
SENATE BILL 6716

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Wood and Drew

Read first time 01/26/96. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to the domestic animal fit for purchase
2 certificate; adding a new section to chapter 16.52 RCW; and prescribing
3 penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 16.52 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Every dog or cat sold by a seller shall have a domestic animal
8 fit for purchase certificate. The domestic animal certificate may be
9 issued only if the animal is:

10 (a) Free of any disease communicable, excluding external parasites,
11 to another animal or human;

12 (b) Free of any congenital or hereditary condition that seriously
13 affects the health of the animal at the time of the sale or is likely
14 to in the future; and

15 (c) Inoculated against the diseases that are consistent with
16 practice for the age of the animal at time of purchase.

17 The certificate may not be waived. The certificate must be signed
18 by the seller of the animal and a veterinarian, licensed under chapter
19 18.92 RCW, who is not a regular employee of the seller and has no

1 relationship with the seller beyond the examinations necessary for
2 preparation of the certificate.

3 For purposes of this section, a "seller" means one who is in
4 business for purposes of chapter 82.04 RCW. Nonprofit organizations
5 such as a humane society or city and county pounds and animal control
6 are excluded.

7 (2) The seller shall provide at time of sale to the purchaser:

8 (a) Name, address, and telephone number of the breeder;

9 (b) Date of the animal's birth;

10 (c) Records of inoculations, medical treatment, and medication for
11 each animal;

12 (d) Breed, sex, and color of the animal; and

13 (e) If the seller acquired the animal from a federally licensed
14 seller or broker, then the name, address, telephone number, and license
15 number of the seller or broker.

16 Copies of the information under this subsection must be available
17 for at least one year after sale, for inspection by anyone who
18 purchased the animal and for law enforcement personnel.

19 Prior to placing the animal in an area with other animals, the
20 animal shall be free from communicable diseases other than external
21 parasites. A diseased animal or one with a broken bone must be
22 quarantined. Whenever necessary, licensed veterinarian care must not
23 be delayed. In areas where animals are located, an automatic fire
24 suppression system is required.

25 (3) If the animal dies within one year from the date of purchase,
26 from a cause other than injury; and the purchaser takes the animal to
27 a licensed veterinarian who reports a finding that it is likely the
28 animal had at time of sale a disease or condition that caused the
29 death:

30 (a) The purchaser shall receive full purchase price and
31 reimbursement of veterinarian costs and treatment not to exceed the
32 purchase price; or

33 (b) A replacement animal up to twice the original purchase price
34 and reimbursement of veterinarian costs and treatment not to exceed the
35 purchase price.

36 (4) If the animal gets sick within one year from the date of
37 purchase, and the purchaser takes the animal to a licensed veterinarian
38 who reports a finding that it is likely the animal had at time of sale
39 a disease or condition that caused the sickness:

1 (a) The purchaser may return the animal and receive full purchase
2 price and reimbursement of veterinarian costs and treatment not to
3 exceed the purchase price;

4 (b) The purchaser may return the animal and receive a replacement
5 animal up to twice the original purchase price and reimbursement of
6 veterinarian costs and treatment not to exceed the purchase price; or

7 (c) The purchaser may retain the animal and be fully reimbursed for
8 veterinarian costs and treatment.

9 All remedies in this section are at the purchaser's election. Any
10 city or county attorney, the department of agriculture, or the
11 purchaser may enforce the provisions of this section.

12 The regulation of sellers of dogs and cats is a matter affecting
13 the public interest for the purpose of applying chapter 19.86 RCW.
14 Activities of sellers prohibited under this section are not reasonable
15 in relation to the development and preservation of business. A
16 violation of this section constitutes an unfair or deceptive act or
17 practice in trade or commerce for the purpose of applying chapter 19.86
18 RCW.

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