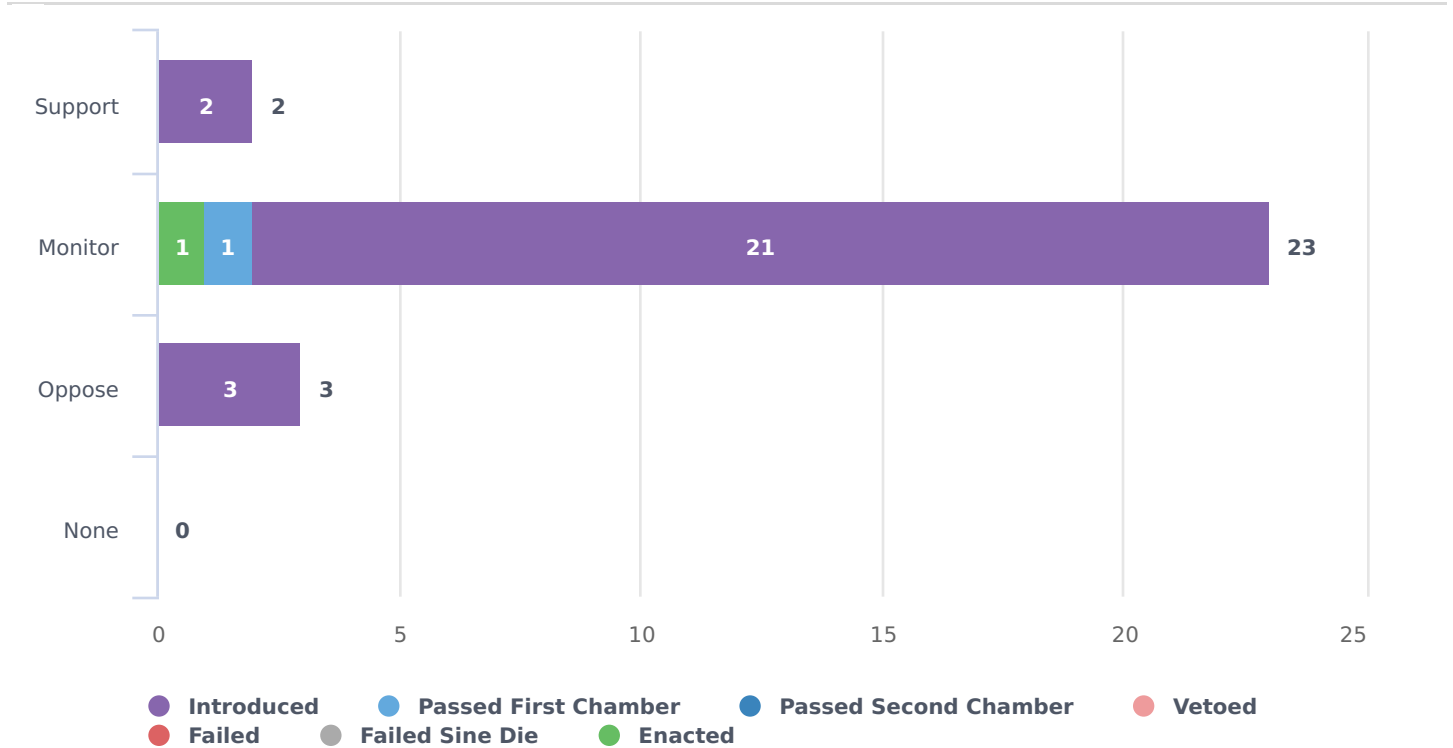


Pennsylvania - 2023 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: November 27, 2023

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: PA (28)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 163	Referred To Finance 2023 04 24	In House	Support	Medium

Title
An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for exclusions from tax.

Primary Sponsors
Ryan Mackenzie

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 24, 2023, 8:57 PM
Amends Article II (Tax for Education), Part III (Exclusions from Tax) of PA Tax Reform Code of 1971 to exclude from the imposition of sales tax the sale at retail or use of food that is purchased exclusively for household pets. For purposes of this section: "Household pet" means a fully domesticated animal owned for personal companionship, including a dog, cat, reptile, bird or rodent.

Introduction Date: 2023-04-24

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 222	Referred To Judiciary 2023 03 08	In House	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in riot, disorderly conduct and related offenses, further providing for the offense of cruelty to animal.

Primary Sponsors

Mary Isaacson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 9, 2023, 4:09 PM

Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses), Chapter 55 (Riot, Disorderly Conduct & Related Offenses), Subchapter B (Cruelty to Animals), Section 5533 (Cruelty to Animal) of PA Consolidated Statutes to include ear cropping or ear trimming in the offense of animal cruelty. Provides that a violation of Section 5533 is a summary offense if the violation causes bodily injury to the animal due to the cropping, trimming or cutting off the whole or part of the ear or ears of the animal by a person who is not a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine or who is not acting in accordance with section 5542(a) (relating to animal mutilation and related offenses). Provides that a violation of this section is as follows: (i) A misdemeanor of the second degree for the first violation; and ii) A misdemeanor of the first degree for a second or subsequent violation.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-08

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 449	Referred To Judiciary 2023 03 16	In House	Oppose	High

Title

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in riot, disorderly conduct and related offenses, providing for the offense of kidnapping of animals.

