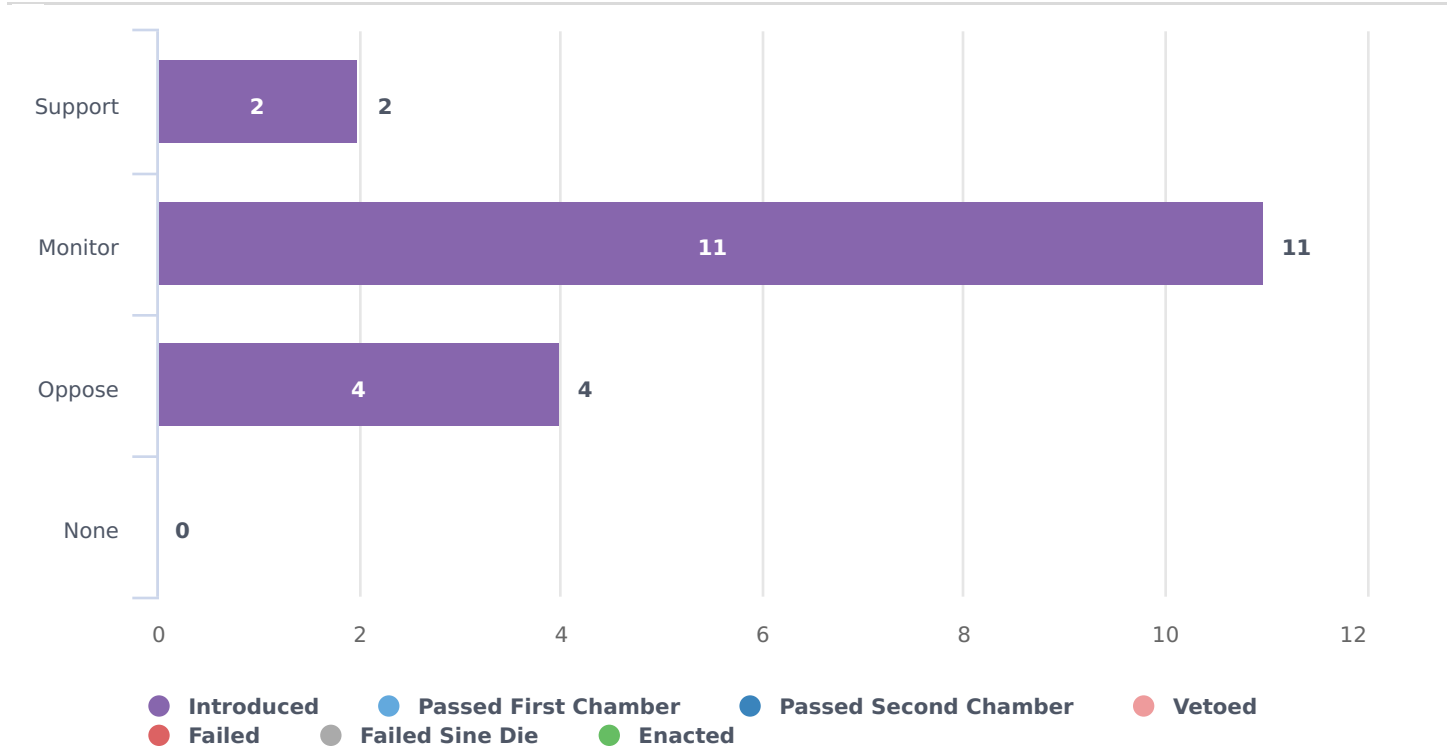


# Minnesota - 2023-24 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: May 22, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



**Bill State: MN (17)**

State  
**MN**

Bill Number  
**HF 234**

Last Action  
**Committee Report To Adopt As  
Amended And Re Refer To Ways And  
Means 2023 01 26**

Status  
**In House**

**Title**

Game and fish; provisions for taking turtles modified.

