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| 1  | H.50  |
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| 2  | Introduced by Representative Bartholomew of Hartland                            |
| 3  | Referred to Committee on  |
| 4  | Date:   |
| 5  | Subject: Public safety; welfare of animals; sale of dogs and cats               |
| 6  | Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend         |
| 7  | requirements for the welfare of animals and the sale of dogs and cats.          |
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| 8  | An act relating to the sale, transfer, or importation of pets                   |
| 9  | It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:           |
| 10 | Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 3541 is amended to read:                                    |
| 11 | § 3541. DEFINITIONS   |
| 12 | As used in this chapter:  |
| 13 | * * *   |
| 14 | (10) "Pet dealer" means any person who sells, exchanges, or donates or          |
| 15 | who offers to sell, exchange, or donate three or more litters of cats, dogs, or |
| 16 | wolf-hybrids in a twelve-month period to consumers for monetary                 |
| 17 | consideration.  |

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| Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 3550 is amended to rea |
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- § 3550. PENALTIES; ENFORCEMENT; MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE
- 3 BODY; COMMISSIONER SECRETARY
  - (a) A municipal legislative body or an officer designated by the commissioner Secretary may shall impose a civil penalty of up to \$500.00 per violation in accordance with the provisions of this section.

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- 8 Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 3681 is amended to read:
- 9 § 3681. <u>KENNEL</u> PERMIT

The owner or keeper of two or more domestic pets or wolf-hybrids four months of age or older kept for sale or for breeding purposes, except for his or her own use, A pet dealer shall apply to the municipal clerk of the town or city in which the domestic pets cats, dogs, or wolf-hybrids are kept for a kennel permit to be issued on forms prescribed by the commissioner Secretary and pay the clerk a fee of \$10.00 for the same. The provisions of subchapters 1, 2, and 4 of this chapter not inconsistent with this subchapter, shall apply to the permit which shall be in addition to other permits required. A kennel permit shall expire on March 31 next after issuance, and shall be displayed prominently on the premises on which the domestic pets cats, dogs, or wolf-hybrids are kept. If the permit fee is not paid by April 1, the owner or keeper may thereafter procure a permit for that license year by paying a fee of

| 1  | 50 percent in excess of that otherwise required. Municipal clerks shall               |
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| 2  | maintain a record of the type of animals being kept by the permit holder. <u>Upon</u> |
| 3  | issuance of the kennel permit, the municipal clerk shall provide the pet dealer       |
| 4  | with a copy of the Animal Welfare Regulations relating to cats, dogs, and             |
| 5  | wolf-hybrids adopted by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.                  |
| 6  | Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 3682 is amended to read:  |
| 7  | § 3682. INSPECTION OF PREMISES  |
| 8  | These The kennel premises may be inspected at any reasonable time                     |
| 9  | between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., including upon the issuance of the kennel            |
| 10 | permit or after the receipt of a complaint, by a law enforcement officer, a           |
| 11 | representative of the agency of agriculture, food and markets Agency of               |
| 12 | Agriculture, Food and Markets, a municipal animal control officer, or an              |
| 13 | officer or agent of an incorporated a humane society incorporated in Vermont          |
| 14 | and accompanied by a veterinarian licensed to practice in Vermont, designated         |
| 15 | by such officer, agent or agency. Inspections shall be conducted to ensure            |
| 16 | compliance with the Animal Welfare Regulations relating to cats, dogs, and            |
| 17 | wolf-hybrids adopted by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.                  |