Primary Sponsors

Brandon Markosek

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 23, 2023, 1:28 PM

Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offense), Article F (Offenses Against Public Order & Decency), Chapter 55 (Riot, Disorderly Conduct & Related Offenses), Subchapter B (Cruelty to Animals) of PA Consolidated Statutes by adding a new Section 5539.1 providing for the offense of kidnapping of animals. Provides that a person commits an offense of kidnapping of animals if the person: 1) Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly takes, sells or purchases any dog, cat, equine animal, swine or cattle for resale to another, use in a laboratory or for animal fighting; or 2) Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly takes or carries away any dog, cat or equine animal without permission for a special or temporary purpose. Provides that an offense under subsection 1) is a felony of the third degree and a second or subsequent offense is a felony of the second degree. Provides that an offense under subsection 2) is a misdemeanor of the third degree and a second or subsequent offense is a misdemeanor of the second degree.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-16

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 508	Referred To Judiciary 2023 03 17	In House	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in riot, disorderly conduct and related offenses, further providing for the offense of animal mutilation and related offenses.

Primary Sponsors

Liz Hanbidge

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 27, 2023, 1:40 PM

Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), Article F (Offenses Against Public Order and Decency), Chapter 55 (Riot, Disorderly Conduct & Related Offenses), Subchapter B (Cruelty to Animals), Section 2242 (Animal Mutilation & Related Offenses) of PA Consolidated Statutes by adding a new subsection to add declawing of cats to the offense of cruelty to animals. Provides that a person commits an animal cruelty offense if the person performs an onychectomy, a declawing, partial digital amputation, phalangectomy or tendonectomy procedure by any means unless the procedure is deemed necessary for a therapeutic purpose by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. For purposes of this section: "Therapeutic purpose" means a purpose necessary to address the physical medical condition of the cat, such as an existing or recurring physical illness, infection, disease, injury or abnormal condition in a claw that compromises the cat's health. The term does not mean cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling the cat.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-17

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 526	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 03 17	In House	Monitor	High

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for requirements for kennels.

Primary Sponsors

Ed Neilson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 23, 2023, 1:45 PM

An Act to amend Section 459-207 (Requirements for Kennels) of the PA Dog Law by adding a new subsection to further provide for the display of breeder information by pet shop-kennels. Provides that a dog offered for sale by a pet shop-kennel shall have the following information posted conspicuously on its cage: 1) The breed, age and date of birth of the dog; 2) The state in which the breeder of the dog is located; 3) The United States Department of Agriculture License number of the breeder, if required; 4) The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture License number of the breeder, if required; and 5) Documentation of all inoculations, worming treatments and other medical treatments, if any, including the date of the medical treatment, the diagnosis and the name and title of the treatment provider. Provides that a dog offered for sale or adoption on behalf of a licensed nonprofit kennel by a pet shop-kennel shall also have the above-mentioned information in posted conspicuously on its cage to the extent the information is known.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-17

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 530	Referred To Judiciary 2023 03 17	In House	Support	High

Title
An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in riot, disorderly conduct and related offenses, further providing for prohibition of ownership of certain animals.

Primary Sponsors
Jeanne McNeill

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 23, 2023, 1:57 PM
Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses), Chapter 55 (Riot, Disorderly Conduct and Related Offenses), Subchapter B. (Cruelty to Animals), Section 5555 (Prohibition of Ownership) of PA Consolidated Statutes to further provide for the prohibition of pet ownership for persons convicted of animal cruelty violations. Provides that the authority imposing sentence upon a conviction for a violation of this chapter SHALL (currently "may") order the prohibition of the defendant's ownership, possession, control or custody of animals or employment with the care of animals for a period of NO LESS THAN 2 YEARS (currently "time not to exceed the statutory maximum term of imprisonment applicable to the offense for which sentence is being imposed"). Provides for mandatory violence prevention counseling (failure to attend extends period of pet ownership prohibition from 1-10 years).

Introduction Date: 2023-03-17

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 549	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 03 20	In House	Monitor	Low

Title
An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for requirements for kennels; and abrogating a regulation.

Primary Sponsors
David Zimmerman

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 27, 2023, 2:00 PM
Amends Section 207 (Requirements for Kennels) of PA Dog Law to apply the primary enclosure and housing facilities requirements currently in statute for Kennel Class C license holders to all kennels. Provides that the existing Kennel Class C primary enclosure design, construction, and sanitation requirements shall apply to ALL kennels. Adds provision that the relative humidity in a housing facility must be maintained at a level that accomplishes a Heat Index value of 85 or lower. Strikes the following requirements (currently in statute for Kennel Class C license holders: (1) Kennels under this subsection must develop and follow an appropriate plan to provide dogs with the opportunity for exercise. The plan shall be approved by a veterinarian. (2) All kennels for dogs shall be equipped with smoke alarms or fire extinguishers. Housing facilities shall be equipped with fire extinguishers on the premises. An indoor housing facility may have a sprinkler system. For purposes of this section: "Kennel" means any establishment in or through which at least 26 dogs are kept or transferred in a calendar year, or a boarding kennel as defined in this act. "Kennel Class C License Holder" means to keep or operate a commercial kennel for a total number of dogs ranging from 50 to more than 500 dogs of any age during a calendar year.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-20

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 567	Referred To Game And Fisheries 2023 03 20	In House	Monitor	Medium

Title

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in permits relating to wildlife, further providing for definitions.

