

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 6504**

LCO No. 5592

**AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (10) of section 22-327 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (10) "Poultry" [means all domestic fowl and any pheasants or other  
5 game birds securely confined and lawfully owned and possessed by any  
6 person under the provisions of section 26-40] has the same meaning as  
7 provided in section 22-326s;

8 Sec. 2. Section 22-327 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
9 subdivision (13) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

10 (NEW) (13) "Service animal" has the same meaning as provided in 28  
11 CFR 35.104 and includes any animal in training to become a service  
12 animal.

13 Sec. 3. Section 22-329 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

15 [The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal  
16 control officer, any municipal] Any animal control officer or regional  
17 animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331, as  
18 amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this act, as applicable,

19 or any law enforcement officer may interfere to prevent any act of  
20 cruelty upon any dog or other animal, and any person who interferes  
21 with or obstructs or resists [the commissioner or] any such officer in the  
22 discharge of such duty shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

23 Sec. 4. Section 22-329a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

25 (a) [The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or  
26 any municipal or regional animal control officer] Any animal control  
27 officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section  
28 22-328, 22-331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this  
29 act, as applicable, may take physical custody of any animal when such  
30 animal control officer has reasonable cause to believe that such animal  
31 is in imminent harm and is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of  
32 section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or  
33 53-252, and, not later than ninety-six hours after taking physical  
34 custody, shall proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section,  
35 except that if, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State  
36 Veterinarian, at any time after physical custody of such animal is taken,  
37 such animal is so injured or diseased that it should be [destroyed]  
38  euthanized immediately, such officer may [humanely destroy or cause  
39 such animal to be humanely destroyed]  have such animal humanely  
40  euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

41 (b) [The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or  
42 any municipal or regional animal control officer] Any animal control  
43 officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section  
44 22-328, 22-331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this  
45 act, as applicable, may take physical custody of any animal upon  
46 issuance of a warrant finding probable cause that such animal is  
47 neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-  
48 247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or 53-252, and shall  
49 thereupon proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section except  
50 that if, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian,

51 at any time after physical custody of such animal is taken, such animal  
52 is so injured or diseased that it should be [~~destroyed~~] euthanized  
53 immediately, such officer may [~~humanely destroy or cause such animal~~  
54 to be humanely destroyed] have such animal humanely euthanized by  
55 a licensed veterinarian.

56 (c) Such officer shall file with the superior court which has venue over  
57 such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford  
58 at Hartford a verified petition plainly stating such facts of neglect or  
59 cruel treatment as to bring such animal within the jurisdiction of the  
60 court and praying for appropriate action by the court in accordance with  
61 the provisions of this section. Upon the filing of such petition, the court  
62 shall cause a summons to be issued requiring the owner or owners or  
63 person having responsibility for the care of the animal, if known, to  
64 appear in court at the time and place named.

65 (d) If physical custody of an animal has been taken pursuant to  
66 subsection (a) or (b) of this section and it appears from the allegations of  
67 the petition filed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and other  
68 affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided subsequent  
69 thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the animal's condition  
70 or the circumstances surrounding its care require that temporary care  
71 and custody be immediately assumed to safeguard its welfare, the court  
72 shall either (1) issue an order to show cause why the court should not  
73 vest in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private agency  
74 or person the animal's temporary care and custody pending a hearing  
75 on the petition, or (2) issue an order vesting in some suitable state,  
76 municipal or other public or private agency or person the animal's  
77 temporary care and custody pending a hearing on the petition. A  
78 hearing on the order issued by the court pursuant to subdivision (1) or  
79 (2) of this subsection shall be held not later than fourteen days after the  
80 issuance of such order. The service of such order may be made by any  
81 officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or  
82 indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours  
83 prior to the date and time of such hearing. If the owner or owners or

84 person having responsibility for the care of the animal is not known,  
85 notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given by publication  
86 in a newspaper having a circulation in the town in which such officer  
87 took physical custody of such animal not less than forty-eight hours  
88 prior to the date and time of such hearing.