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| 1  | Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. chapter 194 is amended to read:                               |
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| 2  | CHAPTER 194. WELFARE OF ANIMALS; SALE OF ANIMALS                                |
| 3  | Subchapter 1. General provisions  |
| 4  | § 3901. DEFINITIONS   |
| 5  | As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:         |
| 6  | (1) "Adequate feed" means the provision at suitable intervals, not              |
| 7  | exceeding 24 hours, of a quantity of wholesome foodstuff suitable for the       |
| 8  | species and age, sufficient to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition in each |
| 9  | animal. All foodstuff shall be served in a clean and sanitary manner.           |
| 10 | (2) "Adequate water" means a constant access to a supply of clean,              |
| 11 | fresh, potable water provided in a sanitary manner or provided at suitable      |
| 12 | intervals for the species and not to exceed 24 hours at any interval.           |
| 13 | (3) "Ambient temperature" means the temperature surrounding the                 |
| 14 | animal.   |
| 15 | (4) "Animal" means any dog or cat, rabbit, rodent, bird, or other               |
| 16 | warm blooded vertebrate but shall not include horses, cattle, sheep, goats,     |
| 17 | swine, and domestic fowl.   |
| 18 | (5) "Animal shelter" means a facility which is used to house or contain         |
| 19 | animals and is owned, operated, or maintained by a duly incorporated humane     |

society, animal welfare society, society for the prevention of cruelty to

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| 1                               | animals, or other nonprofit organization devoted to the welfare, protection, and   |
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| 2                               | humane treatment of animals.   |
| 3                               | (6) "Secretary" means the secretary of agriculture, food and markets   |
| 4                               | Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.  |
| 5                               | (7) "Dealer" "Pet dealer" means any person who sells, exchanges, or  |
| 6                               | donates, or who offers to sell, exchange, or donate animals, but shall not   |
| 7                               | include a person who makes disposition only of offspring from animals  |
| 8                               | maintained by him only as household pets three or more litters of cats, dogs, or   |
| 9                               | wolf-hybrids in a twelve-month period to consumers for monetary  |
|                                 |  |
| 10                              | consideration.   |
| <ul><li>10</li><li>11</li></ul> | <ul><li>consideration.</li><li>(8) "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method</li></ul>   |
|                                 |  |
| 11                              | (8) "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method  |
| 11<br>12                        | (8) "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method producing instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death, or by   |
| 11<br>12<br>13                  | (8) "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method producing instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death, or by anesthesia produced by an agent which causes painless loss of consciousness   |
| 11<br>12<br>13<br>14            | (8) "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method producing instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death, or by anesthesia produced by an agent which causes painless loss of consciousness and death during the loss of consciousness. "Euthanasia" means the humane   |
| 11<br>12<br>13<br>14<br>15      | (8) "Euthanize" means to humanely destroy an animal by a method producing instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death, or by anesthesia produced by an agent which causes painless loss of consciousness and death during the loss of consciousness. "Euthanasia" means the humane destruction of animals in accordance with this subdivision. |

company, corporation, association, trust, estate, or other legal entity.

| 1  | (11) "Pet shop" means a place of retail or wholesale business, including         |
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| 2  | a flea market, that is not part of a private dwelling where animals are bought,  |
| 3  | sold, exchanged, or offered for sale or exchange to the general public.          |
| 4  | (12) "Primary enclosure" means any structure used to immediately                 |
| 5  | restrict an animal or animals, excluding household pets, to a limited amount of  |
| 6  | space, such as a room, pen, cage, compartment, or hutch.                         |
| 7  | (13) "Public auction" means any place or establishment where dogs or             |
| 8  | cats are sold at auction to the highest bidder whether individually, as a group, |
| 9  | or by weight.  |
| 10 | (14) "Fair" means any public or privately operated facility where                |
| 11 | animals are confined for the purpose of display and/or sale or for viewing.      |
| 12 | (15) "Pet merchant" means any person who operates a pet shop or who              |
| 13 | acts as a dealer "Consumer" means an individual who purchases an animal          |
| 14 | from any person licensed or registered under this chapter. A licensee or         |
| 15 | registrant under this chapter is not a consumer.                                 |
| 16 | (16) "Rescue organization" means any organization that accepts more              |
| 17 | than five animals in a calendar year for the purpose of finding adoptive homes   |
| 18 | for the animals <del>, and that:</del>   |

