



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5575

January Session, 2023



AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REVISE MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTER REGULATIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) Each municipal or
2 regional dog pound shall provide mechanical heating and cooling
3 systems of appropriate design and capacity to maintain an indoor
4 ambient temperature of between fifty-five and eighty degrees
5 Fahrenheit, unless other temperatures are medically required by a
6 Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

7 (b) (1) In any municipal or regional dog pound, dogs shall not share
8 the same primary enclosure, except dams or foster dams and their
9 puppies.

10 (2) In any municipal or regional dog pound, primary enclosures shall
11 be provided for each cat with space equal to or more than the space
12 requirements for cats pursuant to 9 CFR 3.6(a) and 9 CFR 3.6(b), as
13 amended from time to time.

14 (3) Whenever dogs or cats are kept in respective groups at any
15 municipal or regional dog pound, the following shall apply:

16 (A) Females in heat shall not be kept with males;

17 (B) Any dog or cat exhibiting a vicious or aggressive disposition shall
18 be kept separately; and

19 (C) Puppies or kittens four months of age or less shall not be kept
20 with adult dogs or cats other than their dams or foster dams.

21 (c) (1) Any dog or cat that has or is suspected of having a contagious
22 disease at any municipal or regional dog pound shall be isolated from
23 and have no nose-to-nose contact with healthy animals.

24 (2) Any dog or cat at a municipal or regional dog pound that has or
25 is suspected of having a contagious disease shall be examined, treated
26 and handled as directed by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

27 (d) The Commissioner of Agriculture may enforce the provisions of
28 this section, as necessary, to protect the health and well-being of any
29 animal at a municipal or regional dog pound.

30 Sec. 2. Section 22-336 of the general statutes is repealed and the
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

32 Each city or town, other than towns participating in a regional dog
33 pound, shall (1) provide and maintain for use as a dog pound a suitable
34 building, which shall be made comfortable for the detention and care of
35 dogs and other domestic animals and kept in a sanitary condition, or (2)
36 provide, through written agreement, for the detention and care of
37 impounded dogs or other domestic animals by a licensed veterinarian,
38 or in a licensed veterinary hospital, licensed commercial kennel, a dog
39 pound maintained by another city or town, or other suitable facility
40 approved by the commissioner. Any city or town may provide for the
41 use of such building or facility to shelter other domestic animals that are
42 found injured, mistreated or roaming in a manner that endangers the
43 domestic animal or the public. The commissioner may adopt
44 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning
45 the construction and maintenance of dog pounds or other facilities
46 where impounded dogs or other domestic animals are kept, and the
47 care, handling and transportation of dogs or other domestic animals by

48 municipal animal control officers. The commissioner may inspect any
49 dog pound or other facility where impounded dogs or other domestic
50 animals are kept and may issue such orders as the commissioner deems
51 necessary to correct any improper conditions found to exist. A report of
52 any such inspection and the findings from such inspection shall be
53 provided to the applicable municipal animal control officer not later
54 than five days after such inspection. Such animal control officer shall
55 provide a copy of the inspection report and any such findings to the
56 chief elected official of such city or town and the applicable police
57 department or supervisor of such municipal animal control officer not
58 later than thirty days after receipt of such report and findings. If such
59 orders are not complied with, the commissioner may request the
60 Attorney General to bring an action for their enforcement, including suit
61 for an injunction in the judicial district in which the dog pound or
62 facility is located.

63 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Any revision to regulations concerning
64 the construction and maintenance of dog pounds adopted by the
65 Department of Agriculture pursuant to section 22-336 of the general
66 statutes, as amended by this act, that was initiated as of the effective date
67 of this section, shall be submitted to the legislative regulation review
68 committee not later than September 1, 2023.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-336
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

PD *Joint Favorable*