89 (e) If physical custody of an animal has not been taken pursuant to  
90 subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and [the Chief Animal Control  
91 Officer, any animal control officer or any municipal or regional animal  
92 control] such officer has reasonable cause to believe that an animal is  
93 neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-  
94 247, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251 or 53-252, such [animal  
95 control] officer may file a petition with the superior court which has  
96 venue over such matter or with the superior court for the judicial district  
97 of Hartford at Hartford, plainly stating such facts of neglect or cruel  
98 treatment as to bring the animal within the jurisdiction of the court and  
99 praying for appropriate action by the court to ensure the welfare of the  
100 animal including, but not limited to, physical removal and temporary  
101 care and custody of the animal, authorization of an animal control  
102 officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section  
103 22-328, 22-331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this  
104 act, as applicable, or a licensed veterinarian to provide care for the  
105 animal on site, vesting of ownership of the animal, the posting of a bond  
106 in accordance with subsection (f) of this section and the assessment of  
107 costs in accordance with subsection (h) of this section. Upon the filing of  
108 such petition, the court shall cause a summons for an order to show  
109 cause to be issued requiring the owner or owners or person having  
110 responsibility for the care of the animal, if known, to appear in court at  
111 the time and place named. If the owner or owners or person having  
112 responsibility for the care of the animal is not known, notice of the time  
113 and place of the hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper  
114 having a circulation in the town where the animal is located not less than  
115 forty-eight hours prior to the date and time of the hearing. If it appears  
116 from the allegations of the petition filed pursuant to this subsection and  
117 other affirmations of fact accompanying the petition, or provided

118 subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to find that the  
119 animal's condition or the circumstances surrounding its care require the  
120 immediate removal of the animal from the owner or owners or person  
121 having responsibility for the care of the animal to safeguard its welfare,  
122 the court shall issue an order vesting in some suitable state, municipal  
123 or other public or private agency or person the animal's temporary care  
124 and custody pending a hearing on the petition which hearing shall be  
125 held not later than ten days after the issuance of such order for such  
126 temporary care and custody. The service of such order may be made by  
127 any officer authorized by law to serve process, state police officer or  
128 indifferent person and shall be served not less than forty-eight hours  
129 prior to the date and time of such hearing.

130 (f) If the court issues an order vesting the animal's temporary care  
131 and custody in some suitable state, municipal or other public or private  
132 agency or person, the owner or owners shall either relinquish  
133 ownership of the animal or post a surety bond or cash bond with the  
134 agency or person in whom the animal's temporary care and custody was  
135 vested. The surety bond or cash bond shall be in the amount of five  
136 hundred dollars for each animal placed in the temporary care or custody  
137 of such agency or person and shall secure payment for the reasonable  
138 expenses of the agency or person having temporary care and custody of  
139 the animal in caring and providing for such animal until the court makes  
140 a finding as to the animal's disposition under subsection (g) of this  
141 section. The requirement that a bond be posted may be waived if such  
142 owner provides satisfactory evidence that such owner is indigent and  
143 unable to pay for such bond.

144 (g) (1) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is neglected or  
145 cruelly treated, it shall vest ownership of the animal in any state,  
146 municipal or other public or private agency which is permitted by law  
147 to care for neglected or cruelly treated animals or with any person found  
148 to be suitable or worthy of such responsibility by the court.

149 (2) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is so injured or

150 diseased that it should be [destroyed] humanely euthanized, the court  
151 may order that such animal be humanely [destroyed] euthanized by a  
152 licensed veterinarian.

153 (3) If, after hearing, the court finds that the animal is not neglected or  
154 cruelly treated, it may cause the animal to be returned to its owner or  
155 owners or person having responsibility for its care or, if such owner or  
156 owners or person is unknown or unwilling to resume caring for such  
157 animal, it may vest ownership of the animal in any state, municipal or  
158 other public or private agency or person found to be suitable or worthy  
159 of such responsibility.

160 (4) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (1) or (2) of this  
161 subsection less than thirty days after the issuance of an order of  
162 temporary care and custody and the owner of the animal has posted a  
163 bond, the agency or person with whom the bond was posted shall return  
164 the balance of such bond, if any, to the owner. The amount of the bond  
165 to be returned to the owner shall be calculated at the rate of fifteen  
166 dollars per day per animal or twenty-five dollars per day per animal if  
167 the animal is a horse or other large livestock for the number of days less  
168 than thirty that such agency or person has not had temporary care and  
169 custody of the animal less any veterinary costs and expenses incurred  
170 for the welfare of the animal.

171 (5) If the court makes a finding under subdivision (3) of this  
172 subsection after the issuance of an order of temporary care and custody  
173 and the owner of the animal has posted a bond, the agency or person  
174 with whom the bond was posted shall return such bond to such owner.

