

Current Regulations submitted by Raymond Connors - Supervisor

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Sec. 22-354. Imported dogs and cats. Certificates of health. Importation from rabies quarantine area. Sale of young puppies and kittens. Sale of dogs by pet shop licensees. Certificate of origin required. Purchase of dog or cat from outside of state. Penalties. (a) **Any dog or cat imported into this state shall be accompanied by a certificate of health** issued no earlier than thirty days prior to the date of importation by a licensed, graduate veterinarian stating that such dog or cat is free from symptoms of any infectious, contagious or communicable disease, and that such dog or cat, if three months of age or older, is currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. A copy of such health certificate shall be forwarded promptly to the commissioner from the livestock sanitary official of the state of origin. Any dog or cat originating from a rabies quarantine area shall have permission of the State Veterinarian prior to importation into this state. **No person, firm or corporation shall import or export for the purposes of sale, adoption or transfer or offering for sale, adoption or transfer any dog or cat under the age of eight weeks unless such dog or cat is transported with its dam and no person, firm or corporation shall sell or offer for adoption or transfer within the state any dog or cat under the age of eight weeks. Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this subsection or bringing any dog or cat into this state from an area under quarantine for rabies shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.**

(b) Any dog sold or offered for sale by a pet shop licensee in this state shall be accompanied by a **certificate of origin** identifying the name and address of the person, firm or corporation that bred such dog and of any person, firm or corporation that sold such dog to such pet shop licensee. Such certificate shall be in a form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Such information contained in the certificate of origin shall be posted on the sign described in section 22-344d and such information shall be visible to customers. A copy of such certificate shall be provided to the purchaser of such dog at the time of sale and shall be filed by such licensee with the Department of Agriculture not later than seven days after such sale. **No pet shop licensee shall purchase a dog or cat for resale from a breeder or other person, firm or corporation located outside of this state that is not in possession of a current license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and any applicable state agency.** Any pet shop licensee violating the provisions of this subsection shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both, for each violation. Each day a pet shop licensee is in violation of this subsection shall constitute a separate offense.

Sec. 22-344b. Pet shop required to have dogs and cats examined by veterinarian.

Replacement or refund. Statement of customer rights. Penalty. (a) A pet shop licensee shall, prior to offering a dog or cat for sale and thereafter at intervals of fifteen days until such dog or cat is sold, provide for examination of such dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384. Such licensee shall maintain a record of the veterinary services rendered for each dog or cat offered for sale.

(b) (1) If, (A) within twenty days of sale, any such dog or cat becomes ill or dies of any illness which existed in such dog or cat at the time of the sale, or (B) within six months of sale, any such dog or cat is diagnosed with a congenital defect that adversely affects or will adversely affect the health of such dog or cat, such licensee shall: (i) Reimburse such consumer not more than five hundred dollars for services and medications provided to such dog or cat by any veterinarian licensed pursuant to chapter 384 for the treatment of such illness or congenital defect upon the presentation by such consumer to such licensee of a certificate from such veterinarian that such dog or cat suffers or suffered from such illness or congenital defect. No licensee may require the consumer to return such dog or cat to such licensee to receive such reimbursement, or (ii) at the option of such consumer, replace the dog or cat or refund in full the purchase price of such dog or cat: (I) In the case of illness or such congenital defect, upon return of the dog or cat to the pet shop and the receipt of a certificate from a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 and selected by the consumer, stating that the dog or cat is ill from a condition which existed at the time of sale, or suffers from such congenital defect, and (II) in the case of death, the receipt of a certificate from a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 and selected by the consumer, stating that the dog or cat died from an illness or a congenital defect which existed at the time of sale. The presentation of such certificate shall be sufficient proof to claim reimbursement or replacement and the return of such deceased dog or cat to the pet shop shall not be required. No such refund or replacement shall be made if such illness or death resulted from maltreatment or neglect by a person other than the licensee or such licensee's agent or employee. A licensee shall not be subject to the obligations imposed by this subsection for the sale of a cat where such cat has been spayed or neutered prior to its sale.

(2) Each pet shop licensee who sells dogs or cats shall post a statement of customer rights pursuant to this section in a location that is readily visible to the public and also provide a copy of such statement to any purchaser of a dog or cat at the time of purchase. The commissioner shall prescribe the content of such statement. Any statement of customer rights posted pursuant to this section shall be printed in black lettering of not less than twenty point size upon a white background.

(c) A licensee who violates any provision of this section shall forfeit to the state a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars for each animal which is the subject of the violation. The Attorney General, upon complaint of the commissioner, may institute a civil action in the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to recover the forfeiture specified in this section.

