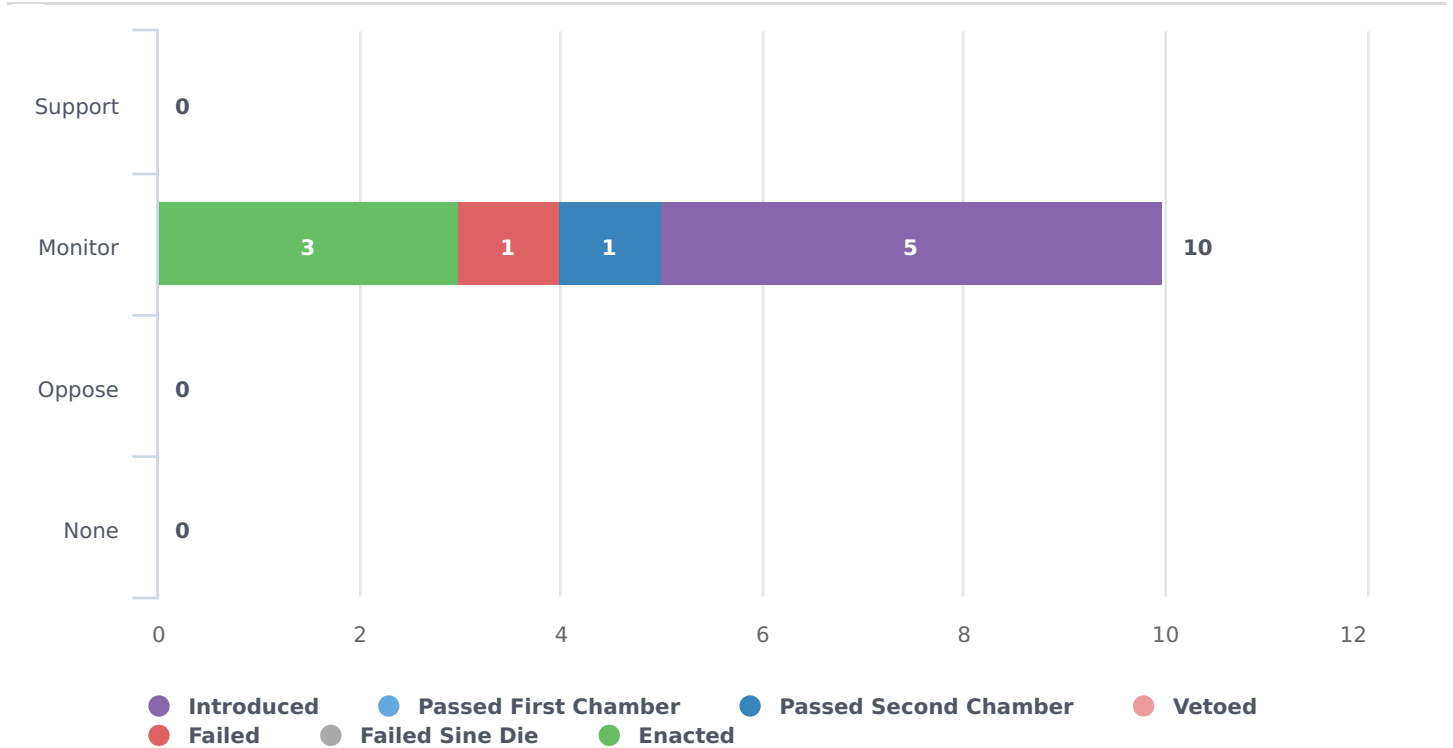


Washington - 2023-24 Legislative Overview

Last Updated: March 13, 2024

Bills by Last Status and Position



Bill State: WA (10)

Title
Concerning courthouse facility dogs.

