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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1424**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Consumer Protection & Business (originally sponsored by Representatives Berg, Walen, Simmons, Kloba, Street, Taylor, Alvarado, Bateman, Stonier, Paul, Fosse, Macri, Reed, Berry, Senn, Duerr, Riccelli, Doglio, Callan, Peterson, Fitzgibbon, Stearns, Ortiz-Self, Goodman, Thai, Springer, Gregerson, Ramel, Bergquist, and Pollet)

1 AN ACT Relating to consumer protection with respect to the sale  
2 and adoption of dogs and cats; amending RCW 16.52.360, 16.52.015, and  
3 16.52.310; adding a new section to chapter 63.10 RCW; adding a new  
4 section to chapter 63.14 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 31.04  
5 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 16.52.360 and 2021 c 76 s 1 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 (1) Except as provided in this section, a retail pet store may  
10 not sell or offer for sale any dog or cat.

11 (2) A retail pet store that sold or offered for sale any dog  
12 prior to July 25, 2021, may sell or offer for sale a dog only if the  
13 retail pet store meets the following requirements:

14 (a) Any dog sold or offered for sale must be sold or offered for  
15 sale only at the address identified on the retail pet store's  
16 business license, as defined in RCW 19.02.020;

17 (b) Any dog sold or offered for sale must be obtained either  
18 directly from a United States department of agriculture licensed  
19 breeder or licensed broker pursuant to the federal animal welfare  
20 act, Title 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2131 et seq. as amended. A licensed broker  
21 shall provide all breeder documentation required by a breeder under

1 this section as well as any applicable federal and state license  
2 numbers for the breeder or the broker;

3 (c) Any dog sold or offered for sale must possess documentation  
4 obtained from its breeder, either directly or through a United States  
5 department of agriculture licensed broker, demonstrating:

6 (i) The dog was not separated from its mother prior to the age of  
7 eight weeks; and

8 (ii) The breeder's compliance with RCW 16.52.310 on the date the  
9 dog was obtained from the breeder;

10 (d) A retail pet store shall, prior to obtaining a dog from a  
11 breeder or a broker, obtain all inspection reports for the breeder  
12 created by the United States department of agriculture within the  
13 previous three years. A retail pet store shall maintain and, upon  
14 request, produce the records for a period of five years following the  
15 sale of a dog obtained from a breeder or broker;

16 (e) Any advertisement, including website postings, offering to  
17 sell a dog must include:

18 (i) A range of prices at which a dog, breed of dog, or dogs  
19 having other distinguishing traits are offered for sale;

20 (ii) The age of the dog; and

21 (iii) Supporting documentation providing the applicable federal  
22 or state license numbers for the breeder of the dog;

23 (f) The retail pet store shall post in a location visible from  
24 the entrance of the retail pet store on a kiosk or other form of  
25 bulletin board the purchase price, age of the dog, and the following  
26 information on the dog's breeder:

27 (i) Full name;

28 (ii) Kennel name, if applicable;

29 (iii) City and state; and

30 (iv) Any applicable state or federal license numbers; and

31 (g) The retail pet store shall disclose to a prospective consumer  
32 in writing, prior to the sale of a dog, the following information  
33 about the dog:

34 (i) The purchase price of the dog; and

35 (ii) Any applicable federal or state license numbers and an  
36 unredacted list of all violations of any federal or state law the dog  
37 breeder received in the previous two years on a federal or state  
38 inspection report.

39 (3) A retail pet store may provide space and appropriate care for  
40 animals, including dogs, owned by an animal care and control agency

1 or animal rescue group for the purpose of adopting those animals to  
2 the public. Each retail pet store shall display on each cage or pen  
3 containing a dog or cat a label stating the certificate of source,  
4 including the name and address of the animal care and control agency  
5 or animal rescue group.

6 (4) A retail pet store that violates this section is subject to a  
7 monetary penalty of \$250. Any retail pet store that violates  
8 subsection (2) of this section three or more times over a one-year  
9 period is prohibited from selling or offering to sell any dog.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 16.52.015 and 2011 c 172 s 2 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) Law enforcement agencies and animal care and control agencies  
13 may enforce the provisions of this chapter. Animal care and control  
14 agencies may enforce the provisions of this chapter in a county or  
15 city only if the county or city legislative authority has entered  
16 into a contract with the agency to enforce the provisions of this  
17 chapter.

