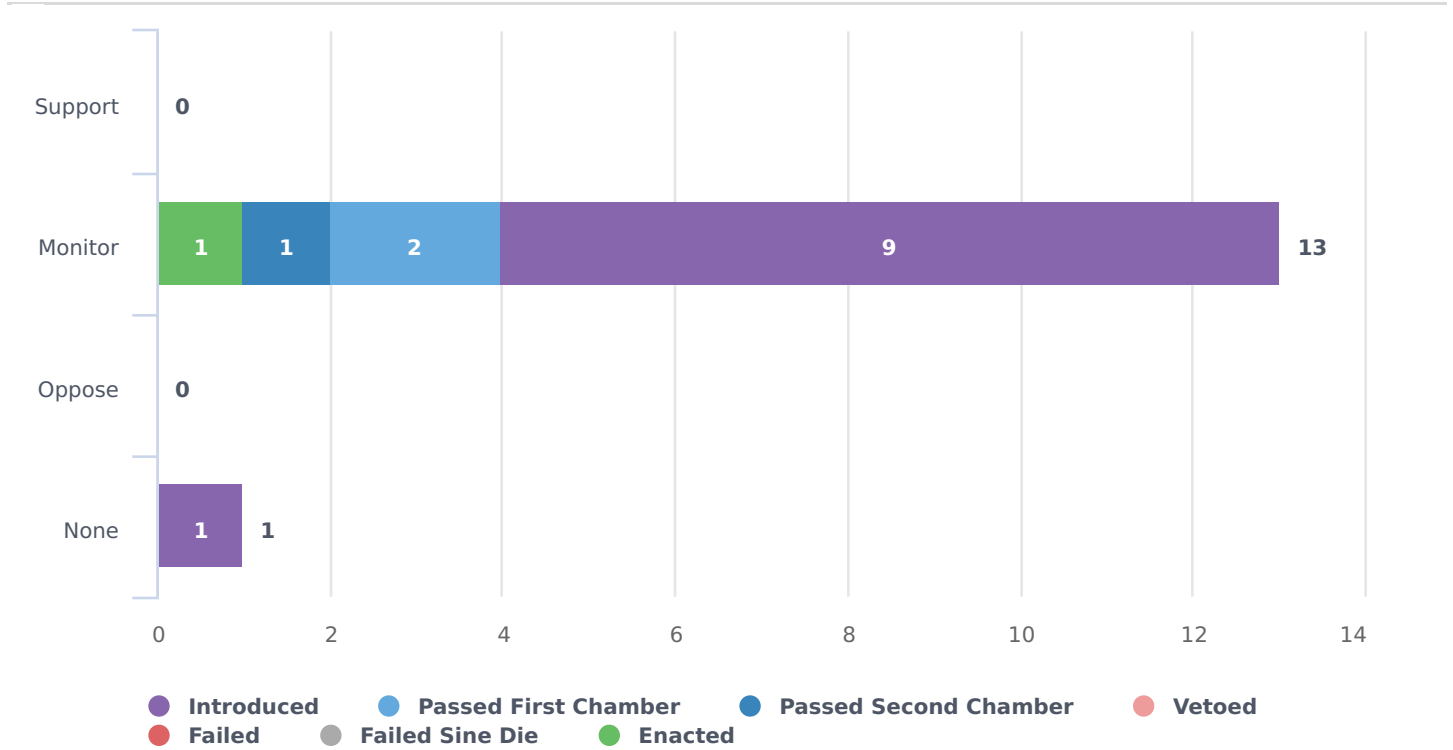


Iowa - 2023-24 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: April 21, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: IA (14)

Title

A bill for an act providing for the conduct of licensed veterinarians when involved in certain legal matters involving the alleged mistreatment of animals, including by providing for immunity from administrative, civil, or criminal liability when acting in good faith; providing for administrative, civil, or criminal liability when not acting in good faith; and making penalties applicable. (Formerly HSB 181.)