Primary Sponsors

David Zimmerman

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 29, 2023, 5:28 PM

Amends Title 34 (Game), Subchapter D (Permits Relating to Wildlife), Section 2961 (Definitions) of PA Consolidated Statutes to exclude birds, rats and mice, rabbits, hedgehogs, sugar gliders and domestic ferrets from the definition of "exotic wildlife". Amends the definition of "exotic wildlife" to INCLUDE: ALL nonindigenous animals AND the following, regardless of whether the animal is bred or reared in captivity or imported from another state or nation: 1) All members of the order Primates (nonhuman primates); 2) All members of the family Ursidae (bears); 3) Members of the following species: a) Canis latrans (coyotes); b) Canis lupus (gray wolves); c) Canis rufus (red wolves); d) Felis rufus (bobcats); e) Panthera leo (lions); f) Panthera tigris (tigers); g) Panthera pardus (leopards); h) Panthera uncia (snow leopards); i) Neofelis nebulosa (clouded leopards); j) Panthera onca (jaguars); k) Acinonyx jubatus (cheetahs); l) Felis concolor (cougars). 4) Any crossbreed of an animal specified in subparagraph 3 which have similar characteristics in appearance or features. "Exotic wildlife" DOES NOT include: 1) Any member of the class Aves (birds); 2) Any member of the following families: a) Equidae (horses, asses and zebras); b) Camelidae (camels, alpacas and llamas); c) Cervidae (deer, moose and elk); d) Bovidae (wild cattle and spiral-horned antelopes); e) Muridae (rats and mice); f) Chinchillidae (chinchillas and viscachas); g) Leporidae (rabbits and hares); h) Erinaceidae (hedgehogs and moonrats); i) Petauridae (gliders and striped possums) 3) Any member of the species Mustela furo (domestic ferrets). 4) Any member of the species Cavia porcellus (domestic guinea pigs). 5) Any domestic animal, as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. §5531 (a dog, cat, equine animal, bovine animal, sheep, goat or porcine animal). Current definition of "Exotic wildlife": The phrase includes, but is not limited to, all bears, coyotes, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, cougars, wolves and any crossbreed of these animals which have similar characteristics in appearance or features. The definition is applicable whether or not the birds or animals were bred or reared in captivity or imported from another state or nation.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-20

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 660	Referred To Insurance 2023 03 21	In House	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for pet insurance; and imposing penalties.

Primary Sponsors

Mike Schlossberg

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 31, 2023, 1:12 PM

Amends Title 40 (Insurance), Part II (Regulation of Insurers and Related Persons Generally) of PA Consolidated Statutes by adding a new Chapter 45 (Pet Insurance) to provide for the regulation of pet insurance. Provides for: (1) The right to examine and return an insurance policy; (2) Written policy disclosure requirements; (3) Policy conditions (pre-existing conditions, waiting periods, veterinary examinations, wellness program benefits); (4) Sales practices requirements; (5) Insurance producer training; and (6) penalties and remedies. Provides that the Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth may promulgate rules and regulations to administer and enforce this chapter. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance policy" means a property insurance policy, certificate or rider that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets. "Pet insurer" means an insurer that issues a pet insurance policy.

Introduction Date: 2023-03-21

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 846	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 04 10	In House	Oppose	High

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in short title and definitions, further providing for definitions; in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for kennels; and imposing penalties.

Primary Sponsors

Jeanne McNeill

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 10, 2023, 9:34 PM

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Chapter 8 (Dog Law), Sections 459.102 (Definitions) and 459.206 (Kennels) of PA Consolidated Statutes to prohibit the retail sale of dogs by pet shops. Provides that the PA Department of Agriculture may not issue or renew a pet shop-kennel license after December 31, 2024. Provides that, as of January 1, 2025, a person who held a pet shop-kennel license: (1) Shall immediately cease and desist from operating a kennel, including buying, exchanging, selling, offering for sale, giving away or in any way transferring dogs; (2) May not acquire additional dogs or increase the number of dogs in the kennel by any means, including breeding; and (3) Must permit State dog wardens to inspect the kennel without a warrant in order to determine compliance with the department's order, any relevant court order and any provision of this act. Amends definition of "dealer kennel" to provide that the term DOES NOT include a "pet shop-kennel". Strikes references to "pet shop-kennel" from kennel licensing provisions in current statute. For purposes of this section: "Pet shop-kennel" means any kennel or person that acquires and sells dogs for the purpose of resale, whether as owner, agent or consignee, and sells or offers to sell such dogs on a retail basis.

Introduction Date: 2023-04-10

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 916	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 04 17	In House	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in short title and definitions, further providing for definitions; and, in dangerous dogs, further providing for court proceedings, certificate of registration and disposition and for requirements.

Primary Sponsors

Melissa Shusterman

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 18, 2023, 12:48 PM

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Chapter 8 (Dog Law), Sections 459.102 (Definitions), 459-502-A (Registration) and 459-503-A (Requirements) of PA Consolidated Statutes to: (1) Add a definition for "unprovoked"; and (2) Further provide for court proceedings, certificate of registration and disposition. Adds a definition for "unprovoked" to mean action by a dog that includes biting, attacking or forcibly coming into unwanted physical contact with a person or domestic animal that is acting peaceably and lawfully. Adds to the summary offense of harboring a dangerous dog if a dog has done any of the following unprovoked: (1) Attacked a human being on public or private property not owned, controlled or used with permission by the owner of the dog; (2) Inflicted severe injury on a human being on private property owned, controlled or used with permission by the owner of the dog; (3) Killed or inflicted severe injury on a domestic animal, dog or cat while on public or private property not owned, controlled or used with permission by the owner of the dog; or (4) Attacked a domestic animal, dog or cat, whether or not an injury occurred, and the dog has a history of attacking human beings or domestic animals, dogs or cats unprovoked. Increases the fee to obtain a dangerous dog certificate from \$500 to \$1,000 per calendar year.