**Primary Sponsors**

Samantha Vang, Lucy Rehm, Kristin Bahner, Sydney Jordan, Rick Hansen, Frank Hornstein, Mary Frances Clardy, Leon Lillie, Jamie Becker-Finn, Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Larry Kraft, Robert Bierman

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 12, 2023, 2:27 PM

Amends Chapter 97A (Game & Fish), Section 475 (Licenses & Permits) and Chapter 97C (Fishing), Section 605 (Turtles) of Minnesota Statutes to prohibit the retail sale of turtles taken from the wild. Provides that turtles taken from the wild are for personal use only and may not be resold. Repeals section providing for a turtle seller's license. Provides that a person with an Aquatic Farm License with a turtle endorsement or a Private Fish Hatcher License with a turtle endorsement may sell, obtain, possess, transport, and propagate turtles and turtle eggs according to MN Rules, Part 6256.0900 without a Resident Angling License or a Recreational Turtle License. Provides that the Commissioner of Natural Resources must not renew or transfer a Turtle Seller's License after the effective date of this section.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-01-11

State  
**MN**

Bill Number  
**HF 608**

Last Action  
**Introduction And First Reading  
Referred To Environment And Natural  
Resources Finance And Policy 2023 01  
19**

Status  
**In House**

**Title**

Importing minnow requirements modified.

**Primary Sponsors**

Ben Davis, Josh Heintzeman

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 20, 2023, 3:27 PM

Amends Chapter 97C (Fishing), Section 515 (Imported Minnows) of Minnesota Statutes to modify current requirements for importing minnows into the State. Provides that a person may import live minnows into the State with a permit from the Commissioner of Natural Resources. Provides that minnows must: 1) Be certified as healthy according to standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health or the Fish Health Section Blue Book of the American Fisheries Society. 2) Be certified free of viral hemorrhagic septicemia, infectious hematopoietic necrosis, infectious pancreatic necrosis, spring viremia of carp virus, fathead minnow nidovirus, and Heterosporis within the past 12 months. Provides that only a person that holds a minnow dealer's license issued under section 97C.501, subdivision 2, may obtain a permit to import minnows. For purposes of this section: "Minnows" means: (1) members of the minnow family, Cyprinidae, except carp and goldfish; (2) members of the mudminnow family, Umbridae; (3) members of the sucker family, Catostomidae; (4) bullheads, ciscoes, lake whitefish, goldeyes, and mooneyes, not over seven inches long; (5) leeches; and (6) tadpole madtoms (willow cats) and stonecats.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-01-19

**Title**

Board of Animal Health membership requirements modified.

**Primary Sponsors**

Rick Hansen, Jamie Becker-Finn, Samantha Vang, Mike Freiberg, Sydney Jordan, Peter Fischer, Jay Xiong

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 27, 2023, 4:07 PM

Amends Chapter 35 (Animal Health), Section 35.02 (Board of Animal Health) of MN Statutes by changing the composition of the MN Board of Animal Health. Current Board membership consists of 5 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, 3 of whom are producers of livestock in the state, and 2 of whom are practicing veterinarians licensed in Minnesota. This bill would increase Board membership to 9 members - 2 at-large members and 7 regional members, with no two regional members residing in the same congressional district. Provides that the Governor's appointments: 1) Must achieve gender balance among the board membership; and 2) Must be knowledgeable in animal agriculture, animal health, or pets and companion animals, with at least 2 members who represent the public and are not employed in agriculture, veterinary medicine, the pet industry, or a related field. Provides that the Governor shall appoint a veterinarian licensed in Minnesota who is not a member to be its Executive Director for a term of 1 year and until a successor qualifies.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-01-26

**Title**

Companion Animal Board established, duties and responsibilities provided, companion animal license plate established, duties transferred, report required, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

**Primary Sponsors**

Kaela Berg, Mike Freiberg, Brion Curran, Kristi Pursell, Dan Wolgamott, Maria Isa Perez-Vega

