
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1424

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Consumer Protection & Business (originally sponsored by Representatives Berg, Walen, Simmons, Kloba, Street, Taylor, Alvarado, Bateman, Stonier, Paul, Fosse, Macri, Reed, Berry, Senn, Duerr, Riccelli, Doglio, Callan, Peterson, Fitzgibbon, Stearns, Ortiz-Self, Goodman, Thai, Springer, Gregerson, Ramel, Bergquist, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/16/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to consumer protection with respect to the sale
2 and adoption of dogs and cats; amending RCW 16.52.360, 16.52.015, and
3 16.52.310; adding a new section to chapter 63.10 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 63.14 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 31.04
5 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 16.52.360 and 2021 c 76 s 1 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) Except as provided in this section, a retail pet store may
10 not sell or offer for sale any dog or cat.

11 (2) A retail pet store that sold or offered for sale any dog
12 prior to July 25, 2021, may sell or offer for sale a dog only if the
13 retail pet store meets the following requirements:

14 (a) Any dog sold or offered for sale must be sold or offered for
15 sale only at the address identified on the retail pet store's
16 business license, as defined in RCW 19.02.020;

17 (b) Any dog sold or offered for sale must be obtained either
18 directly from a United States department of agriculture licensed
19 breeder or licensed broker pursuant to the federal animal welfare
20 act, Title 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2131 et seq. as amended. A licensed broker
21 shall provide all breeder documentation required by a breeder under

1 this section as well as any applicable federal and state license
2 numbers for the breeder or the broker;

3 (c) Any dog sold or offered for sale must possess documentation
4 obtained from its breeder, either directly or through a United States
5 department of agriculture licensed broker, demonstrating:

6 (i) The dog was not separated from its mother prior to the age of
7 eight weeks; and

8 (ii) The breeder's compliance with RCW 16.52.310 on the date the
9 dog was obtained from the breeder;

10 (d) A retail pet store shall, prior to obtaining a dog from a
11 breeder or a broker, obtain all inspection reports for the breeder
12 created by the United States department of agriculture within the
13 previous three years. A retail pet store shall maintain and, upon
14 request, produce the records for a period of five years following the
15 sale of a dog obtained from a breeder or broker;

16 (e) Any advertisement, including website postings, offering to
17 sell a dog must include:

18 (i) A range of prices at which a dog, breed of dog, or dogs
19 having other distinguishing traits are offered for sale;

20 (ii) The age of the dog; and

21 (iii) Supporting documentation providing the applicable federal
22 or state license numbers for the breeder of the dog;

23 (f) The retail pet store shall post in a location visible from
24 the entrance of the retail pet store on a kiosk or other form of
25 bulletin board the purchase price, age of the dog, and the following
26 information on the dog's breeder:

27 (i) Full name;

28 (ii) Kennel name, if applicable;

29 (iii) City and state; and

30 (iv) Any applicable state or federal license numbers; and

31 (g) The retail pet store shall disclose to a prospective consumer
32 in writing, prior to the sale of a dog, the following information
33 about the dog:

34 (i) The purchase price of the dog; and

35 (ii) Any applicable federal or state license numbers and an
36 unredacted list of all violations of any federal or state law the dog
37 breeder received in the previous two years on a federal or state
38 inspection report.

39 (3) A retail pet store may provide space and appropriate care for
40 animals, including dogs, owned by an animal care and control agency

1 or animal rescue group for the purpose of adopting those animals to
2 the public. Each retail pet store shall display on each cage or pen
3 containing a dog or cat a label stating the certificate of source,
4 including the name and address of the animal care and control agency
5 or animal rescue group.

6 (4) A retail pet store that violates this section is subject to a
7 monetary penalty of \$250. Any retail pet store that violates
8 subsection (2) of this section three or more times over a one-year
9 period is prohibited from selling or offering to sell any dog.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 16.52.015 and 2011 c 172 s 2 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) Law enforcement agencies and animal care and control agencies
13 may enforce the provisions of this chapter. Animal care and control
14 agencies may enforce the provisions of this chapter in a county or
15 city only if the county or city legislative authority has entered
16 into a contract with the agency to enforce the provisions of this
17 chapter.

18 (2) Animal control officers enforcing this chapter shall comply
19 with the same constitutional and statutory restrictions concerning
20 the execution of police powers imposed on law enforcement officers
21 who enforce this chapter and other criminal laws of the state of
22 Washington.

