it out is immune from criminal and civil liability.

The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) laboratory, or a DPH-authorized lab, to examine the euthanized animal for rabies. The veterinarian performing the euthanasia must make sure that the animal's head is brought to the appropriate lab for examination within 48 hours after the animal is euthanized.

Quarantined Animal in Good Health

Under current law, when a quarantined animal, other than a dog, is found to be healthy at the end of the quarantine period but its owner or keeper has not claimed the animal within that time, a municipal ACO may sell the animal to someone who will give it a good home and proper care. The bill instead allows a municipal or regional ACO to sell or give away the animal if its owner or keeper has not claimed it within five

days after the quarantine period ended. As under current law, if the animal is not sold after this time, it may be disposed of at the state veterinarian's direction, and no one will be held criminally or civilly liable for this action.

Wild Animal Suspected of Being Rabid

Under current law, the DoAg commissioner, an ACO, or a state or municipal police officer may immediately kill a wild animal that displays behavior that causes the commissioner to reasonably conclude that the animal is rabid. The bill instead allows an ACO or a state or municipal police officer to kill a wild animal if the DoAg commissioner, state veterinarian, an ACO, or a state or municipal police officer reasonably concludes the animal is rabid.

Failure to Comply With a Quarantine or Confinement Order

The bill allows an animal subject to a quarantine or confinement order whose owner or keeper does not comply with the order to be seized by an ACO and held in quarantine until it is over and the animal is examined by a veterinarian. The owner or keeper who failed to comply with the order must pay all resulting costs, including the costs of seizure, care, handling, veterinary examination, and rabies vaccination, before the animal is released to him or her.

§ 9 — SERVICE ANIMALS

Updates language by replacing "guide dogs" with "service animals" to conform with federal law

Under current law, a dog owner or keeper must restrain their dog when they are near a person with a disability who is with a guide dog that is licensed, under the person's control, and wearing a harness or orange leash and collar that readily identifies the dog as a guide dog. A violation is an infraction.

The bill replaces the references to "guide dog" with "service animal" and eliminates the requirement that the animal be readily identified as one, as this is not required by federal law.

Similar to current law, if a dog attacks and injures a service animal,

the dog's owner or keeper is liable for damages, including the cost of veterinary care, rehabilitation or replacement of the service animal, and reasonable attorney fees.

§ 10 — GENERAL PENALTY AND ENFORCEMENT

Applies the general penalty under Chapter 435 of the general statutes to violations of related regulations instead of those specific to restraining or destroying cats and dogs; provides that ACOs must enforce the chapter's provisions and removes the requirements that constables do so; eliminates a requirement that the DoAg commissioner take enforcement action when an ACO is negligent in his or her duties

General Penalty

When a person owning, keeping, or harboring a cat or dog or maintaining a kennel or commercial kennel violates a provision of Chapter 435 of the general statutes (i.e., laws related to companion animals) or a regulation about restraining or destroying cats or dogs, for which no other penalty is specified, a general penalty is imposed. The penalty is a fine of at least \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both. The bill applies the general penalty to a violation of any related regulation, not just those on restraining or destroying cats or dogs.

Enforcement

Under current law, any of the following people may investigate and prosecute violations of the chapter: constables, any ACO, the state's chief ACO, and any prosecuting officers. The bill instead requires any ACO or the chief ACO to investigate and prosecute violations.

Additionally, the bill eliminates a requirement that the DoAg commissioner take any necessary enforcement action upon getting a complaint that an ACO is negligent in his or her enforcement duties.

§ 11 — ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM

Requires the DoAg commissioner to update the veterinarian reimbursement payment levels under the program biennially

PA 21-90 required the DoAg commissioner to update the reimbursement amount paid to veterinarians participating in the Animal Population Control Program. It required the commissioner to set a reimbursement rate that is up to 75% of the market rate or fee charged by veterinarians in Connecticut as of October 31, 2021. The bill

instead requires him to set this reimbursement rate biennially.

Background — Animal Population Control Program

This DoAg program (1) gives low-income Connecticut residents discounted sterilization and vaccination options for their dogs and cats and (2) helps registered nonprofit rescue groups with the sterilization and vaccination of feral cats. The DoAg commissioner uses the animal population control account for the program's costs. The account funds come from a surcharge on dog licenses, certain animal adoption fees for unsterilized cats and dogs, and proceeds from commemorative "Caring for Pets" license plates.

§§ 6, 12 & 13 — REPEALED STATUTES AND TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES

Repeals statutes related to (1) municipal licensing for keeping 10 or more dogs capable of breeding, (2) DoAg setting standards of care for those dogs and cats in a breeding cattery, and (3) allocating a portion of dog license fees to UConn for canine disease research; makes related technical and conforming changes

The bill makes technical and conforming changes, including removing references to the following statutes that the bill repeals:

1. CGS § 22-344c, which allows towns to require a license in order to keep 10 or more unneutered or unspayed dogs capable of breeding and requires the DoAg commissioner to prescribe the standard of care to be provided to those dogs and any cats in a breeding cattery and
2. CGS § 22-348, which allocates \$0.10 from each dog license fee to UConn for canine disease research.

Background — Related Bill

sHB 6611, favorably reported by the Environment Committee also repeals CGS § 22-348, but as of June 1, 2024.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/24/2023)