

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 82 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK, BROOKS, MARTIN, COSTA, J. WARD AND ROBINSON, JANUARY 12, 2023

SENATOR VOGEL, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, AS AMENDED, JUNE 24, 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 transfer of dog licenses or tags and other <--
17 licensing requirements, FOR KENNELS, FOR REQUIREMENTS FOR <--
18 KENNELS, FOR REVOCATION OR REFUSAL OF KENNEL LICENSES, FOR
19 HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR IMPORTATION and for service dogs and <--
20 dogs used by municipal or State Police departments; AND, IN <--
21 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR RULES AND
22 REGULATIONS.

23 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
24 hereby enacts as follows:

25 Section 1. Sections 205 and 217(a) of the act of December 7, <--
26 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, are amended to
27 read:

1 SECTION 1. THE DEFINITIONS OF "CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION" <--
2 AND "COMMERCIAL KENNEL" IN SECTION 102 OF THE ACT OF DECEMBER 7,
3 1982 (P.L.784, NO.225), KNOWN AS THE DOG LAW, ADDED OCTOBER 23,
4 2023 (P.L.114, NO.18), ARE AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY
5 ADDING DEFINITIONS TO READ:

6 SECTION 102. DEFINITIONS.

7 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ACT SHALL
8 HAVE, UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE, THE
9 MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION:

10 * * *

11 "ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN." A VETERINARIAN APPROVED BY THE
12 ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE WITHIN THE UNITED
13 STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH 9 CFR PT.
14 161 (RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITED
15 VETERINARIANS AND SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF SUCH
16 ACCREDITATION).

17 * * *

18 "CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION." A CERTIFICATE VERIFYING
19 VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES, CONTAINING INFORMATION CONSISTENT
20 WITH THE [CURRENT] 2016 VERSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
21 STATE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIANS RABIES COMPENDIUM[.],
22 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PUBLIC HEALTH
23 VETERINARIANS COMPENDIUM OF ANIMAL RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL
24 COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR VERSION APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
25 UNDER SECTION 902(B).

26 ["COMMERCIAL KENNEL." A KENNEL THAT BREEDS OR WHELPS DOGS
27 AND:

28 (1) SELLS OR TRANSFERS ANY DOG TO A DEALER OR PET SHOP
29 KENNEL; OR

30 (2) SELLS OR TRANSFERS MORE THAN 60 DOGS PER CALENDAR

1 YEAR.]

2 "COMMERCIAL KENNEL."

3 (1) A KENNEL THAT BREEDS OR WHELPS DOGS AND:

4 (I) SELLS OR TRANSFERS ANY DOG TO A DEALER OR PET
5 SHOP-KENNEL; OR

6 (II) SELLS OR TRANSFERS MORE THAN 60 DOGS PER
7 CALENDAR YEAR.

8 (2) THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE A SERVICE DOG KENNEL.

9 * * *

10 "SERVICE DOG KENNEL." A KENNEL THAT:

11 (1) IS ACCREDITED BY AN ORGANIZATION THAT:

12 (I) IS AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF NONPROFIT
13 MEMBER PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDES ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS
14 COMMONWEALTH THAT TRAIN SERVICE DOGS;

15 (II) HAS A CHAPTER IN NORTH AMERICA; AND

16 (III) ACCREDITS NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AS DEFINED
17 UNDER 26 U.S.C. § 501(C) (3) (RELATING TO EXEMPTION FROM
18 TAX ON CORPORATIONS, CERTAIN TRUSTS, ETC.), THAT PLACE
19 SERVICE DOGS.

20 (2) EXCLUSIVELY BREEDS, TRAINS AND PLACES SERVICE DOGS
21 TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

22 (3) IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AS DEFINED UNDER 26
23 U.S.C. § 501(C) (3).