Sec. 22-344d. Signs required in pet shops selling dogs. Penalty. (a) A sign measuring not less than three inches in height and not less than five inches in width shall be posted on the cage of each dog offered for sale in a pet shop. The sign shall contain information printed in black

lettering on a white background listing the breed of such dog, the locality and state in which such dog was born, and any individual identification number of such dog as listed on the official certificate of veterinary inspection from the state of origin.

(b) A sign shall be posted stating the following "THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON ALL OUR PUPPIES: DATE OF BIRTH, THE STATE OF BIRTH, BREED, SEX AND COLOR, THE DATE THE PET SHOP RECEIVED THE PUPPY, THE NAMES AND REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF THE PARENTS (FOR AKC REGISTERABLE PUPPIES), RECORD OF INOCULATIONS AND WORMING TREATMENTS AND ANY RECORD OF ANY VETERINARY TREATMENT OR MEDICATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE." Such sign shall include a telephone number at the Department of Agriculture through which information may be obtained regarding complaints about diseased or disabled animals offered for sale. Such sign shall be posted in a place readily visible to the consumer where dogs are offered for sale and printed in black lettering not less than thirty-eight point size upon a white background.

(c) A licensee who violates any provision of this section shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars. The Attorney General, upon complaint of the Commissioner of Agriculture, may institute a civil action in the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to recover the penalty specified in this section.

Sec. 22-344e. License required for procurement of dog or cat for resale. Exception. Penalty. No person shall procure any dog or cat for the purpose of resale unless such person: (1) Holds a pet shop license under section 22-344, or (2) resells such dog to a law enforcement agency or military branch of the federal, state or municipal government for the purpose of the performance of law enforcement or security work by such dog. **Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.**

PET SHOP REGULATIONS

Sec. 22-344-16a. Structural standards. The facilities for housing animals shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to prevent injury to the animals. All buildings, premises and containers used to transport animals shall be maintained in a sanitary manner. Equipment shall be available for the proper storage or disposal of waste material to control vermin, insects and obnoxious odors. Pet shops shall take effective measures to control and prevent the infestation of animals and premises with external parasites and vermin. The burning of any excreta, bedding or debris on the premises is prohibited.

Sec. 22-344-17a. Enclosures. (a) Enclosures for all animals shall be suited to the species of animals, structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and escape. Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to enable the animals to remain clean and dry when appropriate for the species. All animals shall be kept in proper enclosures except when cleaning said enclosures. Birds acclimated to open perches shall be exempt from the enclosure requirement.

(b) Walls and floors of enclosures shall be constructed of nonabsorbent, nonporous materials impervious to moisture. If wire or grid flooring is used it must be made of galvanized, stainless steel, or plastic coated wire and be of adequate gauge to support the animal(s) without sagging and to prevent the animals' feet from passing through the openings. Enclosures in current use shall be cleaned and disinfected daily or more if necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.

(c) Enclosures shall be designed and constructed as to provide adequate physical comfort to the animals. Each animal must be provided with sufficient space to turn about freely and easily stand, sit or lie in a comfortable natural position. Animals that are group housed must be maintained in compatible groups. No female dog or cat in season (estrus) shall be housed in the same primary enclosure with male animals except for breeding purposes.

Sec. 22-344-18a. Housing facilities – temperature. (a) Pet shops shall be sufficiently heated to protect animals from the cold and to provide for their health and comfort at all times. The temperature of the air surrounding animals shall be maintained, under normal conditions, at a minimum of 65°F and a maximum of 78°F, except for those animals which require higher temperatures. Animals shall be provided protection from the direct rays of the sun.

(b) Housing for animals shall be adequately ventilated in such a manner as to minimize drafts, offensive odors and moisture condensation and to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times. Ventilation shall be deemed adequate only if mechanical ventilation, such as exhaust fans, exhaust vents or air conditioning is provided and operating properly.

Sec. 22-344-19a. Lighting. Facilities housing animals shall have ample well distributed light by natural or artificial means, or both, providing a minimum of 30 foot candles for a minimum of eight hours in each twenty-four hour period, except where contraindicated for health reasons. Enclosures shall be so placed as to protect animals from excessive illumination except those which require it.

