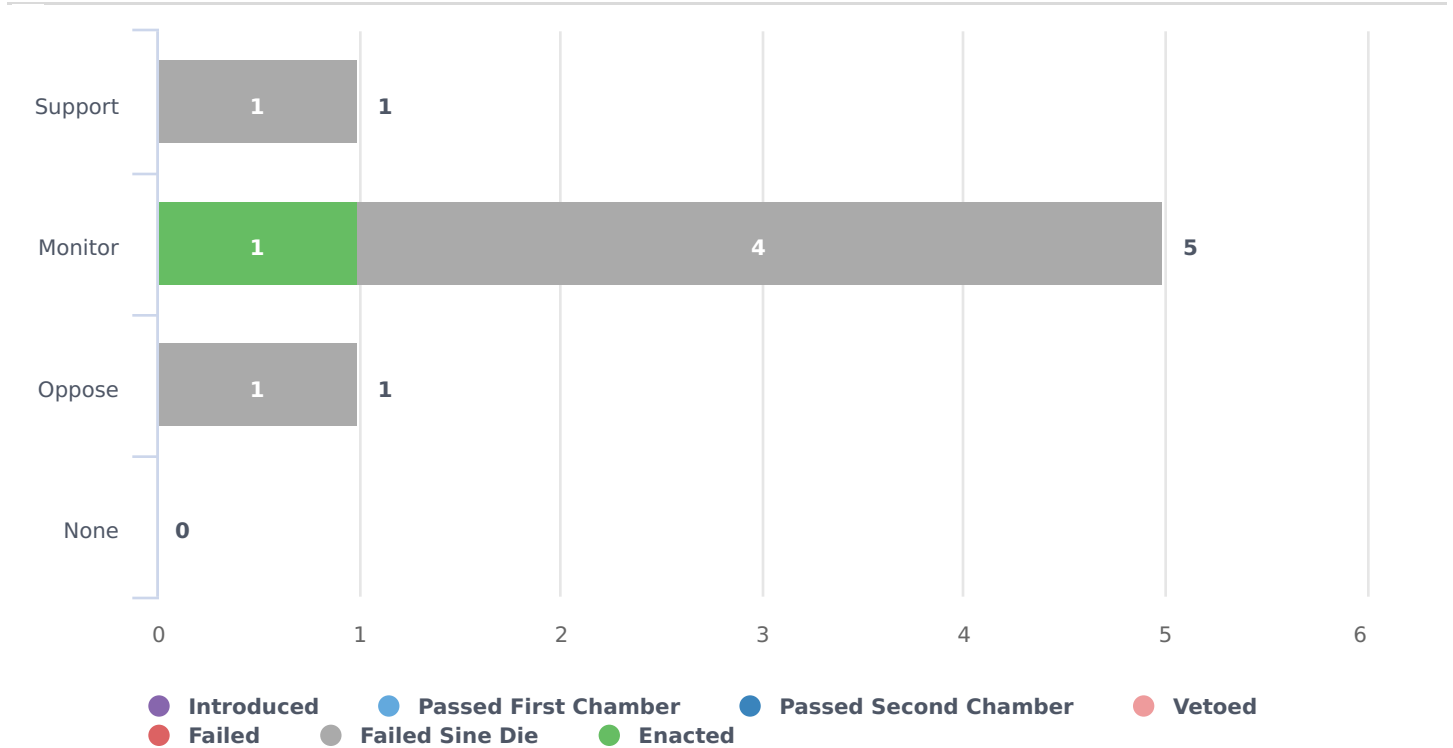


Vermont - 2023-24 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: June 17, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: VT (7)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
VT	H 57	Read First Time And Referred To The Committee On Government Operations And Military Affairs 2023 01 18	Failed sine die

Title
An act relating to requiring dog trainers to obtain informed client consent

Primary Sponsors
Sara Coffey

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 18, 2023, 8:53 PM
An Act to require dog trainers to obtained informed client consent. Proposes to require a dog trainer to inform his or her client of the methods and equipment that will be used to train the client's dog and of the risks and benefits of those methods and equipment, and to require the dog trainer to obtain the client's consent to that training. A dog trainer would specifically be required to inform his or her client of the dog's diagnosis, if known; the nature and purpose of the dog trainer's recommended interventions to train the dog; and the burdens, risks, and expected benefits of all training options, including the option to forgo training.