(A) holds a license as a pet shop;

| 1  | (B) is recognized and approved as a nonprofit organization under                    |
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| 2  | Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, but is not registered as an         |
| 3  | animal shelter; or  |
| 4  | (C) is registered as an animal shelter with the agency of agriculture,              |
| 5  | food and markets under section 3903 of this title.                                  |
| 6  | <u>§ 3901a. SCOPE</u>   |
| 7  | This chapter shall not apply to horses, livestock, including cattle, sheep,         |
| 8  | goats, and swine, and domestic fowl.  |
| 9  | Subchapter 2. Animal Welfare  |
| 10 | § 3902. REGISTRATION OF FAIRS   |
| 11 | No person may operate a fair as defined under section 3901 of this title            |
| 12 | unless a certificate of registration for the fair has been granted by the secretary |
| 13 | Secretary. Application for the certificate shall be made in a manner provided       |
| 14 | by the secretary Secretary. No fee shall be required for the certificate.           |
| 15 | Certificates of registration shall be valid for a period of one year or until       |
| 16 | revoked, and may be removed for like periods upon application in the manner         |
| 17 | provided.   |
| 18 | § 3903. REGISTRATION OF ANIMAL SHELTERS AND RESCUE                                  |
| 19 | ORGANIZATIONS   |
| 20 | (a) No person may operate an animal shelter or rescue organization unless a         |
| 21 | certificate of registration for the animal shelter or rescue organization has been  |

| granted by the secretary Secretary. Application for the certificate shall be    |
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| made in the manner provided by the secretary Secretary. No fee shall be         |
| required for the certificate. Certificates of registration shall be valid for a |
| period of one year or until revoked, and may be renewed for like periods upon   |
| application in the manner provided.   |

(b) An animal shelter or rescue organization registered under this chapter shall not accept an animal unless the person transferring the animal to the shelter provides the following information: the name and address of the person transferring the animal and, if known, the name of the animal, its vaccination history, and other information concerning the background, temperament, and health of the animal.

#### § 3905. PUBLIC AUCTIONS

No person may operate a public auction as defined in this chapter after the expiration of six months following the effective date of this chapter unless a license to operate the auction has been granted by the secretary Secretary. The license period shall be April 1 to March 31 and the license fee shall be \$10.00 for each license period or part thereof.

#### § 3906. LICENSING OF PET MERCHANTS PET SHOPS

(a) No person may transact business as a pet merchant pet shop, as defined in this chapter, unless a license for that purpose has been granted by the secretary Secretary to that person. Application for the license shall be made in

| the manner provided by the secretary Secretary. The license period shall be |
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| April 1 to March 31 and the license fee shall be \$150.00 for each license  |
| period or part thereof.   |

(b) [Repealed.]

# § 3907. DENIAL OR REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION OR LICENSE

Issuance of a certificate of registration may be denied to any animal shelter, rescue organization, or fair, or a license <u>may be</u> denied to any public auction, or pet merchants, or pet shop or any certificate or license previously granted under this chapter, may be revoked by the <u>secretary Secretary</u> if, after public hearing, it is determined that the housing facilities or primary enclosures are inadequate for the purposes of this chapter, or if the feeding, watering, sanitizing, and housing practices of the animal shelter, rescue organization, fair, public auction, <u>pet merchant or pet shop</u>, as the case may be, are not consistent with this chapter or with rules adopted under this chapter.

### § 3908. ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS

The secretary Secretary may as he or she deems necessary adopt, amend, revise, and repeal rules consistent with this chapter for the purpose of carrying out its purposes. The rules may include, but need not be limited to, provisions relating to humane transportation to and from registered or licensed premises, records of purchase and sale, identification of animals, primary enclosures, housing facilities, sanitation, euthanasia, ambient temperatures, feeding,

| watering, and adequate veterinary medical care, with respect to animals kept or    |
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| cared for at premises licensed or registered under this chapter. The secretary     |
| Secretary may at his or her discretion, adopt in whole or in part those portions   |
| of the rules of the secretary of agriculture Secretary of Agriculture under        |
| Public Law 89-544, commonly known as the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act,            |
| which are consistent with the purposes of this chapter.                            |
| § 3909. SALE OF ANIMALS BY HUMANE SOCIETY  |
| The board of directors of an incorporated humane society shall determine           |
| the method of disposition of animals released by it. Any proceeds derived          |
| from the sale of animals by the society shall be paid to the clerk or treasurer of |
| the humane society, and no part of the proceeds shall accrue to any individual.    |
| Proceeds from the sale of animals by any person authorized by a municipality       |
| to dispose of such animals shall revert to the treasury of the municipality.       |
| § 3910. EXCEPTIONS   |
| This chapter shall not apply to any place or establishment operated as an          |
| animal hospital under the supervision of a duly licensed veterinarian in           |
| connection with the treatment, alleviation, or prevention of diseases.             |
| § 3911. PENALTIES  |
| (a) Any person licensed or registered under this chapter, who fails to             |
| provide animals under the person's care or custody with adequate food or           |
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adequate water, as defined in section 3901 of this title, or who fails to house