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 2, 2023, 9:02 PM

Amends Chapter 347 (Dogs and Cats) of Minnesota Statutes by adding a new Article 1, Section 346 (Companion Animal Board) to establish, provide duties and appropriate money for the Companion Animal Board. Provides that the Board's purpose is to promote the welfare of cats, dogs, and other pets; serve those individuals in the community who care for these animals; and support the human-animal bond. Provides that the authority of the Board is limited to cats, dogs, and other animals kept as pets, including rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, small rodents, nonnative birds, small nonvenomous amphibians and reptiles, and other nonagricultural domesticated animals. Provides that the Board be comprised of 13 members appointed by the Governor: 1) 4 members who represent the practice of veterinary medicine; 2) 4 members who represent Minnesota communities, Tribes, and local governments; 3) 3 members who represent Minnesota animal shelters and animal rescues; 4) 1 member who is a licensed Minnesota commercial cat or dog breeder; and 5) 1 member who is a licensed social worker, mental health professional, or other individual who represents human welfare issues and interactions with companion animals. Provides that board must enforce state laws that regulate companion animals as follows: (1) The licensing, enforcement, and inspection of cat and dog kennels and dealers under Sections 347.31 to 347.40 and any rules adopted pursuant to those sections; and (2) The licensing, enforcement, and inspection of commercial dog and cat breeders under Sections 347.57 to 347.65 and any rules adopted pursuant to those sections. Transfers duties currently carried out by the Board of Animal Health to the newly established Companion Animal Board, effective July 1, 2024. Adds provision that the Board of Animal Health shall provide a copy of each new Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for companion animals to the Companion Animal Board within 30 days after receipt. Provides for the establishment of a Companion Animal License Plate. For purposes of this section: "Pet or companion animal" includes any animal owned, possessed by, cared for, or controlled by a person for the present or future enjoyment of that person or another as a pet or companion, or any stray pet or stray companion animal.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-02-01

**Title**

Sale of dogs and cats by retail pet shops prohibited.

**Primary Sponsors**

Matt Norris, Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn, Peter Fischer, Erin Koegel, Brad Tabke, Aisha Gomez, Elliott Engen, Mike Freiberg, Jeff Brand, Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Robert Bierman

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 6, 2023, 11:57 PM

Amends Chapter 325F (Consumer Protection; Products & Sales) of Minnesota Statutes by adding a new Section 325F.7915 (Sale of Dogs and Cats Prohibited) to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet shops. Provides that a pet shop must not sell, offer to sell, barter, auction, or otherwise transfer ownership of an animal. Provides that a pet shop may provide space to nonprofit humane societies, animal control agencies, or animal rescue and re-homing organizations qualifying as nonprofit under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, to offer to the public dogs or cats for an adoption fee. Provides that a pet shop is prohibited from: (1) having any ownership interest in an animal offered and (2) receiving any fee for providing space for the adoption of an animal. Provides that a pet shop who violates this section is subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000 per violation. Each dog or cat transferred in violation constitutes a separate violation. For purposes of this section: "Animal" means a dog, wholly or in part of the species *Canis familiaris*, or a cat, wholly or in part of the species *Felis domesticus*. "Pet shop" means any pet dealer that operates a physical retail store from which animals are sold or offered for sale to the general public, whether through an appointment or otherwise.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-02-06

**Title**

Cruelty of animals prevented, Office of Animal Protection created, report required, and money appropriated.

**Primary Sponsors**

Kurt Daudt, Paul Novotny, Elliott Engen

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 17, 2023, 6:38 PM

Amends Chapter 299A (Department of Public Safety) of Minnesota Statutes by adding a new Section 299A.86 (Office of Animal Protection) to provide that the Commissioner of Public Safety shall establish and maintain the Office of Animal Protection as an office within the Department of Public Safety. Provides that the Office of Animal Protection shall have the following duties: (1) To promote programs to protect the welfare of animals; (2) To coordinate with local law enforcement officers to enforce the requirements in Minnesota Statutes regarding animal welfare and the prevention of animal cruelty; (3) To investigate alleged crimes against animals in accordance with the requirements in Minnesota Statutes; (4) To provide training programs regarding the prevention of animal cruelty and investigation of animal cruelty allegations; (5) To provide assistance in locating shelters for displaced animals during emergencies or natural disasters; (6) To establish and maintain a statewide dangerous dog database; and (7) Upon request from local law enforcement agencies, to investigate alleged violations regarding dangerous dogs. Provides that the office must collaborate with other state agencies that are responsible for investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating cases involving animal cruelty or welfare in the state, including the Board of Animal Health, United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Board of Veterinary Medicine, local and state police officers and sheriffs, city and county attorneys, and humane agents. Provides that the office shall establish and maintain a website that provides information and resources regarding animal care. Provides that, on or before November 1 of each year, the office must publish and make available an annual report on the office's efforts.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-02-16

**Title**

Office of Animal Protection established, peace officer and other professional training provided, working groups authorized, courtroom animal advocate procedure established, forensic laboratories support required, crime of violence definition amended, and money appropriated.

