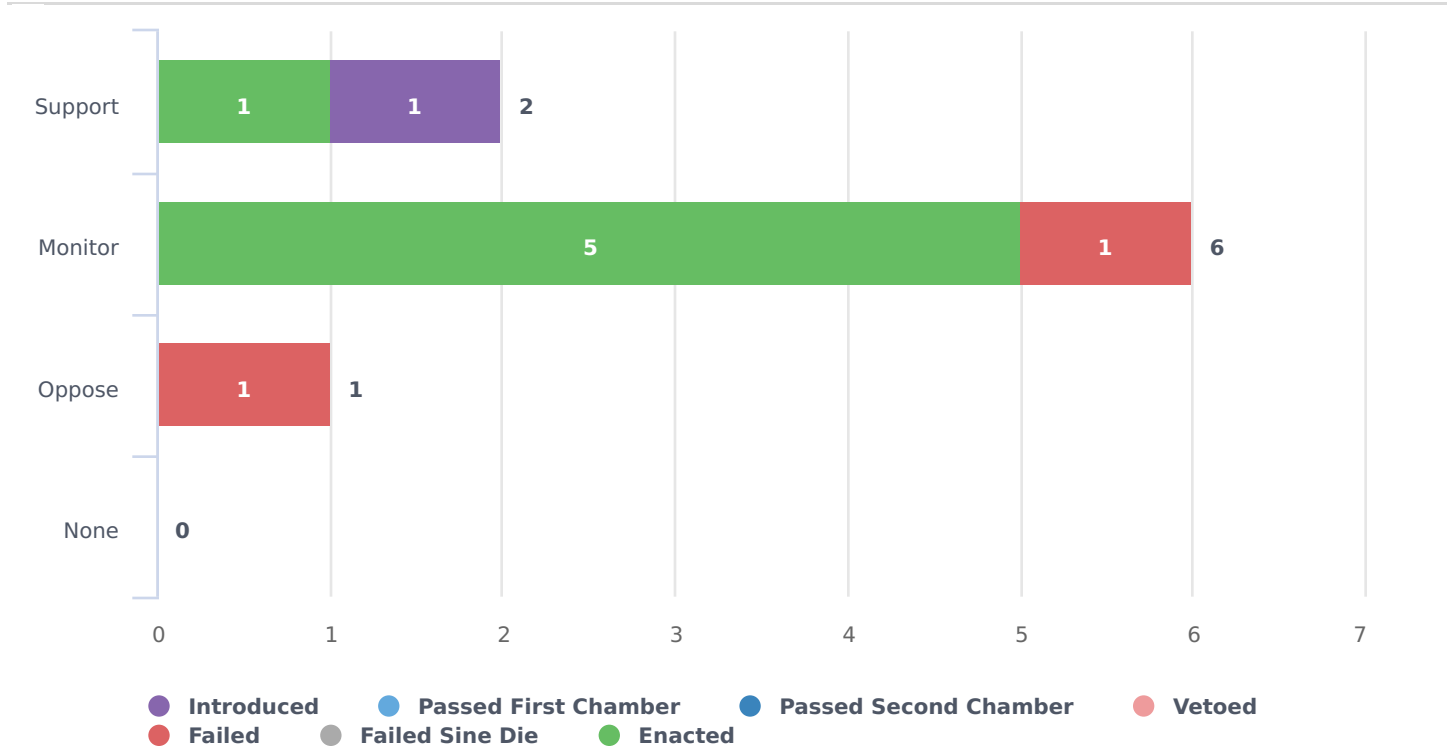


# Colorado - 2024 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: June 05, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: CO (9)

**Title**

Emergency Management Plan Individuals with Animals

**Description**

Wildfire Matters Review Committee. The bill strongly encourages a locally defined or interjurisdictional emergency management plan amended or created on or after July 1, 2024, and requires, when practicable, a locally defined or interjurisdictional emergency management plan amended or created on or after January 1, 2024, to address the needs of an individual with an animal during an emergency by: Including provisions for the evacuation, shelter, and transport of an individual with an animal and that animal; and Requiring, to the extent practicable, that at least one shelter established during an emergency is designated to accommodate an individual with an animal and that animal. The bill also strongly encourages a city, county, or city and county to make available to the public information for animal emergency preparedness, including: Information for creating an evacuation plan and emergency checklist for individuals with animals consistent with recommendations publicly published by the United States department of agriculture and the federal emergency management agency; Local organizations that may provide emergency animal assistance; and Local emergency shelters, cooling centers, or warming centers, when active, that can accommodate an individual with an animal. Lastly, the bill also strongly encourages a city, county, or city and county, on or after January 1, 2025, to implement disability etiquette and service animal training to ensure that emergency response personnel are well prepared to interact with individuals with disabilities and their service animals during emergency situations. (Note: Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.) (Note: This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house.)