175 (h) If the court finds that the animal is neglected or cruelly treated,  
176 the expenses incurred by the state or a municipality in providing proper  
177 food, shelter and care to an animal it has taken custody of under  
178 subsection (a) or (b) of this section and the expenses incurred by any  
179 state, municipal or other public or private agency or person in providing  
180 temporary care and custody pursuant to an order vesting temporary  
181 care and custody, calculated at the rate of fifteen dollars per day per

182 animal or twenty-five dollars per day per animal if the animal is a horse  
183 or other large livestock until the date ownership is vested pursuant to  
184 subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section shall be paid by the  
185 owner or owners or person having responsibility for the care of the  
186 animal. In addition, all veterinary costs and expenses incurred for the  
187 welfare of the animal that are not covered by the per diem rate shall be  
188 paid by the owner or owners or person having responsibility for the  
189 animal.

190 (i) If the court vests ownership of the animal in the Commissioner of  
191 Agriculture or a municipality, the commissioner or the municipality  
192 may conduct or participate in a public auction of the animal under such  
193 conditions the commissioner or the municipality deems necessary or the  
194 commissioner or the municipality may consign the animal to an auction  
195 or sell the animal through an open advertised bid process whereby bid  
196 price and demonstration of sufficient knowledge and ability to care for  
197 such animal are factors for the commissioner's or municipality's  
198 consideration. All moneys collected from the sale of animals sold by the  
199 Commissioner of Agriculture through such open advertised bid process  
200 shall be deposited in the animal abuse cost recovery account established  
201 in subsection (j) of this section. All moneys collected from the sale of  
202 animals sold by a municipality through such open advertised bid  
203 process shall be deposited by the town treasurer or other fiscal officer in  
204 the town's general fund. The commissioner or the municipality may also  
205 vest ownership of any such animal in an individual or a public or private  
206 nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization.

207 (j) There is established a separate, nonlapsing account within the  
208 General Fund, to be known as the "animal abuse cost recovery account".  
209 All moneys collected from sales at public auction of animals seized by  
210 the Department of Agriculture pursuant to this section shall be  
211 deposited into the account. Deposits of moneys may be made into the  
212 account from public or private sources, including, but not limited to, the  
213 federal government or municipal governments.

214 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any  
215 moneys received by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to  
216 subsection (j) of this section shall be deposited in the General Fund and  
217 credited to the animal abuse cost recovery account. The account shall be  
218 available to the Commissioner of Agriculture for the purpose of the  
219 housing, care and welfare of any animal seized by the department, until  
220 final disposition of such animal. Additionally, the account may be used  
221 for the purpose of providing reimbursement to any municipality for the  
222 costs of providing temporary care to such animal if such temporary care  
223 exceeded thirty days in duration and such costs exceeded the amount of  
224 any surety bond or cash bond posted pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
225 section provided the total annual reimbursement to municipalities from  
226 said account for such purpose shall not exceed twenty-five thousand  
227 dollars. Nothing in this section shall prevent the commissioner from  
228 obtaining or using funds from sources other than the account for the  
229 housing, care and welfare of any animal seized by the department  
230 pursuant to this section.

231 Sec. 5. Section 22-331 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
232 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

233 (a) In each municipality of the state having a population of more than  
234 twenty-five thousand which has adopted the provisions of chapter 113,  
235 or otherwise provided for a merit system for its employees, the chief of  
236 police, or such other appointing authority as the charter may designate,  
237 shall, appoint a full-time municipal animal control officer and such  
238 assistants as are deemed necessary, subject to the provisions of said  
239 chapter 113 or other merit system, to administer and enforce the laws  
240 relating to dogs or other domestic animals. Any person so appointed  
241 may be or become a member of the police department and for such  
242 purpose the legislative body of such municipality may waive any  
243 requirements as to age, sex, physical condition, education and training  
244 applicable to other members of the police department. Any person so  
245 appointed as a member of the police department shall be fully eligible  
246 to participate in the retirement system of such department.



247 (b) Except as provided in section 22-331a, as amended by this act, the  
248 chief or superintendent of police in each other city or town having a  
249 police department and the selectmen or chief executive officer in each  
250 town which has no police department, or such other appointing  
251 authority as the charter of such town may designate, in their respective  
252 jurisdictions, shall appoint a municipal animal control officer and such  
253 assistants as are deemed necessary to administer and enforce the laws  
254 relating to dogs and other domestic animals. Such officer and assistants  
255 shall have such qualifications as the commissioner may prescribe and  
256 shall serve for a term of at least one year.

