



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5575**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REVISE MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTER REGULATIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) Each municipal or  
2 regional dog pound shall provide mechanical heating and cooling  
3 systems of appropriate design and capacity to maintain an indoor  
4 ambient temperature of between fifty-five and eighty degrees  
5 Fahrenheit, unless other temperatures are medically required by a  
6 Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

7 (b) (1) In any municipal or regional dog pound, dogs shall not share  
8 the same primary enclosure, except dams or foster dams and their  
9 puppies.

10 (2) In any municipal or regional dog pound, primary enclosures  
11 shall be provided for each cat with space equal to or more than the  
12 space requirements for cats pursuant to 9 CFR 3.6(a) and 9 CFR 3.6(b),  
13 as amended from time to time.

14 (3) Whenever dogs or cats are kept in respective groups at any  
15 municipal or regional dog pound, the following shall apply:

16 (A) Females in heat shall not be kept with males;

17 (B) Any dog or cat exhibiting a vicious or aggressive disposition  
18 shall be kept separately; and

19 (C) Puppies or kittens four months of age or less shall not be kept  
20 with adult dogs or cats other than their dams or foster dams.

21 (c) (1) Any dog or cat that has or is suspected of having a contagious  
22 disease at any municipal or regional dog pound shall be isolated from  
23 and have no nose-to-nose contact with healthy animals.

24 (2) Any dog or cat at a municipal or regional dog pound that has or  
25 is suspected of having a contagious disease shall be examined, treated  
26 and handled as directed by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

27 (d) The Commissioner of Agriculture may enforce the provisions of  
28 this section, as necessary, to protect the health and well-being of any  
29 animal at a municipal or regional dog pound.

30 Sec. 2. Section 22-336 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

32 Each city or town, other than towns participating in a regional dog  
33 pound, shall (1) provide and maintain for use as a dog pound a  
34 suitable building, which shall be made comfortable for the detention  
35 and care of dogs and other domestic animals and kept in a sanitary  
36 condition, or (2) provide, through written agreement, for the detention  
37 and care of impounded dogs or other domestic animals by a licensed  
38 veterinarian, or in a licensed veterinary hospital, licensed commercial  
39 kennel, a dog pound maintained by another city or town, or other  
40 suitable facility approved by the commissioner. Any city or town may  
41 provide for the use of such building or facility to shelter other  
42 domestic animals that are found injured, mistreated or roaming in a  
43 manner that endangers the domestic animal or the public. The  
44 commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
45 provisions of chapter 54, concerning the construction and maintenance  
46 of dog pounds or other facilities where impounded dogs or other  
47 domestic animals are kept, and the care, handling and transportation

48 of dogs or other domestic animals by municipal animal control  
 49 officers. The commissioner may inspect any dog pound or other  
 50 facility where impounded dogs or other domestic animals are kept and  
 51 may issue such orders as the commissioner deems necessary to correct  
 52 any improper conditions found to exist. A report of any such  
 53 inspection and the findings from such inspection shall be provided to  
 54 the applicable municipal animal control officer not later than five days  
 55 after such inspection. Such animal control officer shall provide a copy  
 56 of the inspection report and any such findings to the chief elected  
 57 official of such city or town and the applicable police department or  
 58 supervisor of such municipal animal control officer not later than  
 59 thirty days after receipt of such report and findings. If such orders are  
 60 not complied with, the commissioner may request the Attorney  
 61 General to bring an action for their enforcement, including suit for an  
 62 injunction in the judicial district in which the dog pound or facility is  
 63 located.

64       Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Any revision to regulations concerning  
 65 the construction and maintenance of dog pounds adopted by the  
 66 Department of Agriculture pursuant to section 22-336 of the general  
 67 statutes, as amended by this act, that was initiated as of the effective  
 68 date of this section, shall be submitted to the legislative regulation  
 69 review committee not later than September 1, 2023.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-336
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**ENV**       *Joint Favorable Subst.*