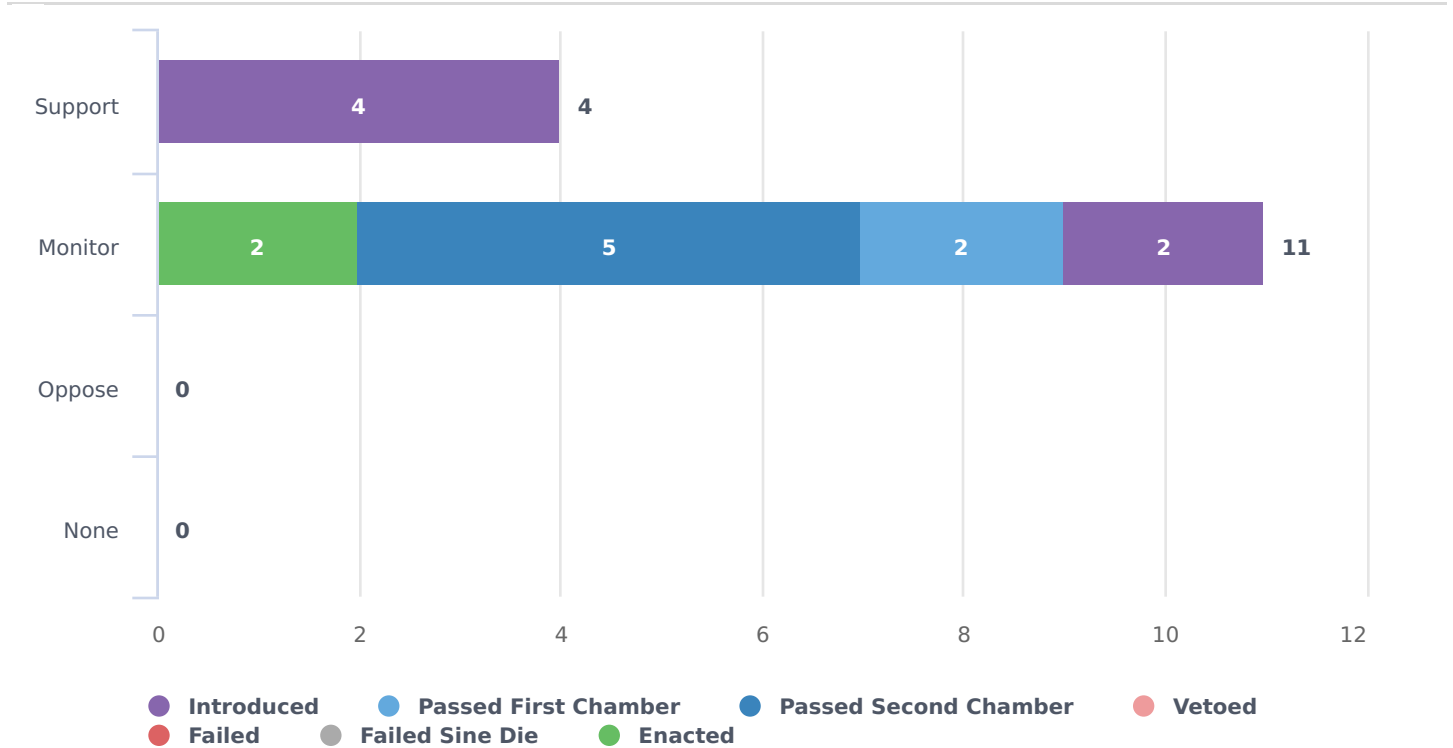


Rhode Island - 2024 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: June 21, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: RI (15)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	HB 7075	Referred To Senate Environment And Agriculture 2024 05 13	In Senate	Monitor	Low

Title
An Act Relating To Animals And Animal Husbandry -- Cruelty To Animals (Provides That The Trapping And Subsequent Release Of Any Unowned Feral Or Free Roaming Cat For The Purpose Of Spaying Or Neutering Of The Cat Would Not Be Considered Abandonment.)