**Primary Sponsors**

Matt Norris, Kaela Berg

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 9, 2023, 7:02 PM

Amends Chapter 299A (Department of Public Safety) of Minnesota Statutes by: (1) Adding a new Section 299P.02 (Office of Animal Protection; Creation; Purpose; Scope) to establish and maintain the Office of Animal Protection as an office within the Department of Public Safety which will protect animals by preventing, investigating, and prosecuting crimes of animal cruelty; and (2) Adding a new Section 299P.10 (Courtroom Animal Advocate Program) to provide an animal advocate to represent animal interests in animal cruelty cases. Provides that on or before January 15 each year, the director must submit an annual report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public safety finance and policy on the office's operations, including data regarding the animal cruelty cases that the office investigated. Provides that the commissioner may establish an advisory committee, consisting of at least 15 members with knowledge of animal law, animal cruelty, and animal cruelty prevention. Enforcement powers granted to the office include: (1) Investigation; (2) Subpoena; (3) Cease and desist orders; (4) Disposition of dead animals; and (5) Search and seizure without a warrant. Provides that in a criminal proceeding regarding the welfare, care, or custody of an animal, the court may appoint, upon the court's initiative or upon request of a party, an advocate to represent the interests of the animal. Provides that the office shall maintain a list of attorneys who have indicated a willingness to serve as advocates under this section on a voluntary basis and are eligible to serve as advocates. Provides that in order to be eligible to serve as an advocate, an attorney must have completed training as required by the office. For purposes of this section: "Animal" means every living creature except members of the human race. "Animal cruelty" means an act, omission, or neglect that causes or permits unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering to an animal, or causes or permits the unnecessary or unjustifiable death of an animal.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-05-04

**Title**

Classification of commercial dog and cat breeder data collected and maintained by Board of Animal Health amended; kennel and dealer advertising requirements modified; and Board of Animal Health required to post kennel, dealer, and commercial breeder information.

**Primary Sponsors**

Mike Freiberg, Brion Curran, Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Myers

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 12, 2024, 3:38 PM  
Amends Chapter 13 (Government Data Practices), Section 13-643 (Agricultural Data) and Chapter 347 (Dogs and Cats) of Minnesota Statutes to: (1) Amend the classification of commercial dog and cat breeder data collected and maintained by the Board of Animal Health; (2) Modify kennel and dealer advertising requirements; and (3) Require the Board of Animal Health to post certain kennel, dealer, and commercial breeder information. Removes provision that data collected and maintained by the Board of Animal Health under Sections 347.57 to 347.64 (Commercial Breeders Licensing & Enforcement) are classified as private or nonpublic. Adds provision that a kennel's state license number or a symbol approved by the board must be included in all of the kennel's advertisements or promotions that pertain to animals being sold or traded, including but not limited to all advertisements or promotions in newspapers or flyers or on the Internet or radio. Adds a new Section 347.385 (Posting of Information) to provide that the Board of Animal Health must maintain and post in a timely manner on the board's public website: (1) A list of kennels and dealers licensed and in good standing under sections 347.31 to 347.40, including all business names that the licensee uses in connection with the sale of dogs or cats and the total number of animals kept, congregated, or confined in the previous calendar year; (2) At a minimum, copies of the three most recent inspection report forms submitted to the board under section 347.33; and (3) A list of kennels or dealers whose licenses have expired or have been revoked by the board during the last three years, including all business names that the licensee used in connection with the sale of dogs or cats; the total number of animals kept, congregated, or confined in the previous calendar year; and any reasons for revocation. Provides that inspection report form must document the animal inventory on the date of the inspection AND MUST CONTAIN ALL BUSINESS NAMES USED BY THE COMMERCIAL BREEDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF DOGS OR CATS, THE FACILITY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, AND THE ADDRESS AND NAME OF THE FACILITY.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-02-12

**Title**

Office of Animal Protection established and duties provided, definition of crime of violence expanded, and money appropriated.