Primary Sponsors

House State Government Committee

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 28, 2023, 1:09 PM
Amends Title V (Agriculture), Chapter 169 (Veterinary Practice) of Iowa Code by adding a new Section 169.18A (Immunity--limitations--administrative, civil, and criminal liability) to provide for the conduct of licensed veterinarians when involved in certain legal matters involving the alleged mistreatment of animals, including by providing for immunity from administrative, civil, or criminal liability when acting in good faith. Provides that a licensed veterinarian is shielded from civil or criminal liability for cooperating in a criminal investigation including by: 1) Making a report to a peace officer or providing the peace officer with information regarding a client's conduct; 2) Assisting a county or city in rescuing a threatened animal; 3) Participating in a civil proceeding to determine the disposition of an animal or complying with a court order arising from that proceeding; or 4) Providing evidence in an administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding. Also provides that a licensed veterinarian who knowingly makes a false report to a peace officer or knowingly provides the peace officer with false information regarding a client's conduct is not acting in good faith, is subject to disciplinary action by the board, is civilly liable for damages proximately caused by making such report or providing such information to a peace officer, and is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-27

Title

A bill for an act relating to the ownership of dogs, making penalties applicable, and including effective date and applicability provisions. (Formerly HSB 152.)

Primary Sponsors

House State Government Committee

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 8, 2023, 1:16 PM
Amends Title IX (Local Government), Chapter 351 (Dogs and Other Animals), Section 351.25 (Dogs as Property) of Iowa Code to: 1) Provide that a dog is deemed property if the dog is less than four months of age or certain evidence exists to demonstrate ownership; and 2) Prohibit local ordinances hindering a person's right to own or keep a dog based on breed. Provides that a dog shall be deemed property if the dog is any of the following: (A) Less than four months of age (current statute is under 6 months of age); (B) Owned by a person as evidenced by proof of identification, which may include any of the following: (1) A valid rabies vaccination tag attached to the dog's collar; (2) A tattoo imprinted on the dog's skin that may be visually observed; (3) A device implanted under the dog's skin that stores information in an electronic format; (4) A receipt or contract indicating ownership; (5) A record of an ongoing patient-client relationship with a veterinarian; (6) An otherwise documented history of ownership. Provides that a person is prohibited from owning or having in possession a dog that is at least four months of age if the dog has not been vaccinated for rabies. Prohibits a county or city from adopting, enforcing, or otherwise administering an ordinance, motion, resolution, or amendment that restricts or hinders a person's right to own or keep a dog based on the breed, perceived breed, or physical characteristics of the dog, but does not inhibit the authority of a county or city to adopt, enforce, or administer an ordinance, motion, resolution, or amendment that applies to all dogs.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-07

State
IA

Bill Number
HF 666

Last Action
Signed By Governor 2023 06 01

Status
Enacted

Title

A bill for an act providing for programs and regulations administered and enforced by the department of agriculture and land stewardship, providing fees, providing for the allocation of moneys, making penalties applicable, and including effective date provisions. (Formerly HF 277, HSB 113.) Effective date: 06/01/2023, 07/01/2023.

Primary Sponsors

House Ways and Means Committee

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jul 3, 2023, 1:18 PM Amends Title V (Agriculture), Chapter 162 (Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments), Section 162.2 (Definitions) to amend the definition of "pet shop". Amends the definition of "pet shop" to mean: An establishment where vertebrate animals, excluding fish, not born and reared on the facility's premises are bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale or exchange to the public, at retail. (CURRENT STATUTE = An establishment where a dog, cat, rabbit, rodent, nonhuman primate, fish other than live bait, bird, or other vertebrate animal is bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale.) However, a pet shop does not include an establishment if one of the following applies: 1) The establishment receives less than \$1,000 from the sale or exchange of vertebrate animals during a twelve-month period. (CURRENT STATUTE = \$500) 2) The establishment sells or exchanges less than 12 animals during a twelve-month period. (CURRENT STATUTE = 6 animals)

Introduction Date: 2023-03-13

State
IA

Bill Number
HF 2039

Last Action
Sponsor Added Isenhart 2024 01 24

Status
In House

Title

A bill for an act relating to the treatment of animals other than agricultural animals by providing for the inspection or monitoring of commercial establishments by the department of agriculture and land stewardship, and making penalties applicable.