257 (c) Each appointment made under the provisions of this section shall  
258 be reported promptly to the commissioner. Each person appointed  
259 under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall, and any  
260 person appointed under the provisions of subsection (b) of this section  
261 may, be paid a salary and expenses in lieu of the fees provided in section  
262 22-334 and the amount thereof shall be transferred from the dog fund  
263 account to the appropriation of the proper department.

264 (d) The municipal animal control officer so appointed in any [city]  
265 municipality the limits of which are not coterminous with those of the  
266 [town] municipality in which it is located shall have authority as such  
267 municipal animal control officer throughout such town, and the town  
268 treasurer or other fiscal officer shall annually reimburse the [city]  
269 municipality, from the dog fund account, for the salaries and expenses  
270 of such officer or his or her assistants. The municipal animal control  
271 officer so appointed in any town having a borough within its limits shall  
272 have authority as such municipal animal control officer throughout the  
273 limits of such town. If, in any [city or town] municipality, the officer or  
274 officers charged with such duty fail to report such appointment, the  
275 commissioner shall notify such officer or officers to make and report  
276 such appointment within ten days of receipt of such notification, and, if  
277 such appointment is not made within such time, the commissioner shall  
278 appoint a municipal animal control officer for such [city or town]  
279 municipality.

280 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any  
281 special act, municipal charter or ordinance, any chief elected official of  
282 any municipality or a regional animal control facility may appoint, on a  
283 temporary basis not to exceed ninety days, any animal control officer or  
284 regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-331, as  
285 amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this act, as applicable,  
286 to act as an animal control officer in such municipality or region. Any  
287 animal control officer or regional animal control officer who provides  
288 services pursuant to an appointment made in accordance with this  
289 subsection shall have all the powers and authority granted to such  
290 animal control officer in the municipality or region in which such officer  
291 is appointed. Any such appointment made pursuant to this section shall  
292 be made in writing and be approved by each of the chief elected officials  
293 of the municipalities affected by such appointment and by each regional  
294 animal control facility that is affected by such appointment. Such  
295 written appointment shall include, at a minimum, information  
296 concerning the compensation to be paid to such officer, insurance  
297 provided to such officer and the use of equipment, if any for such officer.  
298 The Commissioner of Agriculture shall be notified, in writing, of any  
299 such appointment made pursuant to this subsection not later than five  
300 days following such appointment.

301 Sec. 6. Section 22-331a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
302 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

303 Any two or more towns each of which has a population of less than  
304 fifty thousand, and which have or will provide a dog pound facility  
305 within their region, by action of their [legislative bodies] board of  
306 selectmen, town council or other governing body, may agree to be  
307 served by a regional animal control officer. Upon certification of such  
308 agreement to the commissioner with assurances from the towns so  
309 certifying that they will provide and continue to provide adequate  
310 facilities and compensation for such officer, the commissioner may, after  
311 giving due regard to the regional aspects of the proposed facilities and  
312 whether the proposed region would be in the best interests of the towns

313 so certifying, establish such region. Each person so appointed shall have  
314 the same powers and duties within the region to which he is assigned  
315 as a municipal animal control officer in each town therein. All costs of  
316 maintaining and operating such pounds and administering and  
317 enforcing the laws relating to dogs within such regions shall be paid in  
318 accordance with the provisions of the agreement certified to the  
319 commissioner under this section. Any pound facility operated pursuant  
320 to this section shall meet the construction, maintenance and sanitation  
321 standards established pursuant to section 22-336 and any regulations  
322 adopted pursuant to said section, including, but not limited to,  
323 standards for the handling and transportation of dogs and other  
324 domestic animals.