**Primary Sponsors**

Marc Snyder, Elizabeth Velasco, Lisa Cutter, Sonya Lewis, Joann Ginal

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 13, 2024, 12:34 PM

Amends Title 24 (Government-State), Article 33.5 (Public Safety), Part 7 (Emergency Management) of Colorado Revised Statutes by adding a new Section 33.5-707 (Local and interjurisdictional emergency management agencies and services - definition) to encourage emergency management plans which address the needs of an individual with an animal during an emergency. Encourages a locally defined or interjurisdictional emergency management plan amended or created on or after January 1, 2025, to address the needs of an individual with an animal during an emergency by: (1) Including provisions for the evacuation, shelter, and transport of an individual with an animal and that animal; and (2) Requiring, to the extent practicable, that at least one shelter established during an emergency is designated to accommodate an individual with an animal and that animal. Encourages a city, county, or city and county to make available to the public information for animal emergency preparedness, including: (1) Information for creating an evacuation plan and emergency checklist for individuals with animals consistent with recommendations publicly published by the United States department of agriculture and the federal emergency management agency; (2) Local organizations that may provide emergency animal assistance; and (3) Local emergency shelters, cooling centers, or warming centers, when active, that can accommodate an individual with an animal. Provides that, on or after January 1, 2025, a city, county, or city and county is strongly encouraged to incorporate disability etiquette and service animal training provided by, or with guidance from, the relevant independent living center or other relevant training provider to ensure that emergency response personnel are well prepared to interact with individuals with disabilities and their service animals during emergency situations. For purposes of this section: "Animal" means both a "Pet Animal" and "Service Animal". "Pet animal" means dogs, cats, or other domestic animals, except livestock as defined in section 38-20-202 (6). "Service animal" has the same meaning as set forth in the implementing regulations of Title II and Title III of the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 12101 et seq., as amended.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-10

**Title**

Veterinary Technician Scope of Practice

**Description**

Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee. The board of veterinary medicine (board) is required to promulgate rules establishing certain veterinary medicine tasks that a licensed veterinarian may delegate to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists and the recommended level of supervision for the tasks. A licensed veterinarian may delegate tasks pursuant to the board's rules after first establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with an animal or group of animals and the owner of the animal or animals. The licensed veterinarian is required to provide an appropriate level of supervision of the veterinary technician or veterinary technician specialist in accordance with applicable rules of the board. If there are not applicable rules related to the specific veterinary task that is being delegated, the veterinarian may delegate the task based on the assessment of the veterinary medical care being provided, the experience, education, and training of the person providing the care, and in compliance with all state and federal laws. Beginning on January 1, 2026, the bill authorizes a veterinary technician to receive a veterinary technician specialist designation as part of the veterinary technician's registration, grants title protection for veterinary technician specialists, and prohibits the unauthorized practice as a veterinary technician specialist by a person who does not have a veterinary technician specialist designation. (Note: Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.) (Note: This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house.)

**Primary Sponsors**

Karen McCormick, Marc Catlin, Dylan Roberts, Cleave Simpson, Barbara McLachlan, Jeff Bridges, Byron Pelton, Rod Pelton

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 13, 2024, 8:03 PM

Amends Title 12 (Professions & Occupations), Article 315 (Veterinarians) of Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated to provide a scope of practice for veterinary technicians. Requires the Board of Veterinary Medicine to promulgate rules establishing certain veterinary medicine tasks that a licensed veterinarian may delegate to veterinary technicians and veterinary technician specialists and the recommended level of supervision for the tasks. Provides that a licensed veterinarian may delegate tasks pursuant to the Board's rules after first establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with an animal or group of animals and the owner of the animal or animals. Provides that the licensed veterinarian is required to provide an appropriate level of supervision of the veterinary technician or veterinary technician specialist in accordance with applicable rules of the Board. Provides that if there are not applicable rules related to the specific veterinary task that is being delegated, the veterinarian may delegate the task based on the assessment of the veterinary medical care being provided, the experience, education, and training of the person providing the care, and in compliance with all state and federal laws. Beginning on January 1, 2026, the bill authorizes a veterinary technician to receive a veterinary technician specialist designation as part of the veterinary technician's registration, grants title protection for veterinary technician specialists, and prohibits the unauthorized practice as a veterinary technician specialist by a person who does not have a veterinary technician specialist designation.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-10