24 * * *

25 SECTION 2. SECTION 205 OF THE ACT IS AMENDED TO READ:

26 Section 205. Transfer of dog licenses or tags; other licensing
27 requirements.

28 (a) Transfer of dog license.--It is unlawful to transfer a
29 dog license or dog license tag issued for one dog to another
30 dog, except as otherwise provided in this act. The following

1 apply:

2 (1) Whenever the ownership or possession of [any] a dog
3 is permanently transferred from one person to another within
4 the same county, the license of [such] the dog may be
5 likewise transferred, upon application to an agent authorized
6 under section 200(a) [. Such application], including a county
7 treasurer.

8 (2) An application under this section shall be
9 accompanied by a bill of sale or an affidavit from the owner
10 that ownership of the dog is to be transferred. The owner
11 shall provide the owner's name, address, telephone number and
12 other relevant contact information.

13 (3) A new dog license, or the transfer of a dog license
14 already secured, is not required when the possession of a dog
15 is temporarily transferred for the purpose of hunting game,
16 or for breeding, boarding and training, trial or show, in
17 this Commonwealth. The issuing agent shall charge and retain
18 \$1 for [such] the transfer application.

19 (b) Dog moved to another county.--Whenever [any] a dog
20 licensed in one county is permanently moved to another county,
21 an issuing agent of the county where the dog license was issued
22 shall, upon the application of the owner or keeper of [such] the
23 dog, certify [such] the dog license to an agent of the county to
24 which the dog is moved. [Such] After payment of a fee of \$1, the
25 agent shall [thereupon, and upon the payment of a fee of \$1 for
26 the use of the agent,] issue a dog license and tag for [such]
27 the dog in the county to which it is moved.

28 (c) Owners of unlicensed dogs.--[Any] A person other than as
29 exempt in section 206, becoming the owner of [any] a dog three
30 months old or older, which has not already been licensed shall

1 [forthwith] apply for and secure a license for [such] the dog
2 under the provisions of this act.

3 SECTION 3. SECTION 206(A) (5) OF THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING <--
4 A SUBPARAGRAPH TO READ:

5 SECTION 206. KENNELS.

6 (A) APPLICATIONS, KENNEL LICENSE CLASSIFICATIONS AND FEES.--

7 * * *

8 (5) THE KENNEL CLASSES AND LICENSE FEES SHALL BE AS
9 FOLLOWS:

10 * * *

11 (XIX) SERVICE DOG KENNEL.

12 TO KEEP OR OPERATE A SERVICE DOG KENNEL - \$35 PER
13 YEAR.

14 * * *

15 SECTION 4. SECTIONS 207(F.1), 211(A) INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH
16 AND 214 OF THE ACT, AMENDED OR ADDED OCTOBER 23, 2023 (P.L.114,
17 NO.18), ARE AMENDED TO READ:

18 SECTION 207. REQUIREMENTS FOR KENNELS.

19 * * *

20 (F.1) [ISOLATION PLAN FOR IMPORTED DOGS.--ALL KENNELS SHALL
21 HAVE AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR THE ISOLATION OF DOGS IMPORTED
22 FROM ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF
23 TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE.] IMPORTED DOGS.--THE FOLLOWING SHALL
24 APPLY TO A KENNEL THAT IMPORTS DOGS FROM ANOTHER STATE OR
25 COUNTRY:

26 (1) THE KENNEL SHALL HAVE A PLAN OF VETERINARY CARE AND
27 IMPLEMENT THE PLAN FOR A DOG IMPORTED FROM ANOTHER STATE OR
28 COUNTRY TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSMISSION OF
29 DISEASE. THE PLAN SHALL BE APPROVED AND SIGNED BY A LICENSED
30 DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND MUST INCLUDE PROTOCOLS FOR

1 DIAGNOSIS, TESTING, TREATMENT, QUARANTINE, PREVENTION AND
2 DISINFECTION FOR CONTAGIOUS, INFECTIOUS, COMMUNICABLE AND
3 ZONOTIC DISEASES. THE PLAN SHALL BE MAINTAINED AS A RECORD
4 UNDER SUBSECTION (C) AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY DOG
5 WARDENS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

6 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3), A DOG IMPORTED
7 FROM ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY SHALL BE QUARANTINED FOR 14
8 DAYS, AND THE DOG MAY NOT BE DISPENSED, MOVED, SOLD, GIVEN
9 AWAY OR TRANSFERRED TO A NEW OWNER DURING THE 14-DAY
10 QUARANTINE PERIOD.

