
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2354 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY KLUNK, SAPPEY, HANBIDGE, PASHINSKI, KRUPA,
CONKLIN, LAWRENCE, SHUSTERMAN, MOUL, JOZWIAK AND SCHEMEL,
MAY 29, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
MAY 29, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), entitled
2 "An act relating to dogs, regulating the keeping of dogs;
3 providing for the licensing of dogs and kennels; providing
4 for the protection of dogs and the detention and destruction
5 of dogs in certain cases; regulating the sale and
6 transportation of dogs; declaring dogs to be personal
7 property and the subject of theft; providing for the
8 abandonment of animals; providing for the assessment of
9 damages done to animals; providing for payment of damages by
10 the Commonwealth in certain cases and the liability of the
11 owner or keeper of dogs for such damages; imposing powers and
12 duties on certain State and local officers and employees;
13 providing penalties; and creating a Dog Law Restricted
14 Account," in short title and definitions, further providing
15 for definitions; in licenses, tags and kennels, further
16 providing for revocation or refusal of kennel licenses and
17 for health certificates for importation; and, in enforcement
18 and penalties, further providing for rules and regulations.

19 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
20 hereby enacts as follows:

21 Section 1. The definition of "certification of vaccination"
22 in section 102 of the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),
23 known as the Dog Law, added October 23, 2023 (P.L.114, No.18),
24 is amended to read:

25 Section 102. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
2 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
3 meanings given to them in this section:

4 * * *

5 "Certificate of vaccination." A certificate verifying
6 vaccination against rabies, containing information consistent
7 with the [current] 2016 version of the National Association of
8 State Public Health Veterinarians Rabies Compendium[.],
9 published by the National Association of State Public Health
10 Veterinarians Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control
11 Committee, or any successor version approved by the secretary
12 under section 902(b).

13 * * *

14 Section 2. Sections 211 and 214 of the act, amended October
15 23, 2023 (P.L.114, No.18), are amended to read:

16 Section 211. Revocation or refusal of kennel licenses.

17 (a) General powers of secretary.--The secretary shall revoke
18 a kennel license, dealer license or out-of-state dealer license
19 if a licensee is convicted of a violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 3129
20 (relating to sexual intercourse with animal) or Ch. 55 Subch. B
21 (relating to cruelty to animals) that causes bodily injury to
22 the animal or places the animal at imminent risk of serious
23 bodily injury or of substantially similar conduct pursuant to a
24 cruelty law of another state. The secretary shall not issue a
25 kennel license, dealer license or out-of-state dealer license to
26 a person that has been convicted of a violation of 18 Pa.C.S. §
27 3129 or Ch. 55 Subch. B that causes bodily injury to the animal
28 or places the animal at imminent risk of serious bodily injury
29 within the last ten years. The secretary may revoke or refuse to
30 issue a kennel license, dealer license or out-of-state dealer

1 license for any one or more of the following reasons:

2 (1) the person holding or applying for a license has
3 made a material misstatement or misrepresentation in the
4 license application;

5 (2) the person holding or applying for a license has
6 made a material misstatement or misrepresentation to the
7 department or its personnel regarding a matter relevant to
8 the license;

9 (3) the person holding or applying for a license has
10 failed to comply with this act;

11 (4) the person holding or applying for a license has
12 failed to comply with any regulation promulgated under this
13 act;

14 (5) the person holding or applying for a license has
15 been convicted of any law relating to cruelty to animals and
16 the conviction is more than ten years old, if there is
17 evidence the person has not been rehabilitated and granting a
18 license would jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of
19 the dogs;

20 (6) the person holding or applying for a license has
21 been convicted of a felony;

22 (7) the person holding or applying for a license has:

23 (i) within the last ten years, been found to have
24 violated section 9.3 of the act of December 17, 1968
25 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the "Unfair Trade Practices
26 and Consumer Protection Law," or been required to cease
27 and desist from operating a kennel or owning, selling or
28 caring for dogs, or both; or

29 (ii) within the last ten years, entered into an
30 agreement with the Office of Attorney General which

1 requires the person to cease and desist from operating a
2 kennel or owning, selling or caring for dogs, or both;

3 (8) the location of the kennel for which the license is
4 sought is subject to a final, binding order, which is not
5 subject to a pending legal challenge, declaring the kennel is
6 not a permitted use under the applicable zoning ordinance;