**Title**

Providing Veterinary Services Through Telehealth

**Description**

Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee. The bill concerns the use of telehealth to provide veterinary services. The bill defines different types of telehealth tools that can be used in a veterinary practice. In current law, one criterion for the establishment of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship is that the veterinarian has conducted an examination of the animal that is the patient. The bill clarifies that the examination must be an in-person, physical examination. The bill also extends the veterinarian-client-patient relationship to other licensed veterinarians who share the same physical premises as the veterinarian who established the relationship if the other veterinarians have access to and have reviewed the patient's medical records. The bill allows a licensed veterinarian who has established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to use telehealth to provide veterinary services to clients and patients in Colorado with the consent of the client. A licensed veterinarian may also refer a patient to a veterinary specialist, who may provide veterinary services via telemedicine under the referring veterinarian's veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The bill authorizes the state board of veterinary medicine to establish rules for the use of telehealth to provide veterinary services. The bill clarifies that only a licensed veterinarian with an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship may prescribe medication using telemedicine. The bill allows a licensed veterinarian who has established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to supervise veterinary personnel who are not located on the same premises using telesupervision if the veterinarian and the personnel are employees of the same veterinary practice and the veterinary premises location, the veterinary professionals or other veterinary personnel are licensed or registered in Colorado, and the patient are all is located in Colorado. The bill establishes record-keeping, confidentiality, and privacy requirements related to the use of telehealth. (Note: Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.) (Note: This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house.)

**Primary Sponsors**

Karen McCormick, Matthew Martinez, Joann Ginal, Byron Pelton, Barbara McLachlan, Rod Pelton, Cleave Simpson

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 25, 2024, 11:58 AM

Amends Title 12 (Professions & Occupations), Article 315 (Veterinarians) of Colorado Revised Statutes Annotated to add provisions concerning the use of telehealth to provide veterinary services. Defines different types of telehealth tools that can be used in a veterinary practice. Extends the veterinarian-client-patient relationship to other licensed veterinarians who share the same physical premises as the veterinarian who established the relationship if the other veterinarians have access to and have reviewed the patient's medical records. Allows a licensed veterinarian who has established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to use telehealth to provide veterinary services to clients and patients in Colorado with the consent of the client. Provides that a licensed veterinarian may also refer a patient to a veterinary specialist, who may provide veterinary services via telemedicine under the referring veterinarian's veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Authorizes the Sate Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish rules for the use of telehealth to provide veterinary services. Clarifies that only a licensed veterinarian with an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship may prescribe medication using telemedicine. Allows a licensed veterinarian who has established a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to supervise veterinary personnel who are not located on the same premises using telesupervision if the veterinarian and the personnel are employees of the same veterinary practice and the veterinary premises, the veterinary professionals or other veterinary personnel, and the patient are all located in Colorado. Establishes record-keeping, confidentiality, and privacy requirements related to the use of telehealth. Provides that, in developing rules pursuant to this section, the Board shall consult with licensed veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, clients, and other relevant stakeholders as determined by the Board.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-10

**Title**

Pet Animal Facility Requirements Before Euthanasia

**Description**

The bill requires an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue to notify each animal shelter and pet animal rescue in the state before euthanizing a pet animal so that another animal shelter or pet animal rescue may take possession of the animal if it wants the pet animal. This requirement does not apply to: A pet animal that is irremediably suffering; A dog adjudicated to be dangerous; A dog ordered to be euthanized by a court; or A dog with a history of repeated unprovoked biting prior to the current impound, as documented by an agency charged with enforcing state or local animal laws. (Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)