Primary Sponsors

Dave Jacoby

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 17, 2024, 2:25 PM Amends Title V (Agriculture), Chapter 162 (Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments), Sections 162.10B (Commercial establishments — inspecting state licensees and registrants) and 162.10C (Commercial establishments — monitoring permittees) of Iowa Code to further provide for inspections of a commercial establishment operated by a registrant/state licensee, or monitoring a commercial establishment operated by a permittee, on both a priority and scheduled basis. Adds provision that if the Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship reasonable cause, it shall enter onto the business premises of the permittee. Provides that the department shall inspect a commercial establishment subject to all of the following: (1) The department shall determine whether the permittee is complying with section 162.10A. (2) The department must inspect the commercial establishment during normal business hours. (3) The department shall inspect the commercial establishment regardless of when the department inspected the commercial establishment on a scheduled basis. (4) The department shall inspect a commercial establishment on a scheduled basis subject to all of the following: a. The department is limited to entering onto the business premises of a permittee operating as a commercial breeder. b. The department must enter onto the business premises of the permittee once each twelve-month period. c. The department must inspect the commercial establishment during normal business hours. d. The department shall determine whether the permittee is complying with section 162.10A. (5) If the owner or person in charge of the commercial establishment refuses to allow the inspection under this section, the department may obtain an administrative search warrant issued under section 808.14. The person shall comply with the search warrant. Provides that the Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship is authorized to establish, impose, and assess a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for a violation of the Code chapter by a commercial establishment subject to registration/state license or permit. For purposes of this section: "Commercial establishment" means an animal shelter, boarding kennel, commercial breeder, commercial kennel, dealer, pet shop, pound, public auction, or research facility.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-16

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
IA	HF 2406	Introduced Referred To Agriculture 2024 02 08	In House

Title

A bill for an act requiring the department of agriculture and land stewardship to employ additional personnel to inspect or monitor commercial establishments where nonagricultural animals are kept, and including effective date provisions.

Primary Sponsors

Dave Jacoby

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 8, 2024, 7:15 PM

Amends Title V (Agriculture), Chapter 162 (Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments) of Iowa Code by adding a new Section 162.2D (Personnel to inspect or monitor commercial establishments) to require that the Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship hire additional commercial establishment inspectors. Provides that, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter until the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2029, the Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship shall increase the number of full-time equivalent positions whose sole duty shall be to inspect or monitor commercial establishments regulated by the Department under this chapter. Provides that the increased number required under this section shall be two (2) more than the total number of full-time equivalent positions whose sole duty was to inspect or monitor commercial establishments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. For purposes of this section: "Commercial establishment" means an animal shelter, boarding kennel, commercial breeder, commercial kennel, dealer, pet shop, pound, public auction, or research facility.

Introduction Date: 2024-02-08

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
IA	HF 2527	Introduced Referred To Commerce 2024 02 15	In House

Title

A bill for an act relating to pet insurance and pet wellness programs.

Primary Sponsors

Jerome Amos, Ruth Gaines, Bob Kressig, Sue Cahill, John Forbes, Ross Wilburn, Chuck Isenhardt

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 16, 2024, 2:34 PM

Amends Title XIII (Commerce) of Iowa Code by adding a new Chapter 515L (Pet Insurance) to provide for and regulate the issuance of pet insurance policies in Iowa. Provides for disclosure requirements, waiting periods, wellness programs, and penalties for violations. Prohibits an insurance producer from selling, soliciting, or negotiating a pet insurance product until after the insurance producer is licensed as an insurance producer and has completed training as required by the bill. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets. "Chronic condition" shall mean a condition that can be treated or managed, but not cured. "Congenital anomaly or disorder" shall mean a condition that is present from birth, whether inherited or caused by the environment, which, to a reasonable medical certainty, has been determined to cause or otherwise contribute to illness or disease. "Hereditary disorder" shall mean an abnormality that is genetically transmitted from parent to offspring which, to a reasonable medical certainty, has been determined to cause illness or disease. "Preexisting condition" shall mean any condition, whether curable or incurable, which existed or presented on or before the pet insurance policy effective date, whether or not a veterinarian provided a medical diagnosis or for which the pet received treatment. "Veterinary expenses" shall mean the costs associated with veterinary medical advice, diagnosis, care, treatment or alternative therapies provided by a veterinarian, including, but not limited to, the cost of drugs prescribed by a veterinarian.

Introduction Date: 2024-02-15

State IA	Bill Number HSB 113	Last Action Committee Report Approving Bill Renumbered As Hf 277 2023 02 13	Status In House
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Title

A bill for an act providing for programs and regulations administered and enforced by the department of agriculture and land stewardship, providing fees, providing for the allocation of moneys, and making penalties applicable.(See HF 277, HF 666.)