Introduction Date: 2023-01-18

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status
VT	H 407	Read First Time And Referred To The Committee On Judiciary 2023 02 28	Failed sine die

Title
An act relating to penalties for animal cruelty offenses

Primary Sponsors
Barbara Rachelson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Feb 28, 2023, 7:38 PM
Amends Title 13 (Crimes & Criminal Procedures), Chapter 8 (Humane & Proper Treatment of Animals), Section 353 (Degree of Offense; Sentencing Upon Conviction) of Vermont Statutes Annotated to allow courts the discretion to place restrictions on people convicted of animal cruelty offenses regarding their future ownership interest in animals. Allows the court to prohibit or limit any person convicted of certain animal cruelty offenses from owning, possessing, residing with, or engaging in employment involving the care of any animal for any period of time and impose any other reasonable restrictions on the person's future ownership or possession of animals as may be necessary for the protection of the animals. Provides that any person found in violation of a court order incorporating the provisions of this section may, in addition to any other punishment provided by law, be fined up to \$1,000.00 for each animal held in unlawful ownership or possession. Provides that any animal involved in a violation described in this section shall be forfeited to the State.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-28

State VT	Bill Number H 410	Last Action Read First Time And Referred To The Committee On Agriculture Food Resiliency And Forestry 2023 02 28	Status Failed sine die
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Title
An act relating to rabies vaccination certificate requirements for domestic pet or wolf-hybrid licensure

Primary Sponsors
David Durfee

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 1, 2023, 3:14 PM
Amends Title 20 (Internal Security & Public Safety), Chapter 193 (Domestic Pet or Wolf-Hybrid Control), Subchapter 2 (Licenses), Section 3581 (General Requirements) to Vermont Statutes Annotated to further provide for the rabies vaccination requirements. Adds provision that the rabies vaccination certificate requirement for licensing shall include the following: (A) The signature of the veterinarian; (B) The dog or wolf-hybrid owner's name and address; (c) The species, sex, age, color, and primary breed of the animal; and (D) The vaccination number and expiration date. Provides that veterinarians must present a list of rabies vaccinations to the municipal clerk every 30 days. For purposes of this section: "Domestic pet" or "pet" means any domestic dogs, domestic cats, and ferrets. The term shall also include such other domestic animals as the Secretary shall establish by rule, provided that the Secretary finds that the animal has the potential to become an imminent danger to public health or welfare if not subjected to the provisions of this chapter.

Introduction Date: 2023-02-28

State VT	Bill Number H 567	Last Action Read First Time And Referred To The Committee On Agriculture Food Resiliency And Forestry 2024 01 03	Status Failed sine die
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Title
An act relating to the sale of dogs, cats, and wolf-hybrids by pet shops

Primary Sponsors
Emilie Krasnow

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 3, 2024, 7:09 PM
Amends Title 20 (Internal Security & Public Safety), Chapter 194 (Welfare of Animals; Sale of Animals) of Vermont Statutes Annotated by adding a new Subchapter 4 (Prohibiting Sale by Pet Shop), Section 3931 (Sale of Dogs, Cats and Wolf-Hybrids by Pet Shop; Prohibited) to prohibit the retail sale of dogs and cats in pet shops. Provides that a pet shop shall not offer a dog, cat, or wolf-hybrid for sale. Provides that this section shall not apply to: (1) A pet shop providing space to an animal shelter or a rescue organization offering dogs, cats, or wolf-hybrids to the public for adoption for an adoption fee, provided the pet shop does not have any ownership interest in the dogs, cats, or wolf-hybrids offered for adoption and does not receive any fee for providing space or for the adoption of any of the dogs, cats, or wolf-hybrids.; or (2) A pet shop that lawfully offered animals for sale prior to July 1, 2024, provided that the pet shop complies with all of the following: (i) The pet shop maintains a valid license under section 3903 of this title; (ii) The pet shop remains in the same ownership as existed on July 1, 2024; and (iii) The pet shop keeps for sale or offers for sale in any calendar year no greater a number of dogs, cats, or wolf-hybrids than it kept for sale or offered for sale in calendar year 2023. Provides that a person who violates this section shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 and shall be subject to the suspension or revocation of the person's pet shop license. Each instance of a person offering an animal for sale in violation of this section constitutes a separate violation.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-03