325       Sec. 7. Section 22-332 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
326 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

327       (a) [The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or  
328 any municipal animal control officer] Any animal control officer or  
329 regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-  
330 331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this act, as  
331 applicable, shall be responsible for the enforcement of this chapter and  
332 shall make diligent search and inquiry for any violation of any of its  
333 provisions. Any such officer may take into custody (1) any dog found  
334 roaming in violation of the provisions of section 22-364, (2) any dog not  
335 having a tag or plate on a collar about its neck or on a harness on its  
336 body as provided by law or which is not confined or controlled in  
337 accordance with the provisions of any order or regulation relating to  
338 rabies issued by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of  
339 this chapter, or (3) any dog or other domestic animal found injured on  
340 any highway, neglected, abandoned or cruelly treated. The officer shall  
341 impound such dog or other domestic animal at the pound serving the  
342 town where the dog or other domestic animal is taken unless, in the  
343 opinion of a licensed veterinarian, the dog or other domestic animal is  
344 so injured or diseased that it should be [destroyed] euthanized  
345 immediately, in which case the municipal animal control officer of such

346 town may [cause the dog or other domestic animal to be mercifully  
347 killed] have such dog or other animal humanely euthanized by a  
348 licensed veterinarian or disposed of as the State Veterinarian may direct.  
349 The [municipal animal control] officer shall immediately notify the  
350 owner or keeper of any dog or other [domestic] animal so taken, if  
351 known, of its impoundment. [Such officer shall immediately notify the  
352 owner or keeper of any other domestic animal which is taken into  
353 custody, if such owner or keeper is known.] If the owner or keeper of  
354 any such dog or other domestic animal is unknown, the officer shall  
355 immediately tag or employ [such] other suitable means of official  
356 identification of the dog or other domestic animal [as may be approved  
357 by the Chief Animal Control Officer] and shall promptly cause (A) a  
358 description of such dog or other domestic animal to be published once  
359 in the lost and found column of a newspaper having a circulation in such  
360 town or that has a state-wide circulation, and (B) a photograph or  
361 description of such dog or other domestic animal and the date on which  
362 such dog or other domestic animal is no longer legally required to be  
363 impounded to be posted on a national pet adoption Internet web site or  
364 an Internet web site that is maintained or accessed by the animal control  
365 officer and that is accessible to the public through an Internet search,  
366 except such posting shall not be required if: (i) The dog or other  
367 domestic animal is held pending the resolution of civil or criminal  
368 litigation involving such dog or other domestic animal, (ii) the officer  
369 has a good faith belief that the dog or other domestic animal would be  
370 adopted by or transferred to a public or private nonprofit rescue  
371 organization for the purpose of placing such dog or other domestic  
372 animal in an adoptive home even in the absence of such posting, (iii) the  
373 dog or other domestic animal's safety will be placed at risk, or (iv) such  
374 animal control officer determines that such dog or other domestic  
375 animal is feral and not adoptable. If any animal control officer does not  
376 have the technological resources to post such information on an Internet  
377 web site as required by subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, such  
378 officer may contact a public or private animal rescue organization and  
379 request that such organization post such information, at such

380 organization's expense, on an Internet web site that is accessible to the  
381 public through an Internet search. To the extent practicable, any such  
382 posting by an animal control officer or a public or private animal rescue  
383 organization shall remain posted for the duration of such dog's or other  
384 domestic animal's impoundment in the municipal or regional dog  
385 pound.

386 (b) If such dog or other domestic animal is not claimed by and  
387 released to the owner within seven days after the date of publication,  
388 [the municipal animal control] such officer, upon finding such dog or  
389 other domestic animal to be in satisfactory health, may have a licensed  
390 veterinarian spay or neuter such dog and sell such dog or other  
391 domestic animal to any person who satisfies such officer that such  
392 person is purchasing such dog or other domestic animal as a pet and  
393 that such person can give it a good home and proper care. [The  
394 municipal animal control] Such officer may retain possession of such  
395 dog or other domestic animal for such additional period of time as such  
396 [animal control] officer may deem advisable in order to place such dog  
397 or other domestic animal as a pet and may have a licensed veterinarian  
398 spay or neuter such dog. If, within such period, any dog or other  
399 domestic animal is not claimed by and released to the owner or keeper  
400 or purchased as a pet, the officer shall cause such dog or other domestic  
401 animal to be [mercifully killed] humanely euthanized by a licensed  
402 veterinarian or disposed of as the State Veterinarian may direct. Any  
403 veterinarian who so [destroys] euthanizes a dog shall be paid from the  
404 dog fund account. No person who [so destroys] euthanizes a dog or  
405 other domestic animal shall be held criminally or civilly liable therefor  
406 nor shall any licensed veterinarian who spays or neuters a dog pursuant  
407 to this section be held civilly liable. [, including, but not limited to,  
408 liability for reconstructive neutical implantation surgery.]