Sec. 22-344-20a. Animal health. (a) Animals shall be provided with food that is wholesome, palatable, free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain animals in good health. Animals, other than certain reptiles which according to normal husbandry practices for their species are not fed at least once daily, must be fed at least once a day, including Sundays and holidays, except as dictated by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other commonly accepted practices recognized by professionals who are expert in the care of the animals concerned. In the case of young animals, they shall be fed at least two times per day, except when continuous self feeders are provided. Feeding pans shall be durable and sanitized daily. Self feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food provided they are cleaned and sanitized regularly to prevent molding or caking of food. If disposable food receptacles are used, they must be discarded after each feeding. Food shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect the supplies against deterioration, molding or contamination by vermin.

(b) Potable water shall be provided at all times to each animal in accordance with its needs, except as directed by hibernation, veterinary treatment or other commonly accepted practices recognized by professionals who are expert in the care of the animals concerned. Water containers shall be designed and of sufficient number to provide and dispense adequate quantities of water for the particular species and must be placed in such a way as to prevent spillage. Water containers shall be cleaned and sanitized at least once each day, except that sipper-tube type water bottles, if used, must be kept clean and sanitized regularly, kept free of dirt, debris and algae, and must be cleaned and sanitized prior to an animal being placed in an enclosure.

(c) All dogs and cats received for resale shall be housed, separate from other dogs and cats on the premises for a minimum of 48 hours before being released to a purchaser. Each animal shall be observed daily by the licensee or his representative in order to recognize general symptoms of injury, illness or disease. Any dog or cat that exhibits symptoms of injury, illness or disease shall be isolated and treated as prescribed by a veterinarian. Any such dog or cat shall be verified by a veterinarian to be healthy before such dog or cat can be offered for sale.

(d) Dogs confined in cages shall be removed at least once daily for a period of time. Each pet shop shall consult with a veterinarian licensed in Connecticut to determine the place and period of time necessary for exercise for their dogs confined in cages. Each pet shop shall follow the advice of the veterinarian.

Sec. 22-344-21a. Prohibited sales. The exhibition, sale or offer for sale by a pet shop of any of the following listed animals is prohibited.

1. Chicks, ducklings or other poultry under three months of age.
2. Foxes (*Urocyon eineroarg-enteus*; *Vulpes fulva*).
3. Raccoons (*Procyon Lotor*).
4. Skunks (*Mephitis*).

5. Venomous reptiles.
6. Venomous amphibians.
7. Venomous arachnids.
8. Turtles, except those sold or offered for sale in accordance with section 19a-102 of the General Statutes and Connecticut Department of Health Services regulation 19-13-A49.
9. Monk or Quaker Parakeets (*Myiopsitta Monachus*).
10. All animals listed under section 26-40a of the General Statutes as potentially dangerous wild animals.
11. Any animal which exhibits :
 - (a) Obvious signs of infectious diseases such as distemper, parvovirus, coronavirus, hepatitis, leptospirosis, rabies or other similar diseases. (Not to be construed to include incubating diseases.)
 - (b) Obvious signs of nutritional disease which may include rickets and emaciation.
 - (c) Obvious signs of severe parasitism – extreme enough to be influencing its general health.
 - (d) Fractures or congenital abnormalities affecting its general health.

Sec. 22-344-25c. Records. (a) The owner or operator of a pet shop shall maintain the following records regarding each dog or cat obtained by the pet shop:

1. Name and address of person, firm or corporation from whom animal was obtained, date thereof and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) dealer license number if applicable.
2. Description of dog or cat including species, breed, sex, color and distinctive markings, physical condition and health, age and USDA animal identification number if applicable.
3. Name and address of person, firm or corporation to whom dog or cat was sold or ownership was transferred and date thereof.
4. Disposition of dog or cat, if not sold or transferred, including euthanasia and method, mortality and cause, if known, escape, or other specific circumstance, and date thereof.
5. For each dog or cat receiving medical care, the type of service rendered, date and veterinarian's name.
6. If applicable the USDA individual health certificate and identification form (VS form 18-1).
 - (b) The information required by subdivision (1) and (2) of subsection (a) shall be entered into a bound logbook with all pages consecutively numbered within 72 hours of receipt of the dog or cat. The information required by subdivisions 3 through 5 of subsection (a) shall be entered into the logbook within 72 hours of the event which is being recorded. Any entry in the logbook which is not adjacent to the original entry describing the animal shall refer to such original entry.
 - (c) The records required by subsection (a) shall be maintained at the pet shop for a minimum of two years after the date of sale, transfer or other disposition of the dog or cat addressed by the record, and shall be readily available for inspection by any designated agent of the commissioner.
 - (d) The licensee of a pet shop shall, within 72 hours of receipt of a dog or cat, mail or deliver a copy of the USDA individual health certificate and identification form (VS form 18-1) to the State Veterinarian