Introduction Date: 2023-04-17

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 1052	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 04 28	In House	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for service dogs and dogs used by municipal or State Police departments.

Primary Sponsors

Steve Malagari

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 1, 2023, 11:29 AM

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Chapter 8 (PA Dog Law), Section 217 (Service dogs and dogs used by municipal or State Police departments) of PA Consolidated Statutes to add detection dogs to the provisions of the section. Includes detection dogs in the fee and licensing exemption already provided for service dogs used by municipal or State Police departments. For purposes of this section: "Detection dog" means a dog which is trained and used for accelerant detection, bomb or explosives detection, narcotics detection or other scent detection. "Service dog" means any dog which has been or is in the process of being trained as a guide dog, signal dog or has been trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items.

Introduction Date: 2023-04-28

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 1057	Referred To Finance 2023 04 28	In House	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for shelter animal adoption tax credit.

Primary Sponsors

Steve Malagari

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 26, 2023, 6:33 PM

Amends the PA Tax Reform Code of 1971 by adding a new XVIII-I to provide for a shelter animal adoption tax credit. Provides that a taxpayer may claim a tax credit of \$100 per adopted shelter animal. Provides that a taxpayer may claim a tax credit for a maximum of 3 shelter animals per taxable year, provided that keeping the shelter animal is not in violation of any applicable provisions of Federal, State or local law. For purposes of this section: "Shelter animal" means cat or dog placed in a pound, shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, humane society or rescue association.

Introduction Date: 2023-04-28

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 1099	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 05 03	In House	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in domestic animals, providing for posted notice with information on dangerous transmissible diseases.

Primary Sponsors

Robert Leadbeter

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 4, 2023, 12:37 PM

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Chapter 3 (Domestic Animals), Subchapter C. (Detection, Containment or Eradication of Certain Diseases) of PA Consolidated Statutes by adding a new Section 2336 to require certain retailers to post notices with information on dangerous transmissible diseases. Provides that the Department of Agriculture may require a dealer, agent or person that offers a domestic animal, commercial feed or pet food for sale to the public to provide a posted notice on the premises with information on a dangerous transmissible disease. For purposes of this section: "Dangerous transmissible disease" includes (among others diseases): (1) Pseudorabies, an infectious disease of swine, cattle, sheep, goats, dogs and cats caused by Herpesvirus suis; (2) Rabies, an infectious disease of cattle, dogs, cats, sheep, horses and man caused by a virus; (3) Salmonellosis, an infection of animals and man caused by various Salmonella species: S. pullorum (poultry), S. typhimurium (cattle, equine and man), S. dublin (cattle and man), S. gallinarum (poultry) and S. cholerasuis (swine).

Introduction Date: 2023-05-03

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	HB 1108	Referred To Judiciary 2023 06 30	In Senate	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to divorce, further providing for legislative findings and intent, for definitions and for effect of agreement between parties; and, in property rights, further providing for equitable division of marital property.

Primary Sponsors

Anita Kulik

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 8, 2023, 12:50 PM

Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), Section 3102 (Legislative Findings and Intent) of PA Consolidated Statutes by adding a new subsection to include companion animals in the division of marital property. Provides that, upon the request of either party, the court shall provide for the possession or care, or both, of a companion animal of the parties. Provides that parties may enter into an enforceable agreement regarding the possession or care, or both, of a companion animal. For purposes of this section: "Companion Animal" means an animal that: 1) is a domesticated, living being commonly referred to as a pet; or 2) has been bought, bred, raised or otherwise acquired in accordance with applicable law for the primary purpose of providing the owner with assistance in relation to a disability, security or companionship, rather than for business or agricultural purposes.

Introduction Date: 2023-06-14

Title

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in special licenses and permits, further providing for definitions, for exotic wildlife possession permits and for menagerie permits.

Primary Sponsors

Melissa Shusterman

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 4, 2023, 12:47 PM

Amends Title 34 (Game), Sections 2961 (Definitions) and 2963 (Exotic Wildlife Possession Permits) of PA Consolidated Statutes by: 1) Redefining "exotic wildlife" and "exotic wildlife dealer"; and 2) Discontinuing the issuance of Exotic Wildlife Possession Permits. Redefines "Exotic Wildlife" to mean all nonindigenous animals and the following, regardless of whether the animals are bred or reared in captivity or imported from another nation or state: (1) All members of the order Primates (nonhuman primates); (2) All members of the family Ursidae (bears); (3) All members of the species: (i) *Canis latrans* (coyotes); (ii) *Canis lupus* (gray wolves); (iii) *Canis rufus* (red wolves); (iv) *Felis rufus* (bobcats); (v) *Panthera leo* (lions); (vi) *Panthera tigris* (tigers); (vii) *Panthera pardus* (leopards); (viii) *Panthera uncia* (snow leopards); (ix) *Neofelis nebulosa* (clouded leopards); (x) *Panthera onca* (jaguars); (xi) *Acinonyx jubatus* (cheetahs); (xii) *Felis concolor* (cougars); and (xiii) Any crossbreed of the animals specified in this paragraph. (4) All members of the family Elephantidae (elephants). The term DOES NOT include any member of the class Aves (birds), any member of the families Equidae (horses, asses and zebras), Camelidae (camels, alpacas and llamas), Cervidae (deer, moose and elk), Bovidae (wild cattle and spiral-horned antelopes), Muridae (rats and mice), Chinchillidae (chinchillas and viscachas), Leporidae (rabbits and hares), Petauridae (gliders and striped possums) or any member of the species *Mustela furo* (domestic ferrets) or *Cavia porcellus* (domestic guinea pigs) or any domestic animal as that term is defined in 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55 Subch. B. (A dog, cat, equine animal, bovine animal, sheep, goat or porcine animal). Redefines "Exotic Wildlife Dealer" as any person who: (1) Imports into this Commonwealth, possesses, buys, sells, locates or finds for a fee, barter, donates, gives away or otherwise disposes of exotic wildlife; and (2) Engages in at least five documented transactions annually involving exotic wildlife Provides that the Commission shall not issue any new Exotic Wildlife Possession Permits and may only issue Exotic Wildlife Dealer Permits and Menagerie Permits (exempts wildlife sanctuaries).