18 (2) Animal control officers enforcing this chapter shall comply  
19 with the same constitutional and statutory restrictions concerning  
20 the execution of police powers imposed on law enforcement officers  
21 who enforce this chapter and other criminal laws of the state of  
22 Washington.

23 (3) Animal control officers have the following enforcement powers  
24 when enforcing this chapter:

25 (a) The power to issue citations based on probable cause to  
26 offenders for monetary penalties, civil infractions, and misdemeanor  
27 and gross misdemeanor violations of this chapter or RCW 9.08.070  
28 through 9.08.078 or 81.48.070;

29 (b) The power to cause a law enforcement officer to arrest and  
30 take into custody any person the animal control officer has probable  
31 cause to believe has committed or is committing a violation of this  
32 chapter or RCW 9.08.070 or 81.48.070. Animal control officers may  
33 make an oral complaint to a prosecuting attorney or a law enforcement  
34 officer to initiate arrest. The animal control officer causing the  
35 arrest shall file with the arresting agency a written complaint  
36 within (~~twenty-four~~) 24 hours of the arrest, excluding Sundays and  
37 legal holidays, stating the alleged act or acts constituting a  
38 violation;

1 (c) The power to carry nonfirearm protective devices for personal  
2 protection;

3 (d) The power to prepare affidavits in support of search warrants  
4 and to execute search warrants when accompanied by law enforcement  
5 officers to investigate violations of this chapter or RCW 9.08.070 or  
6 81.48.070, and to seize evidence of those violations.

7 (4) Upon request of an animal control officer who has probable  
8 cause to believe that a person has violated this chapter or RCW  
9 9.08.070 or 81.48.070, a law enforcement agency officer may arrest  
10 the alleged offender.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 16.52.310 and 2009 c 286 s 2 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1) A person may not own, possess, control, or otherwise have  
14 charge or custody of more than (~~fifty~~) 50 dogs with intact sexual  
15 organs over the age of six months at any time.

16 (2) Any person who owns, possesses, controls, or otherwise has  
17 charge or custody of more than (~~ten~~) 10 dogs with intact sexual  
18 organs over the age of six months and keeps the dogs in an enclosure  
19 for the majority of the day must at a minimum:

20 (a) Provide space to allow each dog to turn about freely, to  
21 stand, sit, and lie down. The dog must be able to lie down while  
22 fully extended without the dog's head, tail, legs, face, or feet  
23 touching any side of an enclosure and without touching any other dog  
24 in the enclosure when all dogs are lying down simultaneously. The  
25 interior height of the enclosure must be at least six inches higher  
26 than the head of the tallest dog in the enclosure when it is in a  
27 normal standing position. Each enclosure must be at least three times  
28 the length and width of the longest dog in the enclosure, from tip of  
29 nose to base of tail and shoulder blade to shoulder blade.

30 (b) Provide each dog that is over the age of four months with a  
31 minimum of one exercise period during each day for a total of not  
32 less than one hour of exercise during such day. Such exercise must  
33 include either leash walking or giving the dog access to an enclosure  
34 at least four times the size of the minimum allowable enclosure  
35 specified in (a) of this subsection allowing the dog free mobility  
36 for the entire exercise period, but may not include use of a cat  
37 mill, jenny mill, slat mill, or similar device, unless prescribed by  
38 a doctor of veterinary medicine. The exercise requirements in this

1 subsection do not apply to a dog certified by a doctor of veterinary  
2 medicine as being medically precluded from exercise.