Primary Sponsors
Jay Edwards, Grace Diaz, David Bennett, Patricia Serpa, Brandon Potter, Mike Chippendale

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 6, 2024, 3:29 PM
Amends Title 4 (Animals & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 1 (Cruelty to Animals), Section 4-1-26 (Abandonment of Animals) of RI General Laws to provide that the trapping and subsequent release of any unowned feral or free roaming cat for the purpose of spaying or neutering of the cat would not be considered abandonment. Provides that it shall not be considered abandonment, and the provisions of of this section and of § 4-24-8 (Abandonment of Cats) shall not apply to any person who traps unowned feral or free roaming cats, causes those cats to be spayed or neutered, and subsequently releases those cats, provided: (1) Any medical or surgical procedures performed on those cats are performed by a licensed veterinarian; and (2) The cats are returned to the property where they were trapped.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-05

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	HB 7236	Committee Recommended Measure Be Held For Further Study 2024 04 04	In House	Support	Medium

Title
An Act Relating To Criminal Procedure -- Domestic Violence Prevention Act (Includes Animal Cruelty Offenses To The Domestic Violence Crimes Committed By A Family Or Household Members Against Another.)

Primary Sponsors
Bill O'Brien, Brandon Voas, Jackie Baginski, Anthony DeSimone, Alex Finkelman, Matthew Dawson, Charlene Lima, Greg Costantino, Patricia Serpa, Bob Phillips

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 22, 2024, 1:24 PM
Amends Title 12 (Criminal Procedure), Chapter 29 (Domestic Violence Prevention Act), Section 12-29-2 (Definitions) of Rhode Island General Laws by amending the definition of "domestic violence" to include certain animal cruelty offenses. Adds to the definition of "domestic violence": (1) Unnecessary cruelty to an animal owned or cared for by a household member (§ 4-1-3); (2) Malicious injury to or killing of an animal owned or cared for by a household member (§ 4-1-5); and (3) Abandonment of an animal owned or cared for by a household member (§ 4-1-26).

Introduction Date: 2024-01-19

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	HB 7283	Senate Passed Sub A In Concurrence 2024 06 13	Passed Senate	Monitor	Low

Title
An Act Relating To Insurance -- Producer Licensing Act (Amends Provisions Re Insurance Producer Appointments And Clarifies Language Re Insurance Claims Adjusters. Amends The Ri Life & Health Guarantee Assoc Act. Adds Insurance Data Security And Pet Insurance Acts And Unfair Discrimination Prohibitions.)

Primary Sponsors
Brian Kennedy, Sam Azzinaro, Bill O'Brien, Joseph Solomon, Jay Edwards, Katherine Kazarian, Julie Casimiro

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 29, 2024, 2:32 PM
Amends Title 27 (Insurance) of RI General Laws by adding a new Chapter 82 ("Pet Insurance Act") to promote the public welfare by creating a comprehensive legal framework within which pet insurance may be sold in Rhode Island. Provides that the requirements of this act shall apply to pet insurance policies that are issued to any resident of Rhode Island and are sold, solicited, negotiated, or offered in this state, and policies or certificates that are delivered or issued for delivery in Rhode Island. Provides that all other applicable provisions of this state's insurance laws shall continue to apply to pet insurance except that the specific provisions of this act shall supersede any general provisions of law that would otherwise be applicable to pet insurance. Provides requirements for: (1) Policy disclosures; (2) Sales practices for wellness programs; and (3) Insurance producer training. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-26

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	HB 7305	Committee Recommended Measure Be Held For Further Study 2024 03 27	In House	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act Relating To Property -- Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act (Prohibits Discrimination Based On Housing Status, Define "Assistance Animal", Make It Unlawful To Issue Discriminatory Notices Or Statements Relating To The Sale, Rental Or Leasing Of Housing And To Delete An Unconstitutional Provision.)

Primary Sponsors

Edie Ajello, Camille Vella-Wilkinson, June Speakman, Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, Art Handy, Cherie Cruz, Leonela Felix, Jose Batista, Brandon Potter, Rebecca Kislak

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 29, 2024, 2:36 PM

Amends Title 34 (Property), Chapter 34-37 (RI Fair Housing Practices Act), Sections 34-37-3 (Definitions) and 34-37-4 (Unlawful housing practices) of RI General Statutes to define "assistance animal" and clarify existing protections for persons with such animals consistent with the federal Fair Housing Act. Clarifies that very person with a disability who has an assistance animal, or who obtains an assistance animal, which may be necessary to afford that person an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling and which does not provide a direct threat to the health or safety of others, shall be entitled to full and equal access to all housing accommodations provided for in this section and shall not be required to pay extra compensation for the assistance animal but shall be liable for any damage done to the premises by an assistance animal. For purposes of this section: "Assistance animal" means an animal that has been determined to mitigate the effects of a physical or mental disability by a physician, psychologist, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, other health care provider, vocational rehabilitation specialist or licensed social worker.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-26

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	HB 7435	Referred To Senate Environment And Agriculture 2024 05 13	In Senate	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act Relating To Insurance -- Pet Insurance Act (Enacts A Chapter To Regulate Pet Insurance.)