**Primary Sponsors**

Matt Norris, Kaela Berg, Sandra Feist, Cedrick Frazier, Dan Wolgamott, Maria Isa Perez-Vega, Athena Hollins, Mike Freiberg, Peter Fischer, Robert Bierman, Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 16, 2024, 9:38 PM

Amends Chapter 299A (Department of Public Safety) of Minnesota Statutes by adding a new Section 299P.03 (Office of Animal Protection; Creation; Powers & Duties; Annual Reporting) to provide that the Office of Animal Protection is created within the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension of the Department of Public Safety. Provides that the Office of Animal Protection has the following powers and duties: (1) It shall seek to promote a comprehensive and measurable approach for the prevention of animal cruelty, protection of animals, enforcement of animal cruelty statutes, and education across multiple disciplines throughout the state, including but not limited to: (i) investigations; (ii) prosecution; (iii) forensic veterinary medicine; (iv) animal care, transport, and housing; and (v) human welfare, as it relates to offenders or victims of animal cruelty; (2) It shall foster partnerships and collaborations with other criminal justice partners and related disciplines, to identify community and enforcement needs and challenges related to the crime of animal cruelty; establish effective enforcement practices and initiatives based on these needs; and, if needed, seek changes to laws or administrative rules; (3) It shall work to build capacity to assist local, state, Tribal, and federal authorities and other criminal justice partners in the investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty, including providing information, education, advice, training, services, and resources, and engaging communities in the prevention of animal cruelty; (4) It shall work to provide standards, training, and certification for authorities and criminal justice partners in the enforcement of animal cruelty laws; (5) It shall work to educate, train, and build public awareness of the importance of the humane treatment of animals with the goals of demonstrating why animal cruelty is harmful to society and increasing knowledge about how to recognize and report animal cruelty; (6) It shall support the advisory committee and coordinate the office's mission with the committee's guidance; (7) It may conduct case reviews involving the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of selected closed animal cruelty cases and provide feedback to the entities involved; (8) It may collect, maintain, analyze, and report on data relating to animal cruelty cases; (9) It may conduct and compile research into animal cruelty and publicize the results of the research; and (10) it may award grants. Provides for the establishment of an animal advisory committee and for an annual performance report to be submitted to certain committees in the State legislature.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-02-15



State  
**MN**

Bill Number  
**SF 612**

Last Action  
**Referred To Environment Climate And  
Legacy 2023 01 23**

Status  
**In Senate**

**Title**  
Taking turtles provisions modifications

**Primary Sponsors**  
Foung Hawj, Mary Kunesh

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 20, 2023, 9:45 PM  
Amends Chapter 97A (Game & Fish), Section 475 (Licenses & Permits) and Chapter 97C (Fishing), Section 605 (Turtles) of Minnesota Statutes to prohibit the retail sale of turtles taken from the wild. Provides that turtles taken from the wild are for personal use only and may not be resold. Repeals section providing for a turtle seller's license. Provides that a person with an Aquatic Farm License with a turtle endorsement or a Private Fish Hatcher License with a turtle endorsement may sell, obtain, possess, transport, and propagate turtles and turtle eggs according to MN Rules, Part 6256.0900 without a Resident Angling License or a Recreational Turtle License. Provides that the Commissioner of Natural Resources must not renew or transfer a Turtle Seller's License after the effective date of this section.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-01-23

