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HOUSE BILL 1716

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Walen

1 AN ACT Relating to dog breeding regulations; amending RCW  
2 16.52.310; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 16.52.310 and 2023 c 208 s 3 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A person may not own, possess, control, or otherwise have  
7 charge or custody of more than ~~((50))~~ 20 dogs with intact sexual  
8 organs over the age of six months at any time.

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

13 (a) Provide space to allow each dog to turn about freely, to  
14 stand, sit, and lie down. The dog must be able to lie down while  
15 fully extended without the dog's head, tail, legs, face, or feet  
16 touching any side of an enclosure and without touching any other dog  
17 in the enclosure when all dogs are lying down simultaneously. The  
18 interior height of the enclosure must be at least ~~((six))~~ 12 inches  
19 higher than the head of the tallest dog in the enclosure when it is  
20 in a normal standing position. Each enclosure must be at least  
21 ~~((three))~~ five times the length and width of the longest dog in the

1 enclosure, from tip of nose to base of tail and shoulder blade to  
2 shoulder blade.

3 (b) Provide each dog that is over the age of four months with a  
4 minimum of (~~(one)~~) two exercise (~~(period)~~) periods during each day  
5 for a total of not less than (~~(one-hour)~~) two hours of exercise  
6 during such day. Such exercise must include either leash walking or  
7 giving the dog access to an enclosure at least four times the size of  
8 the minimum allowable enclosure specified in (a) of this subsection  
9 allowing the dog free mobility for the entire exercise period, but  
10 may not include use of a cat mill, jenny mill, slat mill, or similar  
11 device, unless prescribed by a doctor of veterinary medicine. The  
12 exercise requirements in this subsection do not apply to a dog  
13 certified by a doctor of veterinary medicine as being medically  
14 precluded from exercise.

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

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

24 (ii) Housing facilities must enable all dogs to remain dry and  
25 clean;

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

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

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

33 (vi) Primary enclosures must be placed no higher than (~~(forty-~~  
34 ~~two)~~) 42 inches above the floor and may not be placed over or stacked  
35 on top of another cage or primary enclosure;

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

1 (viii) All dogs in the same enclosure at the same time must be  
2 compatible, as determined by observation. Animals with a vicious or  
3 aggressive disposition must never be placed in an enclosure with  
4 another animal, except for breeding purposes. Breeding females in  
5 heat may not be in the same enclosure at the same time with sexually  
6 mature males, except for breeding purposes. Breeding females and  
7 their litters may not be in the same enclosure at the same time with  
8 other adult dogs. Puppies under (~~twelve~~) 12 weeks may not be in the  
9 same enclosure at the same time with other adult dogs, other than the  
10 dam or foster dam unless under immediate supervision.

11 (d) Provide dogs with easy and convenient access to adequate  
12 amounts of clean food and water. Food and water receptacles must be  
13 regularly cleaned and sanitized. All enclosures must contain potable  
14 water that is not frozen, is substantially free from debris, and is  
15 readily accessible to all dogs in the enclosure at all times.

16 (e) Provide veterinary care without delay when necessary. A dog  
17 may not be bred if a veterinarian determines that the animal is unfit  
18 for breeding purposes. Only dogs between the ages of (~~twelve~~) 12  
19 months and eight years of age may be used for breeding. Animals  
20 requiring euthanasia must be euthanized only by a licensed  
21 veterinarian.

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

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

25 (a) A publicly operated animal control facility or animal  
26 shelter;

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

29 (c) A veterinary facility;

30 (d) A retail pet store;

31 (e) A research institution;

32 (f) A boarding facility; or

33 (g) A grooming facility.

34 (5) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions  
35 apply, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

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

37 (b) "Retail pet store" means a commercial establishment that  
38 engages in a for-profit business of selling at retail cats, dogs, or

1 other animals to be kept as household pets and is regulated by the  
2 United States department of agriculture.

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