409 (c) The town treasurer or other fiscal officer shall pay from the dog  
410 fund account the advertising expense incurred under the provisions of  
411 this section upon receipt of an itemized statement together with a copy  
412 of the advertisement as published. Any person who purchases a dog as

413 a pet shall pay a fee of five dollars and procure a license and tag for such  
414 dog from the town clerk, in accordance with the provisions of section  
415 22-338. In addition to the five-dollar fee, any person who purchases a  
416 dog as a pet may be charged the cost the municipality incurred, if any,  
417 to spay or neuter and vaccinate the dog, provided such charge shall not  
418 exceed one hundred fifty dollars.

419 (d) No regional or municipal dog pound facility, municipality,  
420 [regional or municipal animal control officer] animal control officer or  
421 regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-  
422 331, as amended by this act, or 22-331a, as amended by this act, as  
423 applicable, or public or private nonprofit animal rescue organization  
424 that arranges for the provision of treatment by a licensed veterinarian to  
425 an injured, sick or diseased animal pursuant to a contract described in  
426 section 22-332e shall be held civilly liable for such actions unless such  
427 actions are performed in a wanton, reckless or malicious manner. No  
428 licensed veterinarian who provides treatment free of charge or for a  
429 reduced fee, to an injured, sick or diseased animal as a direct result of a  
430 contract described in section 22-332e shall be held civilly liable for the  
431 provision of such treatment unless such actions are performed in a  
432 wilful, wanton or reckless manner.

433 Sec. 8. Section 22-344f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
434 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

435 (a) Any animal importer and any person who operates or maintains  
436 an animal shelter, as defined in section 22-344, shall, not later than forty-  
437 eight hours after importing any dog or cat into this state and prior to the  
438 sale, adoption or transfer of such dog or cat to any person, provide for  
439 the examination of such dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed under  
440 chapter 384. Thereafter, such animal importer or person who operates  
441 or maintains an animal shelter shall provide for the examination of such  
442 dog or cat by a veterinarian licensed under chapter 384 every ninety  
443 days until such dog or cat is sold, adopted or transferred, provided no  
444 such dog or cat shall be sold, adopted or transferred to another person

445 by an animal importer or person who operates or maintains an animal  
446 shelter unless (1) such dog or cat was examined by a veterinarian  
447 licensed under chapter 384 not more than fifteen days prior to the sale,  
448 adoption or transfer of such dog or cat, and (2) such veterinarian  
449 provides such animal importer or person who operates or maintains an  
450 animal shelter with a written certificate stating that such dog or cat is  
451 free of any symptoms of any illness, infectious, contagious or  
452 communicable disease. Such certificate shall list the name, address and  
453 contact information of such animal importer or person who operates or  
454 maintains an animal shelter. Any animal importer or person who  
455 operates or maintains an animal shelter who violates the provisions of  
456 this subsection shall be fined [not more than five hundred dollars for  
457 each animal that is the subject of such violation] for a first violation, two  
458 hundred fifty dollars for each animal that is the subject of such violation,  
459 and for any subsequent violation, five hundred dollars for each animal  
460 that is the subject of such violation.

461 (b) Each animal importer and each person who operates or maintains  
462 an animal shelter shall maintain a record of the veterinary services  
463 rendered to each dog or cat imported into this state by such animal  
464 importer or person. Such record shall be maintained by such animal  
465 importer or person for a period of three years. Any animal importer or  
466 such person who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be fined  
467 [five hundred dollars] two hundred fifty dollars for a first violation and  
468 five hundred dollars for any subsequent violation.

469 Sec. 9. Section 22-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
470 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

471 Any [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability who  
472 is the owner or keeper of a [dog which has been trained and educated  
473 to guide and assist such person in traveling upon the public streets or  
474 highways or otherwise] dog that is a service animal shall receive a  
475 license and tag for such [dog] service animal from the town clerk of the  
476 town where such [dog] service animal is owned or kept. Such license