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 3, 2023, 3:50 PM
Amends Title 10 (Criminal Procedure), Chapter 10.52 (Witnesses-Generally), Section 10.52.110 (Courthouse Facility Dog Program) of the Revised Code of Washington to further provide for the use of courthouse facility dogs. Provides that a courthouse facility dog accompanied by a certified handler is authorized to access: 1) Any courthouse; 2) Any location where the courthouse facility dog and certified handler provide services, participate in administrative activities of the courthouse facility dog program, engage in community outreach, or participate in training activities; (3) Any location related to a law enforcement investigation where law enforcement requests their presence; and (4) Matters pending in the civil or criminal justice system. Authorized locations include, but are not limited to, places of public accommodation, all modes of public transportation, children's advocacy centers, schools, day care facilities, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, attorneys' offices, medical facilities, specialty courts, and court-appointed special advocates and guardian ad litem program offices. Provides that the certified handler may be asked to show identification, provided by the qualified assistance dog organization that trained the courthouse facility dog and certified handler, to establish that their public access is authorized. Amends the definition of "courthouse facility dog" to mean a dog that: (i) Has graduated from a program of an assistance dog organization that is accredited by a recognized organization whose main purpose is to grant accreditation to assistance dog organizations based on standards of excellence in all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training of the dogs and their certified handlers, and placement; (ii) Demonstrates continued proficiency in providing safe and reliable services through ongoing training according to the assistance dog organization's training standards; (iii) Was specially selected to provide services in the legal system to provide quiet companionship to witnesses and potential witnesses during stressful interviews, examinations, meetings, and other encounters associated with a law enforcement investigation, and legal proceedings, thereby enabling them to better engage with the process; and (iv) Travels as needed with a certified handler as a team to and from authorized locations for training, community outreach, and other purposes associated with the operations of a courthouse facility dog program established in this section.

Title

Prohibiting the display of wild or exotic animals for public entertainment or amusement.

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 6, 2023, 1:45 PM

The "Wild or Exotic Animal Protection Act" amends Title 16 (Animals & Livestock) of the Revised Code of Washington by adding a new chapter prohibiting the display of wild or exotic animals for public entertainment or amusement. Provides that no person may display or sponsor a display of wild or exotic animals on any public or private property. Exempt are persons or organizations that display wild or exotic animals for educational purposes, including those persons or organizations that are accredited or available for accreditation by the American zoological association, or by the association of sanctuaries. Any violation of this chapter is a class 2 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120 (maximum penalty and the default amount for a class 2 civil infraction shall be \$125, not including statutory assessments). For purposes of this section: "Display" means to undertake any exhibition, act, circus, public show, trade show, photographic opportunity, carnival, ride, parade, petting zoo, race, performance, or similar undertaking in which animals are required to perform tricks, fight, or participate in performances or shows for the amusement or entertainment of an audience. "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity and any officer, member, shareholder, director, employee, agent, or representative of such entities. "Wild or exotic animal" means any or all of the animals identified in this subsection, whether bred in the wild or in captivity, and also any or all of their hybrids with domestic species. The animals identified in this subsection are intended as examples only and the list of animals is not to be construed as an exhaustive list or to otherwise limit each group of animals: (i) Nonhuman primates and prosimians, such as chimpanzees and monkeys; (ii) Felids, except domesticated cats; (iii) Canids, including wolf hybrids and except domesticated dogs; (iv) Ursids, inclusive of all species of bears; (v) Elephants; (vi) Cetaceans, namely marine mammals, such as whales, dolphins, otters, porpoises, seals, and sea lions; (vii) Crocodylians, namely alligators and crocodiles; (viii) Marsupials, such as kangaroos and opossums; (ix) Snakes and reptiles; (x) Ungulates, such as hippopotamus, rhinoceros, giraffe, camel, zebra, and deer; (xi) Hyenas; (xii) Mustelids, such as skunks, weasels, otters, and badgers; (xiii) Procyonids, such as raccoons and coatis; (xiv) Endentates, such as anteaters, sloths, and armadillos; (xv) Viverrids, such as mongoose, civets, and genets; (xvi) Camels; and (xvii) Raptors or birds of prey.

