

2010 -- S 2244

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 419-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 419 entitled "Animal
2 Care" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **4-19-12. Disposition of animals.** -- (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general or
4 public laws to the contrary, it shall be unlawful to dispose of any animal by using a carbon
5 monoxide chamber or gas chamber. All animals, which must be disposed of by a municipal
6 pound or shelter, the humane society animal shelter, or any other private pound or animal shelter,
7 however, described, must be disposed of by lethal injection. In the event of an emergency, if a
8 licensed veterinarian cannot be secured without undue delay and, in the opinion of the animal
9 control officer, animal control administrator, approved humane investigator, or animal shelter
10 employee, the animal is so severely injured, diseased, or suffering in such a manner the animal
11 cannot otherwise be humanely destroyed in an expeditious manner, the animal may be destroyed
12 by shooting; provided, that:

13 (1) Maximum precaution is taken to minimize the animal's suffering and to protect other
14 persons and animals;

15 (2) The animal is restrained in a humane manner;

16 (3) Shooting is performed by highly skilled and trained personnel utilizing a weapon,
17 ammunition of suitable caliber, and other characteristics, and proper placement of the shot to
18 produce an instantaneous death by a single gunshot.

19 If any type of restraint or confinement is deemed necessary for the safety of those

1 involved or for efficiency in euthanizing the animal, it must be done in the most humane way
2 possible to cause the least amount of additional stress to that animal.

3 (b) (1) No dog officer shall give or sell or negotiate for the gift or sale to a dealer or
4 research facility of any animal which may come into his or her custody in the course of carrying
5 out his or her official assignments.

6 (2) No dog officer shall be granted a dealer's license. Each application for a dealer's
7 license shall include a statement made under oath, that neither the applicant or any member or
8 employee of the firm, partnership, or corporation making application is a dog officer within the
9 meaning of this chapter.

10 (3) A dog officer, [animal broker](#) or incorporated humane society, upon taking custody of
11 any animal in the course of their official duties, shall immediately make a record of the matter in
12 the manner prescribed by the director and the record shall include a description of the animal
13 including color, breed, sex, reason for seizure, location of seizure, the owner's name and address
14 if known and all license or other identification numbers if any. Complete information relating to
15 the disposition of the animal, including compliance with the provisions of sections 4-19-16 and 4-
16 19-18 and any legal actions taken to uphold and enforce this law, shall be added in the manner
17 provided by the director immediately after disposition. The information shall be forwarded
18 monthly to the department of environmental management.

19 (c) This section shall not apply to any research laboratories or facilities of any hospital,
20 college, or university within the state.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would authorize an animal broker to take custody of any animal in the course of
2 his or her official duty, and would require such broker to make a record of the matter in the
3 manner prescribed by the director, and the record shall include a description of the animal
4 including color, breed, sex, reason for seizure, location of seizure, the owner's name and address
5 if known and all license or other identification numbers if any.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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