Primary Sponsors

House Agriculture Committee

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 31, 2023, 5:25 PM
(HOUSE STUDY BILL) Amends Title V (Agriculture), Chapter 162 (Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments), Section 162.2 (Definitions) to amend the definition of "pet shop". Amends the definition of "pet shop" to mean: An establishment where vertebrate animals, excluding fish, not born and reared on the facility's premises are bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale or exchange to the public, at retail. (CURRENT STATUTE = An establishment where a dog, cat, rabbit, rodent, nonhuman primate, fish other than live bait, bird, or other vertebrate animal is bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale.) However, a pet shop does not include an establishment if one of the following applies: 1) The establishment receives less than \$1,000 from the sale or exchange of vertebrate animals during a twelve-month period. (CURRENT STATUTE = \$500) 2) The establishment sells or exchanges less than 12 animals during a twelve-month period. (CURRENT STATUTE = 6 animals)

Introduction Date: 2023-01-30

State IA	Bill Number HSB 152	Last Action Committee Report Approving Bill Renumbered As Hf 651 2023 03 07	Status In House
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Title

A bill for an act relating to the ownership of dogs, and making penalties applicable.(See HF 651.)

Primary Sponsors

House State Government Committee

Introduction Date: 2023-02-08

Title

A bill for an act relating to the ownership of dogs, and making penalties applicable.

Primary Sponsors

Chris Cournoyer

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 9, 2023, 4:07 PM

Amends Title IX (Local Government), Chapter 351 (Dogs and Other Animals), Section 351.25 (Dogs as Property) of Iowa Code to: 1) Provide that a dog is deemed property if the dog is less than four months of age or certain evidence exists to demonstrate ownership; and 2) Prohibit local ordinances hindering a person's right to own or keep a dog based on breed. Provides that a dog shall be deemed property if the dog is any of the following: (A) Less than four months of age (current statute is under 6 months of age); (B) Owned by a person as evidenced by proof of identification, which may include any of the following: (1) A valid rabies vaccination tag attached to the dog's collar; (2) A tattoo imprinted on the dog's skin that may be visually observed; (3) A device implanted under the dog's skin that stores information in an electronic format; (4) A receipt or contract indicating ownership; (5) A record of an ongoing patient-client relationship with a veterinarian; (6) An otherwise documented history of ownership. Provides that a person is prohibited from owning or having in possession a dog that is at least four months of age if the dog has not been vaccinated for rabies. Prohibits a county or city from adopting, enforcing, or otherwise administering an ordinance, motion, resolution, or amendment that restricts or hinders a person's right to own or keep a dog based on the breed, perceived breed, or physical characteristics of the dog, but does not inhibit the authority of a county or city to adopt, enforce, or administer an ordinance, motion, resolution, or amendment that applies to all dogs.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-08

Title

A bill for an act prohibiting the declawing of cats, and providing penalties.

Primary Sponsors

Molly Donahue

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 14, 2023, 10:59 PM

Amends Title V (Agriculture) of Iowa Code by adding a new Chapter 169B to prohibit the declawing of cats. Prohibits a person from declawing a cat unless the procedure is performed by a licensed veterinarian for a therapeutic purpose. Provides that a person who violates the provision is subject to a range of civil penalties from \$500 for an initial violation, \$1,500 for a second violation within 2 years, and \$2,500 for a third or subsequent violation within 5 years. For purposes of this section: "Therapeutic purpose" means any action to address an existing or recurring infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in a claw, nail bed, or toe bone that jeopardizes the health of an animal and treating the infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition constitutes a medical necessity. "Therapeutic purpose" does not mean an action performed for cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or reasons of convenience in the keeping or handling of an animal.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-14

State
IA

Bill Number
SF 311

Last Action
Withdrawn 2023 05 02

Status
In Senate

Title

A bill for an act providing for programs and regulations administered and enforced by the department of agriculture and land stewardship, providing fees, providing for the allocation of moneys, and making penalties applicable. (Formerly SSB 1115.)