Introduction Date: 2023-05-05

Title

An Act providing for prohibition on sale of dogs and cats bred by certain persons, for duty of persons, kennels and animal testing facilities to offer dogs and cats for adoption and for whistleblower protection; and imposing penalties.

Primary Sponsors

Ryan Bizzarro

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 6, 2023, 12:10 PM

The "Dog and Cat Protection Act" provides for certain dog dealer and dog kennel sourcing restrictions and includes owners and employees of dealers and kennels in the PA Whistleblower Law. Provides that a dealer or kennel may not import for sale, sell or offer for sale, including a sale for research purposes, a dog bred by a person who has received any of the following from the USDA as authorized under the Animal Welfare Act and its attendant regulations: (1) A citation for a direct or critical violation or citations for 3 or more indirect or noncritical violations during the 2-year period before the procurement of the dog. (2) 2 consecutive citations for no access to a housing facility before the procurement of the dog. Provides that if any kennel or animal testing facility does not have a need for a dog or cat in its possession and the dog or cat does not pose a health or safety risk to the public or the welfare of the dog or cat, the person, kennel or animal testing facility shall offer for release the dog or cat to a releasing agency for eventual adoption or for adoption through a private placement. Provides for an annual report summarizing the information collected under this act and complaints, enforcement activities and penalties authorized under this act to be submitted to the PA House of Representatives. Provides that an employee of a business, nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employee under the PA Whistleblower Law, with regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act. Provides that a business, nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employer under the Whistleblower Law with regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act. For purposes of this section: "Dealer" means a person who in the regular course of business for compensation or profit buys, sells, transfers, exchanges or barter dogs and cats. The term does not include any of the following: (1) A person who transports companion animals in the regular course of business as a common carrier; or (2) A person whose primary purpose is to find permanent adoptive homes for companion animals. "Kennel" means any establishment in or through which at least 26 dogs are kept or transferred in a calendar year, or a boarding kennel as defined in this act.

Introduction Date: 2023-06-05

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for revocation or refusal of kennel licenses and providing for prohibition on sale of dogs bred by certain persons; and, in enforcement and penalties, providing for whistleblower protection.

Primary Sponsors

Ryan Bizzarro

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 6, 2023, 12:28 PM

Amends Article II (Licenses, Tags and Kennels) and Article IX (Enforcement and Penalties) of the PA Dog Law by adding new Sections 222 (Importation or sale of dogs) and 909 (Whistleblower Protection) to: 1) Provide dog dealer and kennel sourcing restrictions; and 2) Include of owners and employees of dealers and kennels in the PA Whistleblower Law. Provides that a dealer or kennel may not import for sale, sell or offer for sale, including a sale for research purposes, a dog bred by a person who has received any of the following from the USDA as authorized under the Animal Welfare Act and its attendant regulations: (1) A citation for a direct or critical violation or citations for 3 or more indirect or noncritical violations during the 2-year period before the procurement of the dog. (2) 2 consecutive citations for no access to a housing facility before the procurement of the dog. Provides that an employee of a business, nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employee under the PA Whistleblower Law, with regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act. Provides that a business, nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employer under the Whistleblower Law with regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act. For purposes of this section: "Dealer" means a person who: (1) publicly or privately sells or offers for sale any dog belonging to another person for consideration, a fee or a commission or percentage of the sale price; (2) transfers dogs at wholesale for resale to another; or (3) offers or maintains dogs at wholesale for resale to another. "Kennel" means any establishment in or through which at least 26 dogs are kept or transferred in a calendar year, or a boarding kennel as defined in this act.

Introduction Date: 2023-06-05

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in short title and definitions, further providing for definitions; in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for issuance of dog licenses, compensation, proof required, deposit of funds, records, license sales, rules and regulations, failure to comply, unlawful acts and penalty, for applications for dog licenses, fees and penalties, for kennels, for requirements for kennels, for revocation or refusal of kennel licenses, for dogs temporarily in the Commonwealth and for health certificates for importation; in offenses of dogs, further providing for dog bites and detentions and isolation of dogs; in dangerous dogs, further providing for court proceedings, certificate of registration and disposition, for requirements, for public safety and penalties and for construction of article; in injury to dogs, further providing for selling, bartering or trading dogs; in enforcement and penalties, further providing for enforcement of this act by the secretary and provisions for inspections and for enforcement and penalties; in sterilization of dogs and cats, further providing for definitions; and imposing penalties.