State  
**MN**

Bill Number  
**SF 707**

Last Action  
**Referred To Environment Climate And  
Legacy 2023 01 25**

Status  
**In Senate**

**Title**  
Requirement modification for importing minnows

**Primary Sponsors**  
Justin Eichorn, Andrew Lang, Nathan Wesenberg

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 25, 2023, 12:50 PM  
Amends Chapter 97C (Fishing), Section 515 (Imported Minnows) of Minnesota Statutes to modify current requirements for importing minnows into the State. Provides that a person may import live minnows into the State with a permit from the Commissioner of Natural Resources. Provides that minnows must: 1) Be certified as healthy according to standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health or the Fish Health Section Blue Book of the American Fisheries Society. 2) Be certified free of viral hemorrhagic septicemia, infectious hematopoietic necrosis, infectious pancreatic necrosis, spring viremia of carp virus, fathead minnow nidovirus, and Heterosporis within the past 12 months. Provides that only a person that holds a minnow dealer's license issued under section 97C.501, subdivision 2, may obtain a permit to import minnows. For purposes of this section: "Minnows" means: (1) members of the minnow family, Cyprinidae, except carp and goldfish; (2) members of the mudminnow family, Umbridae; (3) members of the sucker family, Catostomidae; (4) bullheads, ciscoes, lake whitefish, goldeyes, and mooneyes, not over seven inches long; (5) leeches; and (6) tadpole madtoms (willow cats) and stonecats.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-01-25

**Title**

Companion Animal Board establishment

**Primary Sponsors**

Scott Dibble, Karin Housley, Zach Duckworth, Heather Gustafson, John Marty

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 2, 2023, 4:04 PM

Amends Chapter 347 (Dogs and Cats) of Minnesota Statutes by adding a new Article 1, Section 346 (Companion Animal Board) to establish, provide duties and appropriate money for the Companion Animal Board. Provides that the Board's purpose is to promote the welfare of cats, dogs, and other pets; serve those individuals in the community who care for these animals; and support the human-animal bond. Provides that the authority of the Board is limited to cats, dogs, and other animals kept as pets, including rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, small rodents, nonnative birds, small nonvenomous amphibians and reptiles, and other nonagricultural domesticated animals. Provides that the Board be comprised of 13 members appointed by the Governor: 1) 4 members who represent the practice of veterinary medicine; 2) 4 members who represent Minnesota communities, Tribes, and local governments; 3) 3 members who represent Minnesota animal shelters and animal rescues; 4) 1 member who is a licensed Minnesota commercial cat or dog breeder; and 5) 1 member who is a licensed social worker, mental health professional, or other individual who represents human welfare issues and interactions with companion animals. Provides that board must enforce state laws that regulate companion animals as follows: (1) The licensing, enforcement, and inspection of cat and dog kennels and dealers under Sections 347.31 to 347.40 and any rules adopted pursuant to those sections; and (2) The licensing, enforcement, and inspection of commercial dog and cat breeders under Sections 347.57 to 347.65 and any rules adopted pursuant to those sections. Transfers duties currently carried out by the Board of Animal Health to the newly established Companion Animal Board, effective July 1, 2024. Adds provision that the Board of Animal Health shall provide a copy of each new Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for companion animals to the Companion Animal Board within 30 days after receipt. Provides for the establishment of a Companion Animal License Plate. For purposes of this section: "Pet or companion animal" includes any animal owned, possessed by, cared for, or controlled by a person for the present or future enjoyment of that person or another as a pet or companion, or any stray pet or stray companion animal.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-02-02

State  
**MN**

Bill Number  
**SF 1317**

Last Action  
**Author Added Hoffman 2023 02 20**

Status  
**In Senate**

**Title**

Sale of dogs and cats by retail pet shops prohibition

**Primary Sponsors**

Judy Seeberger, Scott Dibble, Tou Xiong, Jim Abeler, John Hoffman

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 4, 2023, 1:46 PM

Amends Chapter 325F (Consumer Protection; Products & Sales) of Minnesota Statutes by adding a new Section 325F.7915 (Sale of Dogs and Cats Prohibited) to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet shops. Provides that a pet shop must not sell, offer to sell, barter, auction, or otherwise transfer ownership of an animal. Provides that a pet shop may provide space to nonprofit humane societies, animal control agencies, or animal rescue and re-homing organizations qualifying as nonprofit under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, to offer to the public dogs or cats for an adoption fee. Provides that a pet shop is prohibited from: (1) having any ownership interest in an animal offered and (2) receiving any fee for providing space for the adoption of an animal. Provides that a pet shop who violates this section is subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000 per violation. Each dog or cat transferred in violation constitutes a separate violation. For purposes of this section: "Animal" means a dog, wholly or in part of the species *Canis familiaris*, or a cat, wholly or in part of the species *Felis domesticus*. "Pet shop" means any pet dealer that operates a physical retail store from which animals are sold or offered for sale to the general public, whether through an appointment or otherwise.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-02-06