**Primary Sponsors**

Mandy Lindsay, Ryan Armagost, Kevin Priola

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 29, 2024, 1:45 PM

Amends Title 35 (Agriculture), Article 80 (Pet Animal Care & Facilities Act), Section 35-80-106.6 (Care of dogs and cats in animal shelters and pet animal rescues - legislative declaration - requirements) of Colorado Revised Statutes to require certain notification procedures for animal shelters and pet animal rescue prior to euthanization of animals. Requires an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue to notify each animal shelter and pet animal rescue in the state before euthanizing a pet animal so that another animal shelter or pet animal rescue may take possession of the animal if it wants the pet animal. Provides that this requirement does not apply to: (1) A pet animal that is irremediably suffering; (2) A dog adjudicated to be dangerous; (3) A dog ordered to be euthanized by a court; or (4) A dog with a history of repeated unprovoked biting prior to the current impound, as documented by an agency charged with enforcing state or local animal laws. Provides that an animal shelter or pet animal rescue that transfers a pet animal pursuant to this section is immune from civil liability for actions caused by the pet animal after the transfer if the transferring shelter or rescue provided the accepting shelter or rescue with all material information about the pet animal. For the purpose of the notification required in this section, the Department shall procure a system to allow animal shelters and pet animal rescues to contact all animal shelters and pet animal rescues in the state.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-26

**Title**

Pet Animal Registration System

**Description**

The bill requires the commissioner of the department of agriculture (commissioner) to develop, implement, and maintain an online pet animal registration system (system). The bill establishes the pet animal registration enterprise (enterprise) in the department of agriculture to provide business services to pet animal owners who pay pet registration fees to the enterprise by developing, implementing, maintaining, and administering the pet animal registration system, connecting pet animals with their owners and designated caregivers when and after emergencies occur, and protecting pet animals by supporting animal shelters that are caretakers of last resort. A pet animal owner must register the pet animal in the system annually for a fee set by the enterprise, which must be no more than \$8.50 annually per pet animal with a designated caregiver, \$16 annually per pet animal that is a dog or cat that is not neutered or spayed and has a designated caregiver, and \$25 annually per pet animal without a designated caregiver. The fee set by the enterprise is in addition to any pet registration or licensing fee assessed by any other jurisdiction. The enterprise will collect both state and local fees and transmit any fee levied by another jurisdiction to that jurisdiction and the fee levied by the state to the newly created pet animal registration cash fund. The state's fee will be used to develop, implement, maintain, and administer the system and reimburse animal shelters for the cost of taking custody of a pet animal for which a caregiver cannot be located or has refused to take custody. The bill also requires a pet animal owner to designate a caregiver for the owner's pet animal. The caregiver is responsible for the care and safekeeping of the pet animal during an emergency that incapacitates the pet animal owner. First responders will use the system to identify the designated caregiver of the pet animal and notify the caregiver of the incapacitation of the pet animal's owner. A caregiver must agree to be responsible for the pet animal. If a caregiver later refuses to take custody of the pet animal or cannot be located, a first responder will place the pet animal in an animal shelter. Only first responders and the department of public health and environment are allowed to use the system. The bill specifies that to own a pet animal without registering the pet animal; to refuse or fail to comply with the provisions of the bill; to make a material misstatement in a registration application, a registration renewal application, or to the department of agriculture; or to refuse or fail to comply with any rules or regulations adopted by the commissioner is unlawful. An unlawful act is punishable by a civil penalty in an amount set by the commissioner but not to ex... (click bill link to see more).