11 (3) A DOG IMPORTED FROM ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY SHALL
12 NOT BE REQUIRED TO BE QUARANTINED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) IF ALL
13 OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

14 (I) THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED UNDER SECTION 214
15 HAVE BEEN MET.

16 (II) THE DOG IS ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFICATION FROM
17 AN ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN OR A VETERINARIAN LICENSED BY
18 THE STATE OF ORIGIN THAT THE DOG HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS
19 SPECIFIED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPHS (III) AND (IV). THE
20 CERTIFICATION SHALL BE MAINTAINED AS A RECORD UNDER
21 SUBSECTION (C).

22 (III) NO EARLIER THAN 14 DAYS BEFORE THE TRANSPORT
23 OF THE DOG FROM ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY, THE DOG MEETS
24 ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

25 (A) IF THE DOG IS OLDER THAN SIX MONTHS OF AGE,
26 THE DOG IS SEROLOGY TESTED AND OBTAINS A NEGATIVE
27 RESULT FOR HEARTWORM.

28 (B) THE DOG IS TESTED AND OBTAINS A NEGATIVE
29 FECAL RESULT FOR INTESTINAL PARASITES.

30 (C) THE DOG IS DEWORMED WITH A MEDICATION

1 APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG
2 ADMINISTRATION TO BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ROUNDWORMS,
3 HOOKWORMS, WHIPWORMS AND TAPEWORMS.

4 (D) THE DOG IS EXAMINED AND CERTIFIED TO BE FREE
5 OF ECTOPARASITES.

6 (IV) NO MORE THAN 12 MONTHS NOR LESS THAN 14 DAYS
7 PRIOR TO TRANSPORT OF THE DOG FROM ANOTHER STATE OR
8 COUNTRY, THE DOG IS ADMINISTERED WITH ALL OF THE
9 FOLLOWING VACCINATIONS:

10 (A) THE BORDETELLA VACCINATION, EITHER
11 INTRANASAL OR SUBCUTANEOUS.

12 (B) THE DISTEMPER, ADENO, PARAINFLUENZA AND
13 PARVOVIRUS (DAPP) VACCINATION.

14 * * *

15 SECTION 211. REVOCATION OR REFUSAL OF KENNEL LICENSES.

16 (A) GENERAL POWERS OF SECRETARY.--THE SECRETARY SHALL REVOKE
17 A KENNEL LICENSE, DEALER LICENSE OR OUT-OF-STATE DEALER LICENSE
18 IF A LICENSEE IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF 18 PA.C.S. § 3129
19 (RELATING TO SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH ANIMAL) [OR CH. 55 SUBCH. B
20 (RELATING TO CRUELTY TO ANIMALS)] , 5532 (RELATING TO NEGLECT OF
21 ANIMAL) IF GRADED AS A MISDEMEANOR OR HIGHER, 5533 (RELATING TO
22 CRUELTY TO ANIMAL) IF GRADED AS A MISDEMEANOR OR HIGHER, 5534
23 (RELATING TO AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMAL), 5535 (RELATING TO
24 ATTACK OF SERVICE, GUIDE OR SUPPORT DOG), 5542 (RELATING TO
25 ANIMAL MUTILATION AND RELATED OFFENSES) IF GRADED AS A
26 MISDEMEANOR OR HIGHER, 5543 (RELATING TO ANIMAL FIGHTING), 5544
27 (RELATING TO POSSESSION OF ANIMAL FIGHTING PARAPHERNALIA), 5548
28 (RELATING TO POLICE ANIMALS) OR 5549 (RELATING TO ASSAULT WITH A
29 BIOLOGICAL AGENT ON ANIMAL, FOWL OR HONEY BEES) OR OF
30 SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR CONDUCT PURSUANT TO A CRUELTY LAW OF