23 (3) Animal control officers have the following enforcement powers
24 when enforcing this chapter:

25 (a) The power to issue citations based on probable cause to
26 offenders for monetary penalties, civil infractions, and misdemeanor
27 and gross misdemeanor violations of this chapter or RCW 9.08.070
28 through 9.08.078 or 81.48.070;

29 (b) The power to cause a law enforcement officer to arrest and
30 take into custody any person the animal control officer has probable
31 cause to believe has committed or is committing a violation of this
32 chapter or RCW 9.08.070 or 81.48.070. Animal control officers may
33 make an oral complaint to a prosecuting attorney or a law enforcement
34 officer to initiate arrest. The animal control officer causing the
35 arrest shall file with the arresting agency a written complaint
36 within (~~twenty-four~~) 24 hours of the arrest, excluding Sundays and
37 legal holidays, stating the alleged act or acts constituting a
38 violation;

1 (c) The power to carry nonfirearm protective devices for personal
2 protection;

3 (d) The power to prepare affidavits in support of search warrants
4 and to execute search warrants when accompanied by law enforcement
5 officers to investigate violations of this chapter or RCW 9.08.070 or
6 81.48.070, and to seize evidence of those violations.

7 (4) Upon request of an animal control officer who has probable
8 cause to believe that a person has violated this chapter or RCW
9 9.08.070 or 81.48.070, a law enforcement agency officer may arrest
10 the alleged offender.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 16.52.310 and 2009 c 286 s 2 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

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

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

20 (a) Provide space to allow each dog to turn about freely, to
21 stand, sit, and lie down. The dog must be able to lie down while
22 fully extended without the dog's head, tail, legs, face, or feet
23 touching any side of an enclosure and without touching any other dog
24 in the enclosure when all dogs are lying down simultaneously. The
25 interior height of the enclosure must be at least six inches higher
26 than the head of the tallest dog in the enclosure when it is in a
27 normal standing position. Each enclosure must be at least three times
28 the length and width of the longest dog in the enclosure, from tip of
29 nose to base of tail and shoulder blade to shoulder blade.

30 (b) Provide each dog that is over the age of four months with a
31 minimum of one exercise period during each day for a total of not
32 less than one hour of exercise during such day. Such exercise must
33 include either leash walking or giving the dog access to an enclosure
34 at least four times the size of the minimum allowable enclosure
35 specified in (a) of this subsection allowing the dog free mobility
36 for the entire exercise period, but may not include use of a cat
37 mill, jenny mill, slat mill, or similar device, unless prescribed by
38 a doctor of veterinary medicine. The exercise requirements in this

1 subsection do not apply to a dog certified by a doctor of veterinary
2 medicine as being medically precluded from exercise.

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

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

12 (ii) Housing facilities must enable all dogs to remain dry and
13 clean;

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

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

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

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

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

28 (viii) All dogs in the same enclosure at the same time must be
29 compatible, as determined by observation. Animals with a vicious or
30 aggressive disposition must never be placed in an enclosure with
31 another animal, except for breeding purposes. Breeding females in
32 heat may not be in the same enclosure at the same time with sexually
33 mature males, except for breeding purposes. Breeding females and
34 their litters may not be in the same enclosure at the same time with
35 other adult dogs. Puppies under twelve weeks may not be in the same
36 enclosure at the same time with other adult dogs, other than the dam
37 or foster dam unless under immediate supervision.

38 (d) Provide dogs with easy and convenient access to adequate
39 amounts of clean food and water. Food and water receptacles must be
40 regularly cleaned and sanitized. All enclosures must contain potable

1 water that is not frozen, is substantially free from debris, and is
2 readily accessible to all dogs in the enclosure at all times.

3 (e) Provide veterinary care without delay when necessary. A dog
4 may not be bred if a veterinarian determines that the animal is unfit
5 for breeding purposes. Only dogs between the ages of twelve months
6 and eight years of age may be used for breeding. Animals requiring
7 euthanasia must be euthanized only by a licensed veterinarian.

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

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

11 (a) A publicly operated animal control facility or animal
12 shelter;

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

15 (c) A veterinary facility;

16 (d) A retail pet store;

17 (e) A research institution;

18 (f) A boarding facility; or

19 (g) A grooming facility.

20 (5) ~~((Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to a
21 commercial dog breeder licensed, before January 1, 2010, by the
22 United States department of agriculture pursuant to the federal
23 animal welfare act (Title 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2131 et seq.).~~

24 ~~(6))~~ For the purposes of this section, the following definitions
25 apply, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

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

27 (b) "Retail pet store" means a commercial establishment that
28 engages in a for-profit business of selling at retail cats, dogs, or
29 other animals to be kept as household pets and is regulated by the
30 United States department of agriculture.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 63.10
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 A lessor shall not finance a consumer lease for the purchase of a
34 dog or cat. A lease contract entered into on or after the effective
35 date of this section for the purchase of a dog or cat is void and
36 unenforceable and the lessor shall have no right to collect, receive,
37 or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the lease
38 contract.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 63.14
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 A retail installment transaction entered into on or after the
4 effective date of this section for the purchase of a dog or cat is
5 void and unenforceable and the retail seller shall have no right to
6 collect, receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges
7 related to the retail installment transaction.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 31.04
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 A licensee shall not finance or make a loan for the purchase of a
11 dog or cat. A loan entered into on or after the effective date of
12 this section for the purchase of a dog or cat is void and
13 unenforceable and the licensee shall have no right to collect,
14 receive, or retain any principal, interest, or charges related to the
15 loan.

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