Primary Sponsors

Eddie Pashinski

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 6, 2023, 12:37 PM

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Chapter 8 ("Dog Law"), Sections 200 (Issuance of dog licenses; compensation; proof required; deposit of funds; records; license sales; rules and regulations; failure to comply; unlawful acts; penalty), 206 (Kennels), 211 (Revocation, suspension or refusal of kennel licenses), 212 (Dogs temporarily in the Commonwealth), 603 (Selling, bartering or trading dogs) of PA Consolidated Statutes to: 1) Streamline annual and lifetime dog licenses and reasonably increase fees; 2) Establish a statewide licensing database to modernize the information and provide accessibility to law enforcement statewide; 3) Propose a 25% increase in license fees for each kennel classification; 4) Update rescue network kennel licensing and related documentation of foreign dogs; 5) Require transparency of both the source of a dog and the identifying seller's license information in advertisements. Provides that the Secretary shall establish, operate and maintain, through a vendor or otherwise, a single electronic Statewide dog licensing registry database, which shall be made readily accessible to all law enforcement agencies and is capable of maintaining an accurate, complete and single Statewide registry of all licensed dogs in this Commonwealth, no matter by whom or how the license was sold. Provides that a seller of dogs at retail to a Pennsylvania resident shall provide the new dog owner with a department-issued dog license application and department-issued letter regarding dog licensing. Adds definition of "Seller" to mean an individual who: (1) sells or transfers the ownership interest of a dog to another individual for consideration of money; and(2) meets the criteria to be licensed as a kennel. Provides that a person operating a kennel who changes the type or classification of kennel due to an increase in the number of dogs housed, kept, harbored, boarded, sheltered, sold, given away or transferred in or by the kennel during any calendar year shall, within seven days of the increase, apply to the department for the appropriate type and class of kennel license. Increases license fees for each kennel classification by 25%. Adds to the list of entities requiring licensure the following: 1) Humane Society or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; 2) Municipal Holding Pens; 3) Rescue Network Kennels; 4) Out-of-State Dealer Kennel Classes I through IV; and 5) Out-of-State Dealer SPCA or humane society, municipal holding pens or rescue network kennels. Includes Humane Society or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to the existing provision that it shall be unlawful to barter, trade, raffle, sell, auction or in any way transfer ownership of a dog under eight weeks of age, unless the dog has been orphaned and it becomes necessary to transfer ownership of the orphaned dog.

Introduction Date: 2023-06-05

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	SB 82	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 01 12	In Senate	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for transfer of dog licenses or tags and other licensing requirements and for service dogs and dogs used by municipal or State Police departments.

Primary Sponsors

Kristin Phillips-Hill

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 13, 2023, 9:49 PM

Amends Sections 205 (Transfer of Dog Licenses) and 207 (Service Dogs used by Municipal or State Police Departments) of PA Dog Law to further provide for: 1) permanent transfer of ownership/possession of a dog and 2) fee exemptions for certain service dogs. Requires that a bill of sale or affidavit contain the owner's name, address, telephone number and other relevant contact information. Provides that dog license applications and fees be submitted to the county treasurer of the county in which the license is issued. Further classifies service dogs exempt from license fees. Requires that a letter on official letterhead from the respective police chief, fire chief, sheriff or director or authorized agent of the department, agency or office providing the services, along with evidence that the dog is a service dog, shall accompany a license application.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-12

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	SB 620	Referred To Finance 2023 04 25	In Senate	Monitor	Medium

Title

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for exclusions from tax.

Primary Sponsors

Michele Brooks

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Apr 26, 2023, 2:44 PM

Amends Article II (Tax for Education), Part III (Exclusions from Tax) of PA Tax Reform Code of 1971 to exclude from the imposition of sales tax the sale at retail or use of products or services for a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog. Products or services include: (1) Veterinary services and diagnostic procedures; (2) Prescription and nonprescription drugs and pharmaceuticals; (3) Beds, linens, blankets and pillows specifically designed and manufactured for use by a dog; (4) Dog collars and leads; (5) Dog harnesses; (6) Dog waste disposal supplies and equipment; (7) Grooming articles specifically designed for use on domestic dogs; (8) Flea and tick medications; (9) Travel kennels or cages; (10) Dog food, including treats; (11) Vitamin supplements; (12) Services involving maintenance and care, including: Boarding services; Dental services; and Grooming services. For purposes of this section: "Guide dog" means a dog that is trained and used to aid an individual who is blind or visually impaired. The term includes a dog that is in training to become a guide dog. "Hearing dog" means a dog that is trained and used to aid an individual who is deaf or hearing impaired. The term includes a dog that is in training to become a hearing dog. "Service dog" means a dog that is trained and used to aid an individual who: (1) Has a physical impairment that is permanent and severely limits the mobility of the individual; or (2) Is unable to move about without the use of a wheelchair or without the aid of a prosthetic device. The term includes a dog that is in training to become a service dog.

Introduction Date: 2023-04-25

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	SB 658	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 05 11	In Senate	Monitor	Low

Title
An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in public safety, prohibiting certain animal experimentation.

Primary Sponsors
Doug Mastriano

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 16, 2023, 3:18 PM
Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety) of PA Consolidated Statutes by adding a new Chapter 59 (Animal Experimentation) to prohibit certain animal experimentation. Adds provisions to: (1) Prohibit Commonwealth funding for: (a) Painful animal subject experimentation and (b) Animal subject devocalization; (2) Require release for adoption of certain animal subject from animal testing facilities; and (3) Provide disclosure requirements (financial, recordkeeping). For purposes of this section: "Animal subject" means a dog or a cat. "Animal testing facility" means a facility, including a private entity, State agency or institution of higher education, that confines and uses animal subjects for research, education, testing or other scientific or medical purposes.

Introduction Date: 2023-05-11

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	SB 701	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 05 15	In Senate	Monitor	High

Title
An Act providing for prohibition on sale of dogs and cats bred by certain persons, for duty of persons, kennels and animal testing facilities to offer dogs and cats for adoption and for whistleblower protection; and imposing penalties.