1 ANOTHER STATE. THE SECRETARY SHALL NOT ISSUE A KENNEL LICENSE,
2 DEALER LICENSE OR OUT-OF-STATE DEALER LICENSE TO A PERSON THAT
3 HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF 18 PA.C.S. § 3129 [OR CH.
4 55 SUBCH. B], 5532 IF GRADED AS A MISDEMEANOR OR HIGHER, 5533 IF
5 GRADED AS A MISDEMEANOR OR HIGHER, 5534, 5535, 5542 IF GRADED AS
6 A MISDEMEANOR OR HIGHER, 5543, 5544, 5548 OR 5549 WITHIN THE
7 LAST TEN YEARS. THE SECRETARY MAY REVOKE OR REFUSE TO ISSUE A
8 KENNEL LICENSE, DEALER LICENSE OR OUT-OF-STATE DEALER LICENSE
9 FOR ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

10 * * *

11 SECTION 214. HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR IMPORTATION.

12 (A) REQUIREMENTS.--IT SHALL BE A VIOLATION OF THIS ACT TO
13 TRANSPORT ANY DOG INTO THIS COMMONWEALTH EXCEPT UNDER THE
14 PROVISIONS IN SUBSECTION (C) (2) AND SECTION 212 WITHOUT AN
15 INTERSTATE CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION, WHICH
16 CERTIFICATE, OR COPY OF SUCH, SHALL ACCOMPANY THE DOG WHILE IN
17 THIS COMMONWEALTH. THE CERTIFICATE SHALL STATE THAT THE DOG IS
18 AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS OF AGE AND SHOWS NO SIGNS OR [SYMPTOMS]
19 CLINICAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTIVE OF INFECTIOUS OR COMMUNICABLE
20 DISEASE; DID NOT ORIGINATE WITHIN AN AREA UNDER QUARANTINE FOR
21 RABIES; AND, AS ASCERTAINED BY REASONABLE INVESTIGATION, HAS NOT
22 BEEN EXPOSED TO RABIES WITHIN 100 DAYS OF IMPORTATION.

23 (B) VACCINATIONS.--

24 (1) ALL DOGS TRANSPORTED INTO THIS COMMONWEALTH MUST
25 HAVE BEEN VACCINATED FOR RABIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT OF
26 DECEMBER 15, 1986 (P.L.1610, NO.181), KNOWN AS THE "RABIES
27 PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE ACT."
28 THE NAME OF THE VACCINE MANUFACTURER, THE DATE OF
29 ADMINISTRATION, AND THE RABIES TAG NUMBER MUST APPEAR ON A
30 CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION AND AN INTERSTATE CERTIFICATE OF

1 VETERINARY INSPECTION.

2 (2) ALL DOGS TRANSPORTED INTO THIS COMMONWEALTH AND
3 PLACED IN A KENNEL, EXCEPT FOR A BOARDING KENNEL, SHALL HAVE
4 HAD AN INITIAL DOSE OF DISTEMPER, ADENO, PARAINFLUENZA,
5 PARVOVIRUS (DAPP) VACCINE AS CERTIFIED BY A LICENSED DOCTOR
6 OF VETERINARY MEDICINE. A DOG SUBJECT TO THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL
7 [BE ISOLATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ISOLATION PLAN UNDER
8 SECTION 207(F.1) AND SHALL NOT BE DISPENSED, MOVED, SOLD,
9 OFFERED FOR SALE, GIVEN AWAY OR TRANSFERRED FOR A PERIOD OF
10 14 DAYS.] MEET THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SECTION 207(F.1).