Primary Sponsors

Joseph Solomon, Julie Casimiro, Stephen Casey, Charlene Lima, Greg Costantino, Mary Messier, Brian Kennedy

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 5, 2024, 2:23 PM

Amends Title 27 (Insurance) of RI General Laws by adding a new Chapter 82 ("Pet Insurance Act") to promote the public welfare by creating a comprehensive legal framework within which pet insurance may be sold in Rhode Island. Provides that the requirements of this act shall apply to pet insurance policies that are issued to any resident of Rhode Island and are sold, solicited, negotiated, or offered in this state, and policies or certificates that are delivered or issued for delivery in Rhode Island. Provides that all other applicable provisions of this state's insurance laws shall continue to apply to pet insurance except that the specific provisions of this act shall supersede any general provisions of law that would otherwise be applicable to pet insurance. Provides requirements for: (1) Policy disclosures; (2) Sales practices for wellness programs; and (3) Insurance producer training. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets.

Introduction Date: 2024-02-02

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	HB 7840	Senate Passed Sub A In Concurrence 2024 06 13	Passed Senate	Monitor	Medium

Title

An Act Relating To Animals And Animal Husbandry -- Regulation Of Vicious Dogs (Permits Euthanization Of Vicious Dogs Upon Finding That Dogs Condition Warrants Euthanasia Or After Determination That There Is No Reasonable Placement For The Dog/Provides Any Municipality That Surrenders Dog To Rispca Shall Be Responsible For Costs.)

Primary Sponsors

Jon Brien, Patricia Serpa, Thomas Noret

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 4, 2024, 2:39 PM

Amends Title 4 (Animals & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 13.1 (Regulation of Vicious Dogs), Section 4-13.1-5 (Harboring dogs for dog fighting - Training dogs to attack humans - Selling, breeding, or buying dogs) of Rhode Island General Laws to further provide for the seizure, disposition and cost of care of vicious dogs. Provides that when a municipality transfers a dog to the RISPCA, which dog was seized because the dog was harbored for fighting or trained to attack humans, the costs for the care of the dog would be initially paid by the municipality. Provides that the RISPCA would still be permitted to pursue a civil action for damages against the actual owner or guardian of the dog for these costs. Revises the procedure to be followed prior to humane euthanization of the dog.

Introduction Date: 2024-03-01

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	HB 7970	Senate Passed In Concurrence 2024 06 13	Passed Senate	Monitor	Low

Title

An Act Relating To Domestic Relations -- Divorce And Separation (Creates A Custody Procedure For Pets In Divorce And Separation Proceedings Based On The Best Interests Of The Animal. This Act Would Not Apply To Assistance/Service Animals.)

Primary Sponsors

Charlene Lima, Jason Knight, Greg Costantino, Joseph Solomon, Jackie Baginski, Jon Brien, Barbara Fenton-Fung, Ray Hull, Nathan Biah, Anthony DeSimone

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 6, 2024, 2:02 PM

Amends Title 15 (Domestic Relations), Chapter 15-5 (Divorce and Separation) of RI General Laws by adding a new Section 15-5-30 (Custody of domestic companion animals - Pets) to create a custody procedure for pets in divorce and separation proceedings based on the best interests of the animal. This act would create a custody procedure for pets in divorce and separation proceedings based on the best interests of the animal. Provides that this act would not apply to assistance/service animals. For purposes of this section: "Companion animal" means a domesticated animal or pet and shall not include assistance animals (also called service animals), which are defined as any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Introduction Date: 2024-03-05

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	HB 8095	Signed By Governor 2024 06 12	Enacted	Monitor	Medium

Title

An Act Relating To Animals And Animal Husbandry -- Dogs (Increases The Penalty For Violations Of The Care Of Dogs Statute To A Minimum Fine Of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) And A Maximum Fine Of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) Per Violation.)