State
VT

Bill Number
H 597

Last Action
**Read First Time And Referred To The
Committee On Environment And Energy
2024 01 03**

Status
Failed sine die

Title

An act relating to the collection, sale, and possession of wildlife

Primary Sponsors

Pat Brennan

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 3, 2024, 6:52 PM

Amends Title 10 (Conservation & Development), Chapters 103 (Department of Fish & Wildlife) and 113 (Game) of Vermont Statutes Annotated to: (1) Authorize the Commissioner of Fish & Wildlife to regulate the sale or possession of reptiles and amphibians in the State; and (2) Add reptiles and amphibians to current wildlife importation and possession restrictions. New Section 4085 (Reptiles & Amphibians): Provides that the Commissioner may adopt rules related to the protection, conservation, and taking of reptiles and amphibians. Provides that the rules may: (1) Prohibit the possession and importation of species that pose a threat to species and ecosystems in Vermont and allow the Department to establish a list of prohibited or restricted species; (2) Allow for waivers for possession of prohibited species legally acquired as a pet prior to the effective date of this section; (3) Prohibit the taking and collection of specified reptiles and amphibians; (4) Establish open seasons for common species; (5) Establish daily, season, and possession limits for common species; (6) Establish territorial limits for any rule under this subchapter; (7) Prescribe the manner and means of taking any species or variety, including reporting and tagging of game; (8) Establish restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity, or other physical distinction of the species or variety pursued; and (9) Designate Wildlife Management Units for various species or varieties. Section 4709 (Transport, importation, possession, and stocking of wild animals) amendments: Provides that a person shall not bring into, transport into, transport within, transport through, or possess in the State any live wild bird or animal of any kind, INCLUDING REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS and any manner of feral swine, without authorization from the Commissioner or designee. Adds provision that a person shall not take, collect, or possess any reptile or amphibian, or parts thereof, dead or alive, for personal use unless authorized by the rules of the Commissioner or a permit from the Commissioner.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-03

Title

An act relating to animal welfare

Primary Sponsors

Chea Waters Evans, Mike Rice, Katherine Sims

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jun 12, 2024, 5:23 PM

Amends Title 20 (Internal Security & Public Safety) of Vermont Statutes Annotated by adding a new Chapter 190 (Division of Animal Welfare) to establish the Division of Animal Welfare within the Department of Public Safety to develop, implement, and administer a centralized program for investigating and enforcing animal welfare requirements in the State. Provides that the Commissioner of Public Safety shall appoint a Director of Animal Welfare who shall be in immediate charge of the Division. Provides that the Director shall develop a comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and enforcement of the animal welfare laws of the State. Provides that the plan shall include: (A) how the Director shall oversee investigation and response to animal cruelty complaints in the State in order to provide the best services to Vermont's animals statewide; (B) how the Director shall coordinate administration and enforcement of animal welfare laws in the State in a collaborative manner with those law enforcement officers and municipalities that retain authority to enforce animal cruelty requirements in the State; (C) how the State should address the extent and scope of any deficiencies in Vermont's system of investigating and responding to animal cruelty complaints; (D) how the State should ensure that investigations of animal cruelty complaints are conducted according to systematic and documented written standard operating procedures and checklists; (E) a proposal to house and care for animals seized in response to complaints of animal cruelty, including how to pay for the care of seized animals; (F) a proposal for funding animal welfare administration and enforcement in the State, including potential sources of public and private funding; and (G) recommended amendments to animal welfare statutes or rules, including standards of care for animals housed by animal shelters or rescue organizations. Establishes the Animal Welfare Fund within the Department of Public Safety to fund the expenses incurred by the Division of Animal Welfare in implementing the requirements of this chapter. Provides that 67% of the fund shall consist of revenue collected from: (1) working farm dog licenses (\$5.00); (2) dog or wolf-hybrid licenses (\$4.00/\$8.00 for unneutered); (3) mandatory \$4.00 license fee surcharge collected by each city, town, or village for the purpose of funding the dog, cat, and wolf-hybrid spaying and neutering program; and (4) an optional \$10.00 license fee surcharge implemented by the legislative body of a city, town, or village that has established an animal and rabies control program for the sole purpose of funding the rabies control program. For purposes of this section: "Animal" means all living sentient creatures, not human beings, provided that the animals or activities regulated under this chapter shall not apply to: (1) activities regulated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Part 4; (2) scientific research governed by accepted procedural standards subject to review by an institutional animal care and use committee; (3) livestock and poultry husbandry practices for the raising, management, and use of domestic animals; (4) veterinary medical or surgical procedures; and (5) the killing of an animal as authorized pursuant to Sections 3809 and 3545 of this title. "Domestic animal" means cattle, sheep, goats, equines, deer, American bison, swine, poultry, pheasant, Chukar partridge, Coturnix quail, psittacine birds, ferrets, camelids, ratites (ostriches, rheas, and emus), and water buffalo. The term shall include cultured fish propagated by commercial fish farms.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-04