State
WA

Bill Number
HB 1208

Last Action
House Rules X File 2024 01 08

Status
Failed

Position
Monitor

Title
Concerning pet insurance.

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 18, 2023, 8:21 PM
Amends Title 48 (Insurance) of the Revised Code of Washington by adding a new section to establish certain requirements for selling and issuing pet insurance, including the use of defined terms and required disclosures. Requires pet insurers and insurance producers to be licensed and receive appropriate training before selling, soliciting, or negotiating a pet insurance product. Prohibits certain marketing practices for pet wellness programs. Provides that a pet insurer and insurance producer may not: (a) Market a wellness program as pet insurance; or (b) Market a wellness program during the sale, solicitation, or negotiation of pet insurance. Provides that the Insurance Commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement and administer this chapter. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets. "Wellness program" means a subscription or reimbursement-based program that is separate from an insurance policy that provides goods and services to promote the general health, safety, or well-being of the pet.

Title

Concerning consumer protection with respect to the sale and adoption of dogs and cats.

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Mar 29, 2023, 1:34 PM

Amends Title 16 (Animals & Livestock), Chapter 16.52 (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), Section 16.52.360 (Retail Pet Store-Sale of Dog or Cat) and Title 63 (Personal Property), Section 63.10 (Consumer Leases) of the Revised Code of Washington to allow a retail pet store that was in business prior to July 25, 2021, to sell dogs if the retail pet store meets certain requirements. Requires that all dogs sold or offered for sale: (1) Are obtained from a USDA licensed breeder or licensed broker; and (2) Possess documentation demonstrating the breeder's compliance with state law. Requires retail pet stores to disclose in advertisements, at the retail pet store, and in writing to the consumer before the sale of a dog information about the dog's purchase price and federal and state license numbers for the applicable breeder. Modifies the violation penalty from a Class 1 civil infraction to a monetary penalty of \$250, and adds that three violations in one year will result in the retail pet store being prohibited from selling or offering to sell dogs. Limits all licensed commercial dog breeders to owning, possessing, controlling, or otherwise having charge or custody of no more than 50 dogs with intact sexual organs over the age of six months, regardless if the breeder was in business prior to January 1, 2010. For purposes of this section: "Retail pet store" means a commercial establishment that engages in a for-profit business of selling at retail cats, dogs, or other animals to be kept as household pets and is regulated by the USDA. Provides that a lessor shall not finance a consumer lease for the purchase of a dog or cat. A lease contract entered into on or after the effective date of this section for the purchase of a dog or cat is void and unenforceable and the lessor shall have no right to collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the lease contract. Provides that a licensee shall not finance or make a loan for the purchase of a dog or cat. A loan entered into on or after the effective date of this section for the purchase of a dog or cat is void and unenforceable and the licensee shall have no right to collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the loan. For purposes of this section: "Lessor" means a person who is regularly engaged in leasing, offering to lease, or arranging to lease under a consumer lease. "Licensee" means a person to whom one or more licenses have been issued. "Licensee" also means any person, whether located within or outside of this state, who fails to obtain a license required by this chapter.

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position
WA	HB 1653	By Resolution Reintroduced And Retained In Present Status 2024 01 08	In House	Monitor

Title Providing a business and occupation tax exemption for amounts derived from animal adoption fees collected by a nonprofit.	Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 29, 2023, 11:37 PM Amends Title 82 (Excise Taxes), Chapter 82.04 (Business & Occupation Tax) of the Revised Code of Washington by adding a new section to provide for a business and occupation tax exemption for amounts derived from animal adoption fees collected by a nonprofit. Provides that beginning January 1, 2024, this chapter does not apply to amounts derived from animal adoption fees collected by a nonprofit. For purposes of this section: "Nonprofit" means an organization, association or corporation no part of the income of which is paid directly or indirectly to its members, stockholders, officers, directors or trustees except in the form of services rendered by the organization, association, or corporation in accordance with its purposes and bylaws and the salary or compensation paid to officers of such organization, association or corporation is for actual services rendered and compares to the salary or compensation of like positions within the public services of the state.
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State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position
WA	HB 2403	Public Hearing In The House Committee On Local Government At 10 30 Am 2024 01 23	In House	Monitor