| animals in the person's care or custody in a manner which is adequate for their |
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| welfare, shall be fined not more than \$500.00.                                 |

- (b) Any person who operates a fair or public auction, or who transacts business as a pet merchant shop, animal shelter, or rescue organization without being duly licensed or without possessing a proper certificate of registration, as the case may be, as required under this chapter, or who violates any provision of this chapter or of any rule lawfully adopted under its authority for which no other penalty is provided, shall be fined not more than \$300.00 or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.
- (c) The secretary Secretary may assess administrative penalties under 16 V.S.A. §§ 15-17, not to exceed \$1,000.00, for violations of this chapter.

# § 3912. COMMITMENT OF ANIMALS TO AGENCY OF

## AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

The secretary Secretary or any officer of the agency Agency designated by the secretary, Secretary may file with the court in which a person was convicted of violating the preceding section, a petition for custody of animals in the possession of the person convicted. If the court, on due notice to that person and to any other person owning or having any interest in the animals, finds that the welfare of any of the animals so requires, the court shall order the animals committed to the agency of agriculture, food and markets Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Animals committed to the agency of

| 1  | agriculture, food and markets Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets may       |
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| 2  | be sold or euthanized, or kept in the custody of the agency Agency, as the      |
| 3  | secretary Secretary determines.   |
| 4  | § 3913. EUTHANASIA CERTIFICATION  |
| 5  | (a) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets Secretary of Agriculture,    |
| 6  | Food and Markets shall establish rules for a euthanasia training program and    |
| 7  | certification process for persons completing the program.                       |
| 8  | (b) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets Secretary of Agriculture,    |
| 9  | Food and Markets shall establish rules for the possession and use of euthanasia |
| 10 | solutions by registered animal shelters that utilize certified euthanasia       |
| 11 | technicians. The rules shall identify euthanasia solutions which may be used,   |
| 12 | techniques for the proper handling and storage of solutions and requirements    |
| 13 | for recordkeeping, and address any other matter deemed necessary by the         |
| 14 | secretary Secretary.  |
| 15 | (c) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets Secretary of Agriculture,    |
| 16 | Food and Markets may revoke or suspend certification upon violation of the      |
| 17 | rules adopted under this section.   |
| 18 | (d) The rules shall comply with all applicable federal drug enforcement         |
| 19 | standards.  |
| 20 | (e) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets Secretary of Agriculture,    |
| 21 | Food and Markets has no responsibility to enforce any other statute relating to |

| 1  | the abuse of narcotics or other regulated substance unless specifically                |
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| 2  | authorized by such statute.  |
| 3  | § 3914. SPECIAL FUNDS  |
| 4  | Fees collected under this <del>chapter</del> subchapter shall be credited to a special |
| 5  | fund and shall be available to the agency of agriculture, food and markets             |
| 6  | Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to offset the cost of providing the            |
| 7  | services.  |
| 8  | § 3915. HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR TRANSPORT INTO STATE                                    |
| 9  | (a) A dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid imported into the state for sale, resale,       |
| 10 | exchange, or donation shall be accompanied by an official health certificate or        |
| 11 | similar certificate of inspection for the dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid issued by   |
| 12 | a veterinarian licensed in the state or country of origin. The certificate shall       |
| 13 | certify that:  |
| 14 | (1) the dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid has been inspected and is free of             |
| 15 | visible signs of infections or contagious or communicable disease; and                 |
| 16 | (2) if the dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid is more than three months of               |
| 17 | age, the dog, cat, ferret, or wolf-hybrid has a current rabies vaccination or is a     |
| 18 | specific breed for which a rabies vaccination is not age-appropriate.                  |
| 19 | (b) The agency of agriculture, food and markets Agency of Agriculture,                 |
| 20 | Food and Markets may adopt rules regarding the issuance and contents of any            |
| 21 | certificate required under subsection (a) of this section.                             |