Primary Sponsors

Senate Committee on Agriculture

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 16, 2023, 3:06 PM

Amends Title V (Agriculture), Chapter 162 (Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments), Section 162.2 (Definitions) to amend the definition of "pet shop". Amends the definition of "pet shop" to mean: An establishment where vertebrate animals, excluding fish, not born and reared on the facility's premises are bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale or exchange to the public, at retail. (CURRENT STATUTE = An establishment where a dog, cat, rabbit, rodent, nonhuman primate, fish other than live bait, bird, or other vertebrate animal is bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for sale.) However, a pet shop does not include an establishment if one of the following applies: 1) The establishment receives less than \$1,000 from the sale or exchange of vertebrate animals during a twelve-month period. (CURRENT STATUTE = \$500) 2) The establishment sells or exchanges less than 12 animals during a twelve-month period. (CURRENT STATUTE = 6 animals)

Introduction Date: 2023-02-15

State
IA

Bill Number
SF 316

Last Action
End Of 2023 Actions 2023 12 31

Status
In Senate

Title

A bill for an act providing for the conduct of licensed veterinarians when involved in certain legal matters involving the alleged mistreatment of animals, including by providing for immunity from administrative, civil, or criminal liability when acting in good faith; providing for administrative, civil, or criminal liability when not acting in good faith; and making penalties applicable. (Formerly SSB 1038.)

Primary Sponsors

Senate Committee on State Government

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 17, 2023, 5:54 PM

Amends Title V (Agriculture), Chapter 169 (Veterinary Practice) of Iowa Code by adding a new Section 169.18A (Immunity--limitations--administrative, civil, and criminal liability) to provide for the conduct of licensed veterinarians when involved in certain legal matters involving the alleged mistreatment of animals, including by providing for immunity from administrative, civil, or criminal liability when acting in good faith. Provides that a licensed veterinarian is shielded from civil or criminal liability for cooperating in a criminal investigation including by: 1) Making a report to a peace officer or providing the peace officer with information regarding a client's conduct; 2) Assisting a county or city in rescuing a threatened animal; 3) Participating in a civil proceeding to determine the disposition of an animal or complying with a court order arising from that proceeding; or 4) Providing evidence in an administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding. Also provides that a licensed veterinarian who knowingly makes a false report to a peace officer or knowingly provides the peace officer with false information regarding a client's conduct is not acting in good faith, is subject to disciplinary action by the board, is civilly liable for damages proximately caused by making such report or providing such information to a peace officer, and is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-16

State IA	Bill Number SF 2040	Last Action Subcommittee Recommends Amendment And Passage 2024 01 29	Status In Senate
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Title
A bill for an act relating to animal welfare special registration plates.

Primary Sponsors
Chris Cournoyer

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 13, 2024, 7:25 PM
Amends Title VIII (Transportation), Chapter 321 (Motor Vehicles & Laws of the Road), Section 321.34 (Plates or validation sticker furnished-retained by owner-special plates) of Iowa Code to provide for animal welfare special registration license plates. Authorizes the Department of Transportation to design and issue special registration plates with an animal welfare distinguishing processed emblem. The fee for the special registration plate shall be \$35, \$10 of which will be deposited in the Commercial Establishment Fund. Provides that the Department shall use moneys deposited in the Commercial Establishment Fund to increase the frequency of inspections authorized under Title III (Agriculture), Chapter 162 (Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments), Section 162.10B (Commercial establishments-inspecting state licensees and registrants).

Introduction Date: 2024-01-11

State IA	Bill Number SF 2268	Last Action Message From Senate 2024 04 02	Status Passed House
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Title
A bill for an act relating to assistance animals and service animals, including reasonable accommodations for housing and requirements for findings of disabilities. Effective date: 07/01/2024

Primary Sponsors
Scott Webster

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 9, 2024, 4:11 PM
Amends Title VI (Human Services), Chapter 216 (Civil Rights Commission), Section 216.8B (Assistance animals and service animals in housing — penalty) of Iowa Code relating to assistance animals and service animals, including reasonable accommodations for housing and requirements for findings of disabilities. Provides that a housing provider may deny an accommodation request when granting the request would: (1) Impose undue financial and administrative burden on the housing provider; (2) Fundamentally change the nature of the housing provider's operations; or (3) Cause substantial physical damage to the property of others. Requires that a written finding that an assistance animal or service animal is a reasonable accommodation in housing from an approved licensee must include express confirmation that: (1) The licensee has met with the person within the past 30 days; (2) The pair has a provider-patient relationship; (3) The licensee is familiar with the person and the disability prior to providing the written finding; (4) Provides the issuance and expiration date of the licensee's finding; (5) Provides the licensee's license number and type of license held by the licensee; and (6) That the licensee has not received compensation for making the finding. Provides that provides that the written finding shall be made within 12 months of the start of a rental agreement and is valid for a period of 12 months or the term of the rental. Instructs the Commission on Civil Rights to create a form in compliance with Code section 216.8C that is available on the commission's website.

Introduction Date: 2024-02-08