Primary Sponsors
Carolyn Comitta

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 16, 2023, 3:34 PM
The "Dog and Cat Protection Act" provides for certain dog dealer and dog kennel sourcing restrictions and includes owners and employees of dealers and kennels in the PA Whistleblower Law. Provides that a dealer or kennel may not import for sale, sell or offer for sale, including a sale for research purposes, a dog bred by a person who has received any of the following from the USDA as authorized under the Animal Welfare Act and its attendant regulations: (1) A citation for a direct or critical violation or citations for 3 or more indirect or noncritical violations during the 2-year period before the procurement of the dog. (2) 2 consecutive citations for no access to a housing facility before the procurement of the dog. Provides that if any kennel or animal testing facility does not have a need for a dog or cat in its possession and the dog or cat does not pose a health or safety risk to the public or the welfare of the dog or cat, the person, kennel or animal testing facility shall offer for release the dog or cat to a releasing agency for eventual adoption or for adoption through a private placement. Provides for an annual report summarizing the information collected under this act and complaints, enforcement activities and penalties authorized under this act to be submitted to the PA House of Representatives. Provides that an employee of a business, nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employee under the PA Whistleblower Law, with regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act. Provides that a business, nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employer under the Whistleblower Law with regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act. For purposes of this section: "Dealer" means a person who in the regular course of business for compensation or profit buys, sells, transfers, exchanges or barter dogs and cats. The term does not include any of the following: (1) A person who transports companion animals in the regular course of business as a common carrier; or (2) A person whose primary purpose is to find permanent adoptive homes for companion animals. "Kennel" means any establishment in or through which at least 26 dogs are kept or transferred in a calendar year, or a boarding kennel as defined in this act.

Introduction Date: 2023-05-15

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	SB 702	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 05 15	In Senate	Monitor	High

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for revocation or refusal of kennel licenses and providing for prohibition on sale of dogs bred by certain persons; and, in enforcement and penalties, providing for whistleblower protection.

Primary Sponsors

Carolyn Comitta

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at May 16, 2023, 3:42 PM

Amends Article II (Licenses, Tags and Kennels) and Article IX (Enforcement and Penalties) of the PA Dog Law by adding new Sections 222 (Importation or sale of dogs) and 909 (Whistleblower Protection) to: 1) Provide dog dealer and kennel sourcing restrictions; and 2) Include of owners and employees of dealers and kennels in the PA Whistleblower Law. Provides that a dealer or kennel may not import for sale, sell or offer for sale, including a sale for research purposes, a dog bred by a person who has received any of the following from the USDA as authorized under the Animal Welfare Act and its attendant regulations: (1) A citation for a direct or critical violation or citations for 3 or more indirect or noncritical violations during the 2-year period before the procurement of the dog. (2) 2 consecutive citations for no access to a housing facility before the procurement of the dog. Provides that an employee of a business, nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employee under the PA Whistleblower Law, with regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act. Provides that a business, nonprofit entity or government entity subject to this act shall be deemed to be an employer under the Whistleblower Law with regard to a good faith report of a potential violation of this act or the Animal Welfare Act. For purposes of this section: "Dealer" means a person who: (1) publicly or privately sells or offers for sale any dog belonging to another person for consideration, a fee or a commission or percentage of the sale price; (2) transfers dogs at wholesale for resale to another; or (3) offers or maintains dogs at wholesale for resale to another. "Kennel" means any establishment in or through which at least 26 dogs are kept or transferred in a calendar year, or a boarding kennel as defined in this act.

Introduction Date: 2023-05-15

Title

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in short title and definitions, further providing for definitions; in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for issuance of dog licenses, compensation, proof required, deposit of funds, records, license sales, rules and regulations, failure to comply, unlawful acts and penalty, for applications for dog licenses, fees and penalties, for kennels, for requirements for kennels, for revocation or refusal of kennel licenses, for dogs temporarily in the Commonwealth and for health certificates for importation; in offenses of dogs, further providing for dog bites and detentions and isolation of dogs; in dangerous dogs, further providing for court proceedings, certificate of registration and disposition, for requirements, for public safety and penalties and for construction of article; in injury to dogs, further providing for selling, bartering or trading dogs; in enforcement and penalties, further providing for enforcement of this act by the secretary and provisions for inspections and for enforcement and penalties; in sterilization of dogs and cats, further providing for definitions; and imposing penalties.