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| 1  | Subchapter 3. Sale of Dogs and Cats   |
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| 2  | § 3921. SALE OF A DOG OR CAT; RESTITUTION   |
| 3  | (a) If, within seven days following the sale of a dog or cat by a pet dealer or   |
| 4  | pet shop, a licensed veterinarian of the consumer's choosing certifies the dog    |
| 5  | or cat to be unfit for purchase due to illness or the presence of signs of        |
| 6  | contagious or infectious disease or if within one year the veterinarian certifies |
| 7  | the existence of congenital malformation or hereditary disease, the consumer      |
| 8  | may act under subdivision (1) of this subsection or, if mutually agreed upon,     |
| 9  | under subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection. The consumer shall have the      |
| 10 | right:  |
| 11 | (1) To return the dog or cat to the pet dealer or pet shop and receive a          |
| 12 | full refund of the purchase price, including sales tax and reasonable veterinary  |
| 13 | fees related to certification under this section. A veterinary finding of         |
| 14 | intestinal parasites is not grounds for declaring a dog or cat unfit, nor is an   |
| 15 | injury or illness sustained subsequent to the consumer taking possession of a     |
| 16 | dog or cat; or  |
| 17 | (2) To return the dog or cat to the pet dealer or pet shop and receive an         |
| 18 | exchange dog or cat of the consumer's choice of equivalent value and              |
| 19 | reasonable veterinary costs related to certification under this subsection; or    |
| 20 | (3) To retain the dog or cat and receive reimbursement from the pet               |

dealer or pet shop for reasonable veterinary service for the purpose of curing or

| attempting to cure the dog or cat. In no case shall this service exceed the       |
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| purchase price of the dog or cat. Value of service is reasonable if it compares   |
| to similar service rendered by other veterinarians in the area, but in no case    |
| may it cover costs not directly related to the certification of unfitness.        |
| (b) The Secretary shall prescribe a form for and the content of the               |
| certificate to be used under subsection (a) of this section. The form shall       |
| include an identification of the type of dog or cat, the owner, date and          |
| diagnosis, the treatment recommended, if any, and an estimated cost of the        |
| treatment. The form shall also include notice of the provisions of subsection     |
| (a) of this section.  |
| (c) Every pet dealer or pet shop who sells a dog or cat to a consumer shall       |
| provide the consumer at the time of sale with the written form prescribed by      |
| the Secretary. The notice may be included in a written contract, a certificate of |
| the history of the dog or cat, or another separate document.                      |
| (d) The Secretary shall prescribe by rule other information which shall be        |
| provided in writing by the pet dealer or pet shop to the consumer at the time of  |
| sale. The information shall include a description of the dog or cat, including    |
| breed and date of purchase; the name, address, and telephone number of the        |
| consumer; and the purchase price. Certification of this document occurs when      |
| signed by the pet dealer or pet shop.   |

| 1  | (e) Refund or reimbursement required under subsection (a) of this section           |
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| 2  | shall be made within ten business days following receipt of the signed              |
| 3  | veterinary certification. The certification shall be presented to the pet dealer or |
| 4  | pet shop within three business days by the consumer.                                |
| 5  | § 3922. CHALLENGE BY PET DEALER OR PET SHOP   |
| 6  | A pet dealer or pet shop may contest a demand for reimbursement, refund,            |
| 7  | or exchange under section 3921 of this title by requiring the consumer to           |
| 8  | produce the dog or cat for examination by a licensed veterinarian of the pet        |
| 9  | dealer or pet shop's designation. If the consumer and the pet dealer or pet shop    |
| 10 | are unable to reach an agreement under provisions of this section within ten        |
| 11 | business days of an examination, the consumer may initiate an action in a court     |
| 12 | of competent jurisdiction in the locality where the consumer resides to obtain a    |
| 13 | refund, exchange, or reimbursement. Nothing in this section shall limit the         |
| 14 | rights or remedies which are otherwise available to the consumer under any          |
| 15 | other law.  |
| 16 | § 3923. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES  |
| 17 | The Secretary may assess administrative penalties under 6 V.S.A. §§ 15–17           |
| 18 | not to exceed \$1,000.00 for violations of this subchapter.                         |
| 19 | § 3924. EXEMPTIONS  |
| 20 | Duly incorporated humane societies or animal shelters that make animals             |
| 21 | available for adoption are exempt from the requirements of this subchapter.         |