7 (9) the person holding or applying for a license has
8 acted or is acting in concert with a person who has violated
9 the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1610, No.181), known as the
10 "Rabies Prevention and Control in Domestic Animals and
11 Wildlife Act";

12 (10) the person holding or applying has had a kennel
13 license, dealer license or out-of-state dealer license
14 refused or revoked within the past ten years;

15 (11) the person holding or applying for a license has a
16 person who does or will play a role in the ownership of the
17 kennel or caring for the dogs, and such other person would be
18 refused a license if that person had been the applicant. A
19 role shall include ownership of a financial interest in the
20 kennel operation, caring for the dogs or participation in the
21 management of the kennel; or

22 (12) the person holding or applying for a license has
23 violated section 214.

24 Section 214. Health certificates for importation.

25 (a) Requirements.--It shall be a violation of this act to
26 transport any dog into this Commonwealth except under the
27 provisions in subsection (c)(2) and section 212 without an
28 interstate certificate of veterinary inspection, which
29 certificate, or copy of such, shall accompany the dog while in
30 this Commonwealth. The certificate shall state that the dog is

1 at least eight weeks of age and shows no signs or [symptoms]
2 clinical evidence suggestive of infectious or communicable
3 disease; did not originate within an area under quarantine for
4 rabies; and, as ascertained by reasonable investigation, has not
5 been exposed to rabies within 100 days of importation.

6 (b) Vaccinations.--

7 (1) All dogs transported into this Commonwealth must
8 have been vaccinated for rabies in accordance with the act of
9 December 15, 1986 (P.L.1610, No.181), known as the "Rabies
10 Prevention and Control in Domestic Animals and Wildlife Act."
11 The name of the vaccine manufacturer, the date of
12 administration, and the rabies tag number must appear on a
13 certificate of vaccination and an interstate certificate of
14 veterinary inspection.

15 (2) All dogs transported into this Commonwealth and
16 placed in a kennel, except for a boarding kennel, shall have
17 had an initial dose of Distemper, Adeno, Parainfluenza,
18 Parvovirus (DAPP) vaccine as certified by a licensed doctor
19 of veterinary medicine. A dog subject to this paragraph shall
20 be isolated in accordance with an isolation plan under
21 section 207(f.1) and shall not be dispensed, moved, sold,
22 offered for sale, given away or transferred for a period of
23 14 days.

24 (c) Boarding kennels.--[The]

25 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the owner or
26 operator of a boarding kennel shall require the owner of each
27 out-of-state dog for which the boarding kennel is taking
28 control to provide a certificate of vaccination and an
29 interstate certificate of veterinary inspection at the time
30 the dog enters the boarding kennel. The certificate of

1 vaccination and the interstate certificate of veterinary
2 inspection shall be kept on file at the boarding kennel for
3 seven days following the dog's departure from the boarding
4 kennel.

5 (2) An interstate certificate of veterinary inspection
6 shall not be required under paragraph (1) if all of the
7 following conditions are met:

8 (i) The dog is owned by a resident of a state which
9 directly borders Pennsylvania.

10 (ii) The dog is temporarily housed in a boarding
11 kennel for less than 30 consecutive days.

12 (iii) The dog is privately owned, and the owner is
13 able to provide proof of ownership.

14 (iv) Ownership of the dog does not transfer to
15 another person after the dog enters the boarding kennel.

16 (v) The dog will return to the owner after the end
17 of the boarding period.

18 Section 3. Section 902 of the act is amended to read:

19 Section 902. Rules and regulations.

20 (a) Rules and regulations.--The secretary, after due notice
21 and a public hearing, may promulgate rules and regulations to
22 carry out the provisions and intent of this act.

23 (b) Adoption by reference.--

24 (1) The secretary shall review the 2016 version of the
25 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, published
26 by the National Association of State Public Health
27 Veterinarians Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and
28 Control Committee and transmit notice to the Legislative
29 Reference Bureau for publication in the next available issue
30 of the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the standards for a valid

1 rabies vaccination certificate approved for adoption.

2 (2) The secretary shall review any subsequent changes to
3 the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control and
4 shall transmit notice of adoption of the standards for a
5 valid rabies vaccination certificate to the Legislative
6 Reference Bureau for publication in the next available issue
7 of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

8 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.