Primary Sponsors

Elder Vogel

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Oct 24, 2023, 11:42 AM

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Chapter 8 ("Dog Law"), Sections 200 (Issuance of dog licenses; compensation; proof required; deposit of funds; records; license sales; rules and regulations; failure to comply; unlawful acts; penalty), 206 (Kennels), 211 (Revocation, suspension or refusal of kennel licenses), 212 (Dogs temporarily in the Commonwealth), 603 (Selling, bartering or trading dogs) of PA Consolidated Statutes to: 1) Streamline annual and lifetime dog licenses and reasonably increase fees; 2) Establish a statewide licensing database to modernize the information and provide accessibility to law enforcement statewide; 3) Propose a 25% increase in license fees for each kennel classification; 4) Update rescue network kennel licensing and related documentation of foreign dogs; 5) Require transparency of both the source of a dog and the identifying seller's license information in advertisements. Provides that the Secretary shall establish, operate and maintain, through a vendor or otherwise, a single electronic Statewide dog licensing registry database, which shall be made readily accessible to all law enforcement agencies and is capable of maintaining an accurate, complete and single Statewide registry of all licensed dogs in this Commonwealth, no matter by whom or how the license was sold. Provides that a seller of dogs at retail to a Pennsylvania resident shall provide the new dog owner with a department-issued dog license application and department-issued letter regarding dog licensing. Adds definition of "Seller" to mean an individual who: (1) sells or transfers the ownership interest of a dog to another individual for consideration of money; and(2) meets the criteria to be licensed as a kennel. Provides that a person operating a kennel who changes the type or classification of kennel due to an increase in the number of dogs housed, kept, harbored, boarded, sheltered, sold, given away or transferred in or by the kennel during any calendar year shall, within seven days of the increase, apply to the department for the appropriate type and class of kennel license. Increases license fees for each kennel classification by 25%. Adds to the list of entities requiring licensure the following: 1) Humane Society or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; 2) Municipal Holding Pens; 3) Rescue Network Kennels; 4) Out-of-State Dealer Kennel Classes I through IV; and 5) Out-of-State Dealer SPCA or humane society, municipal holding pens or rescue network kennels. Includes Humane Society or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to the existing provision that it shall be unlawful to barter, trade, raffle, sell, auction or in any way transfer ownership of a dog under eight weeks of age, unless the dog has been orphaned and it becomes necessary to transfer ownership of the orphaned dog. Amends Section 214 (Health certificates for importation) to clarify that the dog importation health certificate requirement does not apply to dog temporarily in the Commonwealth (for 30 days or less) for show, trial, or breeding purposes.

Introduction Date: 2023-06-06

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	SB 759	Referred To Judiciary 2023 06 13	In Senate	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in budget and finance, establishing the Animal Cruelty Investigation Fund.

Primary Sponsors

John Kane

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 13, 2023, 5:28 PM

Amends Title 42 (Judiciary & Judicial Procedure), Part IV (Financial Matters), Subchapter E (Fines, etc.) of PA Consolidated Statutes by adding a new Section 3576 to establish the Animal Cruelty Investigation Fund as a special fund in the State Treasury. Provides that money in the fund may only be used for purposes of animal cruelty investigations, which shall include training, equipment and employment expenses of humane society police officers and food, shelter and veterinary costs for animals who are victims of animal cruelty. Provides that money in the fund and the interest accruing on the money in the fund are appropriated to the Attorney General who may expend the money directly for training and equipping humane society police officers, development of animal cruelty investigation materials, salary and benefits for attorneys to prosecute and train other prosecutors in animal cruelty cases and grants to animal shelters to fund animal cruelty investigations or other expenses permissible under this section.

Introduction Date: 2023-06-13

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
PA	SB 785	Referred To Agriculture And Rural Affairs 2023 06 14	In Senate	Monitor	High

Title

An Act establishing the Animal Welfare Board; and providing for its powers and duties.

Primary Sponsors

Gene Yaw

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 15, 2023, 12:22 PM

The "Animal Welfare Board Act" would establish the Animal Welfare Board to review existing laws and regulations in this Commonwealth related to the keeping and handling of animals. The Animal Welfare Board would make recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes to: 1) The PA Dog Law; 2) Section 9.3 of the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law (warranty law); 3) 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55 Subch. B (relating to cruelty to animals); 4) 22 Pa.C.S. Ch. 37 (relating to humane society police officers); 5) 7 U.S.C. Ch. 54 (relating to transportation, sale, and handling of certain animals); and 6) Any other law or regulation in this Commonwealth that the board determines relevant under this act. Provides that the board shall consist of residents of this Commonwealth who are members from each of the following: (1) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee; (2) The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; (3) The College of Agricultural Sciences of The Pennsylvania State University; (4) The American Kennel Club; (5) The Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania; (6) The Northeast Beagle Gundog Federation; (7) The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (8) The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; (9) PennAg Industries Association; (10) The Pennsylvania State Grange; (11) The Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania; (12) The Office of Attorney General; (13) The Pennsylvania State Police; and (14) The Pet Advocacy Network. Provides that the Board shall meet at least once every legislative session or at intervals that may be necessary to fulfill the duties of the board and shall develop an initial report within one year of inception.

Introduction Date: 2023-06-14

Title

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in domestic animals, providing for posted notice with information on dangerous transmissible diseases.

Primary Sponsors

Lynda Culver

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Nov 7, 2023, 1:11 PM

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Chapter 23 (Domestic Animals), Subchapter C (Detection, Containment or Eradication of Certain Diseases) of PA Consolidated Statutes by adding a new Section 2336 (Posted notice with information on dangerous transmissible diseases) to require certain entities to post notices with information on dangerous transmissible diseases. Provides that the Department of Agriculture may require a dealer, agent or person that offers a domestic animal, commercial feed or pet food for sale to the public to provide a posted notice on the premises with information on a dangerous transmissible disease. For purposes of this section: "Dangerous transmissible disease" means transmissible disease of domestic animals that has been designated by this chapter or by order of the Department of Agriculture as presenting a danger to public health, to domestic animal health, to the safety or quality of the food supply or to the economic well-being of the domestic animal industries. This term shall be construed to mean and include the disease agent. "Dealer" means a person that buys, receives, sells, exchanges, negotiates or solicits the sale, resale, exchange or transfer of domestic animals or dead domestic animals for the purpose of transfer of ownership or possession to a third party. "Domestic animal" means an animal maintained in captivity. The term also includes the germ plasm, embryos and fertile ova of such animals. "Agent" means person, firm, association, partnership or corporation buying or receiving or soliciting or negotiating the sale of domestic animals for or on behalf of any dealer or transporting domestic animals on behalf of any hauler.

Introduction Date: 2023-11-13

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