

A RESOLUTION

22-241

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2017

To declare the existence of an emergency, due to congressional review, 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 Congressional Review 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) That emergency act was needed because of situations like that of Momma, a Pitbull that was left outside during a Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency extreme cold weather advisory.

(c) Permanent legislation creating similar protections, 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) The permanent legislation will not become law before the weather cools down for the rest of the year, and extreme heat poses as great a danger to animals as extreme cold temperatures.

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

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

(g) The CRE outlines what constitutes an adequate shelter for dogs confined outdoors.

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

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(i) The CRE also requires that when the temperature reaches above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, animals shall not be left outdoors and 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 CRE 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.

(k) Bill 22-64, the Standard of Care for Animals Amendment Act of 2017 will be approved on final reading by the Council on October 3, 2017. Bill 22-64 will be pending congressional review at the time Bill 22-392, the Standard of Care for Animals Emergency Amendment Act of 2017, effective July 31, 2017 (D.C. Act 22-137; 64 DCR 7787), expires on October 29, 2017. Therefore, the congressional review emergency bill is required.

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 Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2017 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.