Title

An act relating to animal welfare

Primary Sponsors

Anne Watson

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 18, 2024, 3:09 PM

Amends Title 20 (Internal Security & Public Safety) of Vermont Statutes Annotated by adding new Chapters 190 (Division of Animal Welfare) and 200 (Placement of Animals) to: (1) Establish the Division of Animal Welfare at the Department of Public Safety to develop, implement, and administer a centralized program for investigating and enforcing animal welfare requirements in the State; (2) Establish an Animal Welfare Advisory Council; (3) Amend or establish standards for the operation of animal shelters, animal rescue organizations, pet dealers and pet shops; and (4) Amend or establish requirements for the importation or transportation of animals into the State. Chapter 190 (Division of Animal Welfare) provisions: Provides that the Division of Animal Welfare is established within the Department of Public Safety. Provides that the Commissioner of Public Safety shall appoint a Director of Animal Welfare who shall: (1) develop, implement, and administer a comprehensive program that upholds the animal welfare laws of the State through communication, education, and enforcement; and (2) Oversee investigation and response to animal cruelty complaints in the State and shall develop a systematic, collaborative approach to providing the best services to Vermont's animals statewide. Creates the Animal Welfare Advisory Council to advise the Director of Animal Welfare on matters pertaining to animal welfare. Provides that the Council will consist of 15 members appointed by the Governor to include: (1) one member to represent the interests of dog breeders and associated groups; (2) one member to represent the interests of veterinarians; (3) one member to represent licensed boarding kennels; and (4) one member to represent licensed pet shops or pet food suppliers. Provides that the Director of Animal Welfare shall submit an annual report to certain committees of the Legislature to include: (1) summary of animal cruelty cases investigated; (2) list of animal shelters and rescue organizations in the state; (3) list of pet shops and pet dealers licensed in the state; and (4) number of intakes and final disposition by animal shelters and rescue organizations in the state. Establishes an Animal Welfare Fund within the Department of Public Safety to fund the expenses incurred by the Division of Animal Welfare in implementing the requirements of this chapter. Provides that a \$10 surcharge to the \$105 registration fee currently assessed per commercial feed/animal supplement product shall be deposited into the Animal Welfare Fund. Repeals sections in current statutes providing for pet dealer permitting and pet shop licensing and moves them to this section. Adds new sections to provide for pet dealer and pet shop standards of care reporting requirements. Chapter 200 (Placement of Animals): Provides that a person shall not import or place an animal or operate an import organization that imports or places animals in the State of Vermont without first having obtained a license issued by the Division of Animal Welfare. Provides for animal shelter and animal import organization facility requirements, standards of care, quarantine, health certificates, veterinary examinations, behavioral documentation, refund and return of animal requirement, recordkeeping, and inspections.

Introduction Date: 2024-01-17

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