477 and tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-  
478 340, and no fee shall be required of the owner or keeper of any such  
479 [dog] service animal. [When any such dog has not been previously  
480 licensed by the town clerk to whom application is being made, such  
481 town clerk shall not license such dog or issue to the owner a license and  
482 tag unless written evidence is exhibited to such clerk that the dog is  
483 trained and educated and intended in fact to perform such guide service  
484 for such applicant.] Any person who has a dog that is a service animal  
485 placed with such person temporarily, including for breeding purposes,  
486 by a nonprofit organization established for the purpose of training or  
487 educating [guide dogs to so assist blind, deaf or mobility impaired  
488 persons] service animals shall receive a license and tag for such [dog]  
489 service animal from the town clerk of the town where such [dog] service  
490 animal is kept. Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with  
491 the provisions of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required for such  
492 license and tag, provided such person presents written evidence that  
493 such [dog] service animal was placed with such person by such  
494 organization. [As used in this section and section 46a-44, "deaf person"  
495 means a person who cannot readily understand spoken language  
496 through hearing alone and who may also have a speech defect which  
497 renders such person's speech unintelligible to most people with normal  
498 hearing.]

499 Sec. 10. Section 22-364b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
500 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

501 The owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on  
502 a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and  
503 is in proximity to a [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a  
504 disability who is accompanied by [his guide dog] a service animal,  
505 provided the [guide dog] service animal is: [in] (1) In the direct custody  
506 of such [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person, (2) is wearing a  
507 harness, vest or [an orange-colored] leash and collar which makes it  
508 readily-identifiable as a [guide dog] service animal, and (3) is licensed  
509 in accordance with section 22-345, as amended by this act. Any person



510 who violates the provisions of this section shall have committed an  
511 infraction. If an owner or keeper of a dog violates the provisions of this  
512 section and, as a result of such violation, such dog attacks and injures  
513 the [guide dog] service animal, such owner or keeper shall be liable, as  
514 provided in section 22-357, for any damage done to such [guide dog]  
515 service animal, and such liability shall include liability for any costs  
516 incurred by such [blind, deaf or mobility-impaired] person with a  
517 disability for the veterinary care, rehabilitation or replacement of the  
518 injured [guide dog] service animal and for reasonable attorney's fees.

519 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision  
520 of chapter 435 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Agriculture  
521 shall develop a waiver request process and form for the owner, keeper  
522 or veterinarian for any animal that was attacked and that may have been  
523 exposed to rabies as a result of such attack to request a reduction of the  
524 requisite quarantine period for such animal from six months to four  
525 months if such owner, keeper or veterinarian submits proof with such  
526 waiver request that such animal was vaccinated for rabies not more than  
527 ninety-six hours after such attack. Such waiver request process and form  
528 shall be: (1) Posted on the Internet web site of the Department of  
529 Agriculture, (2) made publicly available and accessible, and (3) made  
530 known to veterinarians throughout the state by said department.

531 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 22-380g of the general statutes is  
532 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
533 *31, 2021*):

534 (b) Not more than [ten] twenty per cent of the funds deposited in the  
535 animal population control account in accordance with subsection (f) of  
536 section 14-21h, subsection (a) of section 22-338, section 22-380f and  
537 section 22-380l shall be used for the sterilization and vaccination of feral  
538 cats program in accordance with subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this  
539 section.

540 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 22-380i of the general statutes is  
541 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

542 31, 2021):

543 (a) The program established under section 22-380g, as amended by  
 544 this act, shall provide for payment to any participating veterinarian of  
 545 an amount equivalent to the voucher issued pursuant to section 22-380f  
 546 for each animal sterilization and vaccinations, coincident with  
 547 sterilization, performed by such veterinarian upon a dog or cat owned  
 548 by an eligible owner. For a sterilization procedure, [such voucher shall  
 549 be in the amount of one hundred twenty dollars for a female dog, one  
 550 hundred dollars for a male dog, seventy dollars for a female cat and fifty  
 551 dollars for a male cat.] the Commissioner of Agriculture shall establish  
 552 a rate of reimbursement that is not more than seventy-five per cent of  
 553 the market rate or the fee charged by veterinarians in the state as of  
 554 October 31, 2021. In the case of a sterilization fee exceeding the amount  
 555 of the voucher, the eligible owner shall pay the participating  
 556 veterinarian the difference between such fee and the amount of the  
 557 voucher. Such voucher shall be in the amount of [twenty] thirty dollars,  
 558 in addition to the amount designated for sterilization, for vaccinations  
 559 coincident with the sterilization of a dog or cat owned by an eligible  
 560 owner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-327(10)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-327
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-329
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22-329a
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22-331
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	22-331a
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	22-332
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	22-344f
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	22-345
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	22-364b
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>October 31, 2021</i>	22-380g(b)
Sec. 13	<i>October 31, 2021</i>	22-380i(a)