**Primary Sponsors**

Regina English

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 1, 2024, 4:15 PM

Amends Title 35 (Agriculture) of Colorado Revised Statutes by adding a new Article 82 (Pet Animal Registration Act) to require the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture to develop, implement, and maintain an online pet animal registration system. Establishes the Pet Animal Registration Enterprise in the Department of Agriculture to provide business services to pet animal owners who pay pet registration fees to the enterprise by: (1) Developing, implementing, maintaining, and administering the pet animal registration system; (2) Connecting pet animals with their owners and designated caregivers when and after emergencies occur; and (3) Protecting pet animals by supporting animal shelters that are caretakers of last resort. Provides that a pet animal owner must register the pet animal in the system annually for a fee set by the enterprise, which must be no more than: (1) \$8.50 annually per pet animal with a designated caregiver; (2) \$16 annually per pet animal that is a dog or cat that is not neutered or spayed and has a designated caregiver; and (3) \$25 annually per pet animal without a designated caregiver. Provides that the system must capture the following information at a minimum: (1) The owner's name, address, cellular phone number, and email address; (2) The pet animal's name, owner, breed, age, and caregiver, and whether the pet animal is a dangerous animal; (3) The caregiver's name, address, cellular phone number, and email address; and (4) The pet animal's registration status. Provides that the enterprise will collect both state and local fees and transmit any fee levied by another jurisdiction to that jurisdiction and the fee levied by the state to the newly created pet animal registration cash fund. Provides that state's fee will be used to develop, implement, maintain, and administer the system and reimburse animal shelters for the cost of taking custody of a pet animal for which a caregiver cannot be located or has refused to take custody. Requires a pet animal owner to designate a caregiver for the owner's pet animal who is responsible for the care and safekeeping of the pet animal during an emergency that incapacitates the pet animal owner. Provides that to own a pet animal without registering the pet animal; to refuse or fail to comply with the provisions of the bill; to make a material misstatement in a registration application, a registration renewal application, or to the department of agriculture; or to refuse or fail to comply with any rules or regulations adopted by the commissioner is unlawful (punishable by a civil penalty in an amount set by the commissioner but not to exceed \$100 per unlawful act). For purposes of this section: "Pet animal" means a dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig, hamster, mouse, rat, gerbil, ferret, bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, invertebrate, or any other species of wild or domestic or hybrid animal six months of age or older, that is sold, transferred, or retained for the purpose of being kept as a household pet. "Pet animal" does not include livestock.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-31

**Title**

State Income Tax Credit for Veterinary Professional

**Description**

For income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2026, but before January 1, 2033, the bill creates a new refundable state income tax credit for a qualified licensed veterinarian and a registered veterinary technician (veterinary professional) working full-time in an underserved area or under-resourced area (underserved area) and for a buyer of a veterinary practice in an underserved area. The department of agriculture (department) is required to certify tax credits for eligible veterinary professionals and buyers of a veterinary practice in an underserved area in an amount not to exceed, in aggregate, \$2 million in any tax year. No later than July 1, 2025, the department is required to promulgate rules for issuing a tax credit certificate to an eligible veterinary professional working full-time in an underserved area and for a buyer of a veterinary practice in an underserved area using the recommendations of an advisory board (board) that consists of 3 licensed veterinarians, 3 registered veterinary technicians, 3 agricultural animal producers, and 3 representatives from animal welfare nonprofits chosen by the commissioner of agriculture. The department must promulgate rules that include criteria for the determination of which geographic areas of the state fall within the definition of an underserved or under-resourced area. The department must also promulgate rules that determine a mechanism to determine the tax credit amount the department is able to certify to an eligible veterinary professional working full-time in an underserved area that is no less than \$5,000 and no more than \$30,000 and to a buyer of a veterinary practice in an underserved or under-resourced area that is no less than \$10,000 and no more than \$200,000. (Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)

**Primary Sponsors**

Karen McCormick

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 14, 2024, 3:02 PM

Amends Title 39 (Taxation), Article 22 (Income Tax), Part 5 (Special Rules) of Colorado Revised Statutes by adding a new Section 39-22-560 (Qualified veterinary professional and buyer of veterinary practice tax credit - tax preference performance statement - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal) to create a new refundable state income tax credit for a qualified licensed veterinarian and a registered veterinary technician working full-time in an underserved area or under-resourced area and for a buyer of a veterinary practice in an underserved area. Would require the Department of Agriculture to certify tax credits for eligible veterinary professionals and buyers of a veterinary practice in an underserved area in an amount not to exceed, in aggregate, \$2 million in any tax year. Provides that, no later than July 1, 2025, the department is required to promulgate rules for issuing a tax credit certificate to an eligible veterinary professional working full-time in an underserved area and for a buyer of a veterinary practice in an underserved area using the recommendations of an advisory board that consists of: (1) 3 licensed veterinarians; (2) 3 registered veterinary technicians; (3) 3 agricultural animal producers; and (4) 3 representatives from animal welfare nonprofits chosen by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Provides that the department must promulgate rules that include criteria for the determination of which geographic areas of the state fall within the definition of an underserved or under-resourced area. Provides that the department must also promulgate rules that determine a mechanism to determine the tax credit amount the department is able to certify to an eligible veterinary professional working full-time in an underserved area that is no less than \$5,000 and no more than \$30,000 and to a buyer of a veterinary practice in an underserved or under-resourced area that is no less than \$10,000 and no more than \$200,000.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-02-13

**Title**  
Require Notification of Disease Pet Care Facility

**Description**  
The bill requires any pet care facility (facility) licensed under the "Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act" to notify pet animal owners within 24 hours after a suspected outbreak of an infectious disease is discovered at the facility receiving notification from a licensed veterinarian or a pet animal owner of an outbreak of an infectious disease at the facility . (Note: Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.) (Note: This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house.)

