

A RESOLUTION

22-211

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 11, 2017

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to establish a standard of care for animals, provide additional authority for the Animal Care and Control Agency to issue citations, and to increase fines for failing to provide animals with humane treatment.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Standard of Care for Animals Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2017”.

Sec. 2. (a) This past February, the Council passed and the Mayor signed the Extreme Weather Protection for Animals Emergency Amendment Act of 2017, effective February 21, 2017 (D.C. Act 22-8; 64 DCR 2345), to protect dogs left outside during extreme winter conditions.

(b) The law was needed in response to situations like that of Momma, a pitbull that was left outside during a Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency extreme cold weather advisory.

(c) Similar permanent legislation, the Standard of Care for Animals Amendment Act of 2017, passed on 1st reading on July 11, 2017 (Engrossed version of Bill 22-64), is pending before the Council.

(d) However, the permanent legislation will not become law before the end of summer, and extreme heat poses as great a danger to animals as extreme cold temperatures.

(e) Already, there have been 2 dogs rescued from hot cars and a third dog has died from heat exposure from being left outside.

(f) The emergency bill creates a standard of care for animals, including requirements of adequate care, feed, space, shelter, and water.

(g) The bill outlines what constitutes an adequate shelter for dogs that primarily reside outdoors.

(h) The bill specifically prohibits leaving an animal in a parked vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal’s health, safety, or welfare.

(i) The bill also requires that when the temperature reaches above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, animals should not be left outdoors, unattended for more than 15 minutes unless the age, condition, size, and type of animal allows the animal to withstand the extreme weather.

(j) The bill provides the Animal Care and Control Agency with the authority to issue citations ranging from warnings to fines not to exceed \$500 or \$1000 in cases of intentional or grossly negligent harm to an animal.

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(k) Lastly, the bill will ensure there will be safeguards in place for the duration of summer and until a permanent version becomes law.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Standard of Care for Animals Emergency Amendment Act of 2017 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.