Title Protecting cats and dogs by requiring kennels to meet certain fire safety standards.	Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 16, 2024, 1:59 PM Amends Title 19 (Business Regulations - Miscellaneous), Chapter 19.27 (Building Code) of the Revised Code of Washington by adding a new section requiring kennels to meet certain fire safety standards. Provides that a kennel operator shall: (1) Be equipped with at least one fire alarm system or fire sprinkler system in operating condition in every building of the kennel operator that is used for the housing of animals; (2) Certify in its business license application and recertify in any business license renewal application that its facility has a fire alarm system or a fire sprinkler system; (3) Include with the business license application or business license renewal application a: (i) Description and picture of the make and model of the system used; and (ii) Certification from a qualified fire inspector attesting that the applicant kennel operator meets the requirements of this chapter; and (4) Notify customers of a business license suspension or nonrenewal for the duration of the suspension or nonrenewal if it occurs as a result of failure to comply with this section by placing a conspicuous notice visible to customers in the kennel operator establishment. Allows the Department of Revenue to refuse to issue or renew a business license to any kennel operator who fails to include in its business license application or business license renewal application the requirements of this section. Allows the Department of Revenue to suspend the business license of a kennel operator if at any time the department is made aware by a qualified fire inspector or otherwise that a kennel operator is not in compliance. For purposes of this section: "Fire alarm system" means a system that automatically triggers notification to local emergency responders when activated. "Kennel operator" means any person who operates an establishment, other than an animal control facility, or veterinary hospital where either dogs or cats, or both, are maintained for boarding, training, or similar purposes for a fee or compensation, and which is required by law to obtain a business license.
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Title

Prohibiting the display of wild or exotic animals for public entertainment or amusement.

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 5, 2023, 1:58 PM

The "Wild or Exotic Animal Protection Act" amends Title 16 (Animals & Livestock) of the Revised Code of Washington by adding a new chapter prohibiting the display of wild or exotic animals for public entertainment or amusement. Provides that no person may display or sponsor a display of wild or exotic animals on any public or private property. Exempt are persons or organizations that display wild or exotic animals for educational purposes, including those persons or organizations that are accredited or available for accreditation by the American zoological association, or by the association of sanctuaries. Any violation of this chapter is a class 2 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120 (maximum penalty and the default amount for a class 2 civil infraction shall be \$125, not including statutory assessments). For purposes of this section: "Display" means to undertake any exhibition, act, circus, public show, trade show, photographic opportunity, carnival, ride, parade, petting zoo, race, performance, or similar undertaking in which animals are required to perform tricks, fight, or participate in performances or shows for the amusement or entertainment of an audience. "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity and any officer, member, shareholder, director, employee, agent, or representative of such entities. "Wild or exotic animal" means any or all of the animals identified in this subsection, whether bred in the wild or in captivity, and also any or all of their hybrids with domestic species. The animals identified in this subsection are intended as examples only and the list of animals is not to be construed as an exhaustive list or to otherwise limit each group of animals: (i) Nonhuman primates and prosimians, such as chimpanzees and monkeys; (ii) Felids, except domesticated cats; (iii) Canids, including wolf hybrids and except domesticated dogs; (iv) Ursids, inclusive of all species of bears; (v) Elephants; (vi) Cetaceans, namely marine mammals, such as whales, dolphins, otters, porpoises, seals, and sea lions; (vii) Crocodylians, namely alligators and crocodiles; (viii) Marsupials, such as kangaroos and opossums; (ix) Snakes and reptiles; (x) Ungulates, such as hippopotamus, rhinoceros, giraffe, camel, zebra, and deer; (xi) Hyenas; (xii) Mustelids, such as skunks, weasels, otters, and badgers; (xiii) Procyonids, such as raccoons and coatis; (xiv) Endentates, such as anteaters, sloths, and armadillos; (xv) Viverrids, such as mongoose, civets, and genets; (xvi) Camels; and (xvii) Raptors or birds of prey.