State  
**MN**

Bill Number  
**SF 1411**

Last Action  
**Referred To Judiciary And Public Safety  
2023 02 08**

Status  
**In Senate**

**Title**

Office of Animal Protection creation

**Primary Sponsors**

Bobby Champion

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 8, 2023, 3:59 PM

Amends Chapter 299A (Department of Public Safety) of Minnesota Statutes by adding a new Section 299A.86 (Office of Animal Protection) to provide that the Commissioner of Public Safety shall establish and maintain the Office of Animal Protection as an office within the Department of Public Safety. Provides that the Office of Animal Protection shall have the following duties: (1) To promote programs to protect the welfare of animals; (2) To coordinate with local law enforcement officers to enforce the requirements in Minnesota Statutes regarding animal welfare and the prevention of animal cruelty; (3) To investigate alleged crimes against animals in accordance with the requirements in Minnesota Statutes; (4) To provide training programs regarding the prevention of animal cruelty and investigation of animal cruelty allegations; (5) To provide assistance in locating shelters for displaced animals during emergencies or natural disasters; (6) To establish and maintain a statewide dangerous dog database; and (7) Upon request from local law enforcement agencies, to investigate alleged violations regarding dangerous dogs. Provides that the office must collaborate with other state agencies that are responsible for investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating cases involving animal cruelty or welfare in the state, including the Board of Animal Health, United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Board of Veterinary Medicine, local and state police officers and sheriffs, city and county attorneys, and humane agents. Provides that the office shall establish and maintain a website that provides information and resources regarding animal care. Provides that, on or before November 1 of each year, the office must publish and make available an annual report on the office's efforts.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-02-08

**Title**  
Animal protection provisions modifications and appropriations

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Marty

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 23, 2023, 5:28 PM  
Amends Chapter 299A (Department of Public Safety) of Minnesota Statutes by: (1) Adding a new Section 299P.02 (Office of Animal Protection; Creation; Purpose; Scope) to establish and maintain the Office of Animal Protection as an office within the Department of Public Safety which will protect animals by preventing, investigating, and prosecuting crimes of animal cruelty; and (2) Adding a new Section 299P.10 (Courtroom Animal Advocate Program) to provide an animal advocate to represent animal interests in animal cruelty cases. Provides that on or before January 15 each year, the director must submit an annual report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public safety finance and policy on the office's operations, including data regarding the animal cruelty cases that the office investigated. Provides that the commissioner may establish an advisory committee, consisting of at least 15 members with knowledge of animal law, animal cruelty, and animal cruelty prevention. Enforcement powers granted to the office include: (1) Investigation; (2) Subpoena; (3) Cease and desist orders; (4) Disposition of dead animals; and (5) Search and seizure without a warrant. Provides that in a criminal proceeding regarding the welfare, care, or custody of an animal, the court may appoint, upon the court's initiative or upon request of a party, an advocate to represent the interests of the animal. Provides that the office shall maintain a list of attorneys who have indicated a willingness to serve as advocates under this section on a voluntary basis and are eligible to serve as advocates. Provides that in order to be eligible to serve as an advocate, an attorney must have completed training as required by the office. For purposes of this section: "Animal" means every living creature except members of the human race. "Animal cruelty" means an act, omission, or neglect that causes or permits unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering to an animal, or causes or permits the unnecessary or unjustifiable death of an animal.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-05-08

**Title**

Commercial dog and cat breeder data classification amendment and advertising requirement modifications