11 (C) BOARDING KENNELS.--[THE]

12 (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2), THE OWNER OR
13 OPERATOR OF A BOARDING KENNEL SHALL REQUIRE THE OWNER OF EACH
14 OUT-OF-STATE DOG FOR WHICH THE BOARDING KENNEL IS TAKING
15 CONTROL TO PROVIDE A CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION AND AN
16 INTERSTATE CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION AT THE TIME
17 THE DOG ENTERS THE BOARDING KENNEL. THE CERTIFICATE OF
18 VACCINATION AND THE INTERSTATE CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY
19 INSPECTION SHALL BE KEPT ON FILE AT THE BOARDING KENNEL FOR
20 SEVEN DAYS FOLLOWING THE DOG'S DEPARTURE FROM THE BOARDING
21 KENNEL.

22 (2) AN INTERSTATE CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION
23 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) IF ALL OF THE
24 FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

25 (I) THE DOG HAS BEEN BOARDED AT THE KENNEL WITHIN
26 THE PREVIOUS 60 DAYS.

27 (II) THE DOG IS PRIVATELY OWNED.

28 (III) OWNERSHIP OF THE DOG DOES NOT TRANSFER TO
29 ANOTHER PERSON AFTER THE DOG ENTERS THE BOARDING KENNEL.

30 SECTION 5. SECTIONS 217(A) AND 902 OF THE ACT ARE AMENDED TO

1 READ:

2 Section 217. Service dogs and dogs used by municipal or State
3 Police departments.

4 (a) Fee exemptions.--

5 (1) The provisions of this act relating to the payment
6 of fees and other charges shall not apply to [any person who
7 uses a service dog for aid or any municipal or State Police
8 department or agency using a dog in the performance of the
9 functions or duties of such department or agency. License
10 tags for service dogs and dogs used by any municipal or State
11 agency in the performance of the functions or duties of such
12 department or agency shall be issued without charge.]:

13 (i) A person who uses a service dog for aid.

14 (ii) A municipal or State Police department or
15 police agency using a dog in the performance of the
16 functions or duties of the department or agency.

17 (iii) A ~~service~~ dog used in the performance of <--
18 services by a police department, fire department or
19 sheriff's office or in the performance of rescue services
20 or emergency medical services.

21 (2) A license tag for a dog described under paragraph
22 (1) shall be issued without charge.

23 (3) For purposes of paragraph (1)(iii), a letter on
24 official letterhead from the respective police chief, fire
25 chief, sheriff or director or authorized agent of the
26 department, agency or office providing the services, along
27 with evidence that the dog is a service dog, shall accompany
28 the application under section 201.

29 * * *

30 SECTION 902. RULES AND REGULATIONS. <--

1 (A) RULES AND REGULATIONS.--THE SECRETARY, AFTER DUE NOTICE
2 AND A PUBLIC HEARING, MAY PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO
3 CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS AND INTENT OF THIS ACT.

4 (B) ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.--

5 (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL REVIEW THE 2016 VERSION OF THE
6 COMPENDIUM OF ANIMAL RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL, PUBLISHED
7 BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PUBLIC HEALTH
8 VETERINARIANS COMPENDIUM OF ANIMAL RABIES PREVENTION AND
9 CONTROL COMMITTEE AND TRANSMIT NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS FOR A
10 VALID RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE APPROVED FOR ADOPTION TO
11 THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT
12 AVAILABLE ISSUE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

13 (2) THE SECRETARY SHALL REVIEW ANY SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO
14 THE COMPENDIUM OF ANIMAL RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND
15 SHALL TRANSMIT NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF THE STANDARDS FOR A
16 VALID RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE TO THE LEGISLATIVE
17 REFERENCE BUREAU FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE ISSUE
18 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN.

19 Section 2 6. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

<--