State WA	Bill Number SB 5319	Last Action Effective Date 1 1 2024 2023 04 06	Status Enacted	Position Monitor
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Title
Concerning pet insurance.

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 18, 2023, 8:22 PM
Amends Title 48 (Insurance) of the Revised Code of Washington by adding a new section to establish certain requirements for selling and issuing pet insurance, including the use of defined terms and required disclosures. Requires pet insurers and insurance producers to be licensed and receive appropriate training before selling, soliciting, or negotiating a pet insurance product. Prohibits certain marketing practices for pet wellness programs. Provides that a pet insurer and insurance producer may not: (a) Market a wellness program as pet insurance; or (b) Market a wellness program during the sale, solicitation, or negotiation of pet insurance. Provides that the Insurance Commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement and administer this chapter. For purposes of this section: "Pet insurance" means a property insurance policy that provides coverage for accidents and illnesses of pets. "Wellness program" means a subscription or reimbursement-based program that is separate from an insurance policy that provides goods and services to promote the general health, safety, or well-being of the pet.

State WA	Bill Number SB 5788	Last Action Delivered To Governor 2024 03 06	Status Passed House	Position Monitor
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Title
Concerning service animal training.

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Dec 6, 2023, 1:31 PM
Amends Title 49 (Labor Regulations), Chapter 49.60 (Discrimination-Human Rights Commission), Sections 49.60.040 (Definitions), 49.60.214 (Misrepresentation of an animal as a service animal), and 49.60.215 (Unfair practices of places of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, amusement—Trained dog guides and service animals) of the Revised Code of Washington to provide certain exemptions for "service animal trainers" and "service animal trainees". Defines "service animal trainer" to mean an individual exercising care, custody, and control over a service animal trainee during a course of training designed to develop the service animal trainee into a service animal. Defines "service animal trainee" to mean any dog or miniature horse that is undergoing training 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. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks. Amends the definition of "any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement" as it relates to "service animal trainers" and "service animal trainees" to EXCLUDE those places of public accommodation conducted for housing or lodging of transient guests. Provides that it shall be a civil infraction to misrepresent an animal as a service animal or SERVICE ANIMAL TRAINEE. Provides that if a place of public accommodation or of access to state government services, programs, or activities customarily charges a person for damages that the person causes to the place, the place may charge a person with a disability or service animal trainer for damages that a service animal or service animal trainee causes to the place. Provides that a place of public accommodation or of access to state government services, programs, or activities is not required to provide care or supervision for a service animal or service animal trainee. Provides that the protection granted under this section to a person with a disability or service animal trainer does not invalidate or limit the remedies, rights, and procedures of any other federal, state, or local laws that provide equal or greater protection of the rights of a person with a disability, service animal trainer, or individuals associated with a person with a disability.

State

WA

Bill Number

SB 5976

Last Action

**Public Hearing In The Senate
Committee On Law Justice At 8 00 Am
2024 01 25**

Status

In Senate

Position

Monitor

Title

Controlling dogs at large.

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jeff Plummer at Jan 5, 2024, 3:10 PM

Amends Title 16 (Animals & Livestock), Chapter 16.08 (Dogs), Section 16.08.100 (Dangerous dogs—Confiscation—Conditions—Duties of animal control authority—Penalties and affirmative defenses for owners of dogs that attack) of the Revised Code of Washington in relation to controlling dangerous dogs at large by an animal control authority. Adds provision that an animal control authority may destroy any dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog found running at large if the owner cannot be determined using reasonable means. Provides that the animal control authority may also capture such a dog in an expeditious and humane manner.

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