**Primary Sponsors**

Bonnie Westlin, Jim Abeler, Karin Housley, John Marty

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 12, 2024, 3:39 PM

Amends Chapter 13 (Government Data Practices), Section 13-643 (Agricultural Data) and Chapter 347 (Dogs and Cats) of Minnesota Statutes to: (1) Amend the classification of commercial dog and cat breeder data collected and maintained by the Board of Animal Health; (2) Modify kennel and dealer advertising requirements; and (3) Require the Board of Animal Health to post certain kennel, dealer, and commercial breeder information. Removes provision that data collected and maintained by the Board of Animal Health under Sections 347.57 to 347.64 (Commercial Breeders Licensing & Enforcement) are classified as private or nonpublic. Adds provision that a kennel's state license number or a symbol approved by the board must be included in all of the kennel's advertisements or promotions that pertain to animals being sold or traded, including but not limited to all advertisements or promotions in newspapers or flyers or on the Internet or radio. Adds a new Section 347.385 (Posting of Information) to provide that the Board of Animal Health must maintain and post in a timely manner on the board's public website: (1) A list of kennels and dealers licensed and in good standing under sections 347.31 to 347.40, including all business names that the licensee uses in connection with the sale of dogs or cats and the total number of animals kept, congregated, or confined in the previous calendar year; (2) At a minimum, copies of the three most recent inspection report forms submitted to the board under section 347.33; and (3) A list of kennels or dealers whose licenses have expired or have been revoked by the board during the last three years, including all business names that the licensee used in connection with the sale of dogs or cats; the total number of animals kept, congregated, or confined in the previous calendar year; and any reasons for revocation. Provides that inspection report form must document the animal inventory on the date of the inspection AND MUST CONTAIN ALL BUSINESS NAMES USED BY THE COMMERCIAL BREEDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF DOGS OR CATS, THE FACILITY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, AND THE ADDRESS AND NAME OF THE FACILITY.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-02-12

**Title**

Office of Animal Protection establishment and duties provision, crime of violence definition expansion, and appropriation

**Primary Sponsors**

John Marty, Heather Gustafson, Bonnie Westlin, Sandy Pappas, Liz Boldon

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 12, 2024, 4:09 PM

Amends Chapter 299A (Department of Public Safety) of Minnesota Statutes by adding a new Section 299P.03 (Office of Animal Protection; Creation; Powers & Duties; Annual Reporting) to provide that the Office of Animal Protection is created within the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension of the Department of Public Safety. Provides that the Office of Animal Protection has the following powers and duties: (1) It shall seek to promote a comprehensive and measurable approach for the prevention of animal cruelty, protection of animals, enforcement of animal cruelty statutes, and education across multiple disciplines throughout the state, including but not limited to: (i) investigations; (ii) prosecution; (iii) forensic veterinary medicine; (iv) animal care, transport, and housing; and (v) human welfare, as it relates to offenders or victims of animal cruelty; (2) It shall foster partnerships and collaborations with other criminal justice partners and related disciplines, to identify community and enforcement needs and challenges related to the crime of animal cruelty; establish effective enforcement practices and initiatives based on these needs; and, if needed, seek changes to laws or administrative rules; (3) It shall work to build capacity to assist local, state, Tribal, and federal authorities and other criminal justice partners in the investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty, including providing information, education, advice, training, services, and resources, and engaging communities in the prevention of animal cruelty; (4) It shall work to provide standards, training, and certification for authorities and criminal justice partners in the enforcement of animal cruelty laws; (5) It shall work to educate, train, and build public awareness of the importance of the humane treatment of animals with the goals of demonstrating why animal cruelty is harmful to society and increasing knowledge about how to recognize and report animal cruelty; (6) It shall support the advisory committee and coordinate the office's mission with the committee's guidance; (7) It may conduct case reviews involving the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of selected closed animal cruelty cases and provide feedback to the entities involved; (8) It may collect, maintain, analyze, and report on data relating to animal cruelty cases; (9) It may conduct and compile research into animal cruelty and publicize the results of the research; and (10) it may award grants. Provides for the establishment of an animal advisory committee and for an annual performance report to be submitted to certain committees in the State legislature.

**Introduction Date:** 2024-02-12