3 (c) Maintain adequate housing facilities and primary enclosures  
4 that meet the following requirements at a minimum:

5 (i) Housing facilities and primary enclosures must be kept in a  
6 sanitary condition. Housing facilities where dogs are kept must be  
7 sufficiently ventilated at all times to minimize odors, drafts,  
8 ammonia levels, and to prevent moisture condensation. Housing  
9 facilities must have a means of fire suppression, such as functioning  
10 fire extinguishers, on the premises and must have sufficient lighting  
11 to allow for observation of the dogs at any time of day or night;

12 (ii) Housing facilities must enable all dogs to remain dry and  
13 clean;

14 (iii) Housing facilities must provide shelter and protection from  
15 extreme temperatures and weather conditions that may be uncomfortable  
16 or hazardous to the dogs;

17 (iv) Housing facilities must provide sufficient shade to shelter  
18 all the dogs housed in the primary enclosure at one time;

19 (v) A primary enclosure must have floors that are constructed in  
20 a manner that protects the dogs' feet and legs from injury;

21 (vi) Primary enclosures must be placed no higher than forty-two  
22 inches above the floor and may not be placed over or stacked on top  
23 of another cage or primary enclosure;

24 (vii) Feces, hair, dirt, debris, and food waste must be removed  
25 from primary enclosures at least daily or more often if necessary to  
26 prevent accumulation and to reduce disease hazards, insects, pests,  
27 and odors; and

28 (viii) All dogs in the same enclosure at the same time must be  
29 compatible, as determined by observation. Animals with a vicious or  
30 aggressive disposition must never be placed in an enclosure with  
31 another animal, except for breeding purposes. Breeding females in  
32 heat may not be in the same enclosure at the same time with sexually  
33 mature males, except for breeding purposes. Breeding females and  
34 their litters may not be in the same enclosure at the same time with  
35 other adult dogs. Puppies under twelve weeks may not be in the same  
36 enclosure at the same time with other adult dogs, other than the dam  
37 or foster dam unless under immediate supervision.

38 (d) Provide dogs with easy and convenient access to adequate  
39 amounts of clean food and water. Food and water receptacles must be  
40 regularly cleaned and sanitized. All enclosures must contain potable

1 water that is not frozen, is substantially free from debris, and is  
2 readily accessible to all dogs in the enclosure at all times.

3 (e) Provide veterinary care without delay when necessary. A dog  
4 may not be bred if a veterinarian determines that the animal is unfit  
5 for breeding purposes. Only dogs between the ages of twelve months  
6 and eight years of age may be used for breeding. Animals requiring  
7 euthanasia must be euthanized only by a licensed veterinarian.

8 (3) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section  
9 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

10 (4) This section does not apply to the following:

11 (a) A publicly operated animal control facility or animal  
12 shelter;

13 (b) A private, charitable not-for-profit humane society or animal  
14 adoption organization;

15 (c) A veterinary facility;

16 (d) A retail pet store;

17 (e) A research institution;

18 (f) A boarding facility; or

19 (g) A grooming facility.

20 (5) ~~((Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to a  
21 commercial dog breeder licensed, before January 1, 2010, by the  
22 United States department of agriculture pursuant to the federal  
23 animal welfare act (Title 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2131 et seq.).~~

24 ~~(6))~~ For the purposes of this section, the following definitions  
25 apply, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

26 (a) "Dog" means any member of *Canis lupus familiaris*; and

27 (b) "Retail pet store" means a commercial establishment that  
28 engages in a for-profit business of selling at retail cats, dogs, or  
29 other animals to be kept as household pets and is regulated by the  
30 United States department of agriculture.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 63.10  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 A lessor shall not finance a consumer lease for the purchase of a  
34 dog or cat. A lease contract entered into on or after the effective  
35 date of this section for the purchase of a dog or cat is void and  
36 unenforceable and the lessor shall have no right to collect, receive,  
37 or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the lease  
38 contract.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    A new section is added to chapter 63.14  
2 RCW to read as follows:

3        A retail installment transaction entered into on or after the  
4 effective date of this section for the purchase of a dog or cat is  
5 void and unenforceable and the retail seller shall have no right to  
6 collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges  
7 related to the retail installment transaction.

8        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    A new section is added to chapter 31.04  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10       A licensee shall not finance or make a loan for the purchase of a  
11 dog or cat. A loan entered into on or after the effective date of  
12 this section for the purchase of a dog or cat is void and  
13 unenforceable and the licensee shall have no right to collect,  
14 receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the  
15 loan.

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