Primary Sponsors

Bill O'Brien, Bob Craven, Alex Finkelman, Joseph Solomon, Carol McEntee, Patricia Serpa, Charlene Lima, Greg Costantino, Brandon Voas, Scott Slater

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 25, 2024, 11:54 AM

Amends Title 4 (Animals & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 4-13 (Dogs), Section 4-13-42 (Care of Dogs) of Rhode Island General Laws to increase the penalty for violations of the care of dogs statute to a minimum fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) and a maximum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation. Provides that any person in violation of this section shall be imprisoned not exceeding eleven (11) months, or fined not less than \$100 (current statute = \$50) nor exceeding \$1,000 (current statute = \$500), or both. Violations of this section include: tethering restrictions for dogs kept outside (tether length, adequate food and water, temperature requirements).

Introduction Date: 2024-03-22

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	SB 2056	Introduced Referred To Senate Finance 2024 01 12	In Senate	Support	High

Title

An Act Relating To Taxation -- Sales And Use Taxes -- Liability And Computation (Eliminates The Sales Tax On Taxi Services And Pet Care Services.)

Primary Sponsors

Walter Felag, Sandra Cano, Robert Britto, Frank Lombardo, David Tikoian, Lombardi

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 13, 2024, 8:35 PM

Amends Title 44 (Taxation), Chapter 44-18 (Sales and Use Taxes - Liability and Computation), Section 7.3 (Services Defined) of RI General Laws to repeal the sales tax on pet care services. For purposes of this section: Pet care services include: pet boarding services, grooming services, kennels, and pet sitting services. Excludes veterinary and testing laboratory services.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-12

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	SB 2221	Committee Recommended Measure Be Held For Further Study 2024 03 19	In Senate	Support	Medium

Title

An Act Relating To Property -- Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act (Amends The Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act.)

Primary Sponsors

Meghan Kallman, Mark McKenney, Tiara Mack, Victoria Gu, Alana DiMario, Joshua Miller, Robert Britto, Sam Bell, Matthew LaMountain, Pamela Lauria

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 24, 2024, 6:46 PM

Amends Title 34 (Property), Chapter 37 (Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act), Sections 34-37-1 (Definitions) and 34-37-4 (Unlawful Housing Practices) of Rhode Island General Laws to define "assistance animal" and clarify existing protections for persons with such animals consistent with the federal Fair Housing Act. Provides that an owner may not refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services to allow a person with a disability who has a service animal or assistance animal or who obtains a service animal or assistance animal full and equal access to all housing accommodations provided for in this section, when those accommodations may be necessary to use and enjoy a housing accommodation. Provides that a person with a disability who has a service animal or assistance animal or who obtains a service animal or assistance animal shall not be required to pay a pet fee, pet deposit or other extra compensation, but shall be liable for any damages done to the premises by a service animal or assistance animal. Provides that, in determining whether a dog qualifies as a service animal, an owner shall not inquire into the nature or extent of a person's disability or require documentation, such as proof that the dog has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Unless it is readily apparent that the dog is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, an owner may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. For purposes of this section: "Assistance animal" means an animal that has been determined to mitigate the effects of a physical or mental disability by a physician, psychologist, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, other health care provider, vocational rehabilitation specialist, or licensed social worker. "Service animal" means a guide dog, hearing dog, or other dog that is specifically trained to assist a person with a disability to perform independent living tasks. The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-24

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	SB 2305	Committee Recommended Measure Be Held For Further Study 2024 03 13	In Senate	Monitor	Low

Title
An Act Relating To Animals And Animal Husbandry -- Cruelty To Animals (Provides That The Trapping And Subsequent Release Of Any Unowned Feral Or Free Roaming Cat For The Purpose Of Spaying Or Neutering Of The Cat Would Not Be Considered Abandonment.)

Primary Sponsors
Dawn Euer

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 13, 2024, 6:11 PM
Amends Title 4 (Animals & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 1 (Cruelty to Animals), Section 4-1-26 (Abandonment of Animals) of RI General Laws to provide that the trapping and subsequent release of any unowned feral or free roaming cat for the purpose of spaying or neutering of the cat would not be considered abandonment. Provides that it shall not be considered abandonment, and the provisions of of this section and of § 4-24-8 (Abandonment of Cats) shall not apply to any person who traps unowned feral or free roaming cats, causes those cats to be spayed or neutered, and subsequently releases those cats, provided: (1) Any medical or surgical procedures performed on those cats are performed by a licensed veterinarian; and (2) The cats are returned to the property where they were trapped.

Introduction Date: 2024-02-12

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	SB 2538	Transmitted To Governor 2024 06 20	Passed House	Monitor	Medium

Title
An Act Relating To Animals And Animal Husbandry-- Regulation Of Vicious Dogs (Permits Euthanization Of Vicious Dogs Upon Finding That Dogs Condition Warrants Euthanasia Or After Determination That There Is No Reasonable Placement For The Dog/Provides Any Municipality That Surrenders Dog To Rispca Shall Be Responsible For Costs.)