**Primary Sponsors**  
Leslie Herod, Monica Duran, Joann Ginal

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 5, 2024, 11:50 AM  
Amends Title 35 (Agriculture), Article 80 (Pet Animal Care & Facilities Act) of Colorado Revised Statutes by adding a new Section 35-80-107.5 (Notification of infectious disease outbreak required - rules - definitions to require any pet care facility licensed under the "Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act" to notify pet animal owners within 24 hours after a suspected outbreak of an infectious disease is discovered. Provides that, within twenty-four hours after receiving notification from a licensed veterinarian or a pet animal owner of an outbreak of an infectious disease at a licensed pet care facility, the pet care facility shall make every reasonable attempt to notify all individuals who own a pet animal that is in the possession of the pet animal facility or who used the pet animal facility during the reported outbreak and incubation period by: (1) Posting notice in a conspicuous location on the pet care facility premises; (2) Posting notice on the pet care facility's website, if one exists; or (3) Directly contacting a pet animal owner through any means available. Provides that a pet animal facility shall disclose information regarding any outbreak of an infectious disease that occurred at the pet animal facility within the past year to any pet animal owner who requests such information. For purposes of this section: "Pet animal facility" means a pet care facility licensed pursuant to this Article 80 that is used in whole or in part for the purpose of pet animal day care or boarding, grooming, or training pet animals.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-03-04

**Title**  
Create Division of Animal Welfare in Department of Agriculture

**Description**  
The bill creates the division of animal welfare (division) within the department of agriculture. The division is created to promote domestic animal welfare, including providing education and outreach, creating voluntary programs, and awarding grants. (Note: This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house.)

**Primary Sponsors**  
Monica Duran, Ryan Armagost, Rachel Zenzinger, Dylan Roberts, Karen McCormick, Barbara McLachlan

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 16, 2024, 5:19 PM  
Amends Title 24 (Government), Article 1 (Administrative Organization Act of 1968), Section 24-1-123 (Department of Agriculture - Creation) and Title 35 (Agriculture), Article 1 (Department of Agriculture), Section 35-1-108 (Divisions Created) of Colorado Revised Statutes to create the Division of Animal Welfare within the Department of Agriculture. Establishes the Division of Animal Welfare within the Department of Agriculture, the head of which shall be the Director of the Division of Animal Welfare. Provides that the Division of Animal Welfare shall promote domestic animal welfare, including providing education and outreach, creating voluntary programs, and awarding grants. The Division of Animal Welfare and the Office of the Director of the Division of Animal Welfare are Type 2 entities and exercise their powers and perform their duties and functions under the Department of Agriculture. For purposes of this section: "Type 2 Entity" means an entity whose statutory authority, powers, duties, and functions, including the functions of budgeting, purchasing, and planning, are under the direction and supervision of the head of the principal department.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-04-15



**Title**

Modifications to Sterilization Requirements for Cats & Dogs

**Description**

The "Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act" prohibits any animal shelter or pet animal rescue (facility) from releasing a dog or cat to a prospective owner unless the animal has been sterilized, except in cases in which sterilization would jeopardize the life or health of the dog or cat. A facility in an area with limited access to licensed veterinarians may be granted an exemption from the sterilization requirement by the commissioner of agriculture (commissioner). The bill: Removes the exemption from the sterilization requirement due to the health of the animal; and Prohibits facilities that import unsterilized dogs or cats into the state of Colorado from receiving an exemption from the commissioner. (Note: This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house.)

**Primary Sponsors**

Larry Liston, Manny Rutinel, Rick Taggart

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 12, 2024, 7:17 PM

Title 35 (Agriculture), Article 80 (Pet Animal Care & Facilities Act), Section 35-80-106.4 (Sterilization of ownerless dogs and cats required - rules - exceptions - violations) of Colorado Revised Statutes concerning modifications to the exemptions from the sterilization requirement under the Pet Animal Care & Facilities Act. Removes the exemption from the sterilization requirement due to the "health of the animal". Prohibits animal shelters or pet animal rescues that import unsterilized dogs or cats into the state of Colorado from receiving an exemption from the commissioner.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-01-12

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