Primary Sponsors
Dominick Ruggerio

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 4, 2024, 2:44 PM
Amends Title 4 (Animals & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 13.1 (Regulation of Vicious Dogs), Section 4-13.1-5 (Harboring dogs for dog fighting - Training dogs to attack humans - Selling, breeding, or buying dogs) of Rhode Island General Laws to further provide for euthanasia of certain vicious dogs. Permits euthanization of vicious dogs upon a finding that the dog's medical condition or behavioral condition warrants euthanasia or after a determination by the sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer, or agent of the RISPCA that there is no reasonable placement for the dog and would provide that any municipality that surrenders a seized dog to the RISPCA shall be responsible for the reasonable costs of the care and treatment of the dog.

Introduction Date: 2024-03-01

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	SB 2655	Committee Recommended Measure Be Held For Further Study 2024 04 04	In Senate	Support	Medium

Title
An Act Relating To Criminal Procedure -- Domestic Violence Prevention Act (Includes Animal Cruelty Offenses To The Domestic Violence Crimes Committed By A Family Or Household Members Against Another.)

Primary Sponsors
Dominick Ruggerio, David Tikoian, Matthew LaMountain, Jacob Bissailon, Melissa Murray, Dawn Euer

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 4, 2024, 2:48 PM
Amends Title 12 (Criminal Procedure), Chapter 29 (Domestic Violence Prevention Act), Section 12-29-2 (Definitions) of Rhode Island General Laws by amending the definition of "domestic violence" to include certain animal cruelty offenses. Adds to the definition of "domestic violence": (1) Unnecessary cruelty to an animal owned or cared for by a household member (§ 4-1-3); (2) Malicious injury to or killing of an animal owned or cared for by a household member (§ 4-1-5); and (3) Abandonment of an animal owned or cared for by a household member (§ 4-1-26).

Introduction Date: 2024-03-01

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	SB 2744	Signed By Governor 2024 06 12	Enacted	Monitor	Medium

Title
An Act Relating To Animals And Animal Husbandry -- Dogs (Increases The Penalty For Violations Of The Care Of Dogs Statute To A Minimum Fine Of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) And A Maximum Fine Of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) Per Violation.)

Primary Sponsors
Dominick Ruggerio, Matthew LaMountain, Meghan Kallman, Dawn Euer, Bridget Valverde, Melissa Murray

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 11, 2024, 2:45 PM
Amends Title 4 (Animals & Animal Husbandry), Chapter 4-13 (Dogs), Section 4-13-42 (Care of Dogs) of Rhode Island General Laws to increase the penalty for violations of the care of dogs statute to a minimum fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) and a maximum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation. Provides that any person in violation of this section shall be imprisoned not exceeding eleven (11) months, or fined not less than \$100 (current statute = \$50) nor exceeding \$1,000 (current statute = \$500), or both. Violations of this section include for: tethering restrictions for dogs kept outside (tether length, adequate food and water, temperature requirements).

Introduction Date: 2024-03-08

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	SB 2798	House Passed Sub A In Concurrence 2024 06 13	Passed House	Monitor	Low

Title
An Act Relating To Insurance -- Producer Licensing Act (Amends Provisions Re Insurance Producer Appointments And Clarifies Language Re Insurance Claims Adjusters. Amends The Ri Life & Health Guarantee Assoc Act. Adds Insurance Data Security And Pet Insurance Acts And Unfair Discrimination Prohibitions.)

Primary Sponsors
Roger Picard

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 25, 2024, 12:06 PM
Amends Title 27 (Insurance) of RI General Laws by adding a new Chapter 82 ("Pet Insurance Act") to promote the public welfare by creating a comprehensive legal framework within which pet insurance may be sold in Rhode Island. Provides that the requirements of this act shall apply to pet insurance policies that are issued to any resident of Rhode Island and are sold, solicited, negotiated, or offered in this state, and policies or certificates that are delivered or issued for delivery in Rhode Island. Provides that all other applicable provisions of this state's insurance laws shall continue to apply to pet insurance except that the specific provisions of this act shall supersede any general provisions of law that would otherwise be applicable to pet insurance. Provides requirements for: (1) Policy disclosures; (2) Sales practices for wellness programs; and (3) Insurance producer training. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets.

Introduction Date: 2024-03-22