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| 1  | Sec. 6. 20 V.S.A. chapter 199 is amended to read:                                |
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| 2  | CHAPTER 199. SALE OF DOGS AND CATS   |
| 3  | § 4301. DEFINITIONS  |
| 4  | As used in this chapter:   |
| 5  | (1) "Animal" means a dog or cat.   |
| 6  | (2) "Consumer" means an individual who purchases an animal from any              |
| 7  | licensee or registrant under chapter 194 of this title. A licensee or registrant |
| 8  | under this section is not a consumer.  |
| 9  | (3) "Pet dealer" means any person, firm, partnership or corporation, or a        |
| 10 | representative or agent, who engages in the sale of more than one litter of      |
| 11 | animals per year or two or more animals over six months of age to consumers      |
| 12 | for monetary consideration. Breeders of animals who sell animals to the public   |
| 13 | are included in this definition; except that duly incorporated humane societies  |
| 14 | or animal shelters which make animals available for adoption are exempt.         |
| 15 | § 4302. SALE OF AN ANIMAL; RESTITUTION   |
| 16 | (a) If, within seven days following the sale of an animal, a veterinarian of     |
| 17 | the consumer's choosing certifies the animal to be unfit for purchase due to     |
| 18 | illness or the presence of signs of contagious or infectious disease, or within  |

one year the veterinarian certifies the existence of congenital malformation or

hereditary disease, the consumer may act under subdivision (1) of this

| subsection. The consumer may have:  |
|---|
| (1) the right to return the animal and receive a full refund of the               |
| purchase price, including sales tax, and reasonable veterinary fees related to    |
| certification under this section. A veterinary finding of intestinal parasites is |
| not grounds for declaring an animal unfit, nor is an injury or illness sustained  |
| subsequent to the consumer taking possession of an animal;                        |
| (2) the right to return the animal and receive an exchange animal of the          |
| consumer's choice of equivalent value, and reasonable veterinary costs related    |
| to certification under this subsection;   |
| (3) the right to retain the animal and receive reimbursement from the pet         |
| dealer for reasonable veterinary service for the purpose of curing or attempting  |
| to cure the animal. In no case shall this service exceed the purchase price of    |
|   |

subsection, or if mutually agreed upon, under subdivision (2) or (3) of this

(b) The commissioner shall prescribe a form for and the content of the certificate to be used under subsection (a) of this section. The form shall include, but not be limited to, an identification of the type of animal, the owner, date and diagnosis, the treatment recommended, if any, and an

the animal. Value of service is reasonable if it compares to similar service

rendered by other veterinarians in the area, but in no case may it cover costs

not directly related to the certification of unfitness.

| 1  | estimated cost of the treatment. The form shall also include notice of the       |
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| 2  | provisions of subsection (a) of this section.                                    |
| 3  | (c) Every pet dealer who sells an animal to a consumer shall provide the         |
| 4  | consumer at the time of sale with the written form prescribed by the             |
| 5  | commissioner. The notice may be included in a written contract, an animal        |
| 6  | history certificate or other separate document.                                  |
| 7  | (d) The commissioner shall prescribe by rule other information which shall       |
| 8  | be provided in writing by the pet dealer to the consumer at the time of sale.    |
| 9  | Such information shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the      |
| 10 | animal, including breed and date of purchase, the name, address and telephone    |
| 11 | number of the consumer and the purchase price. Certification of this document    |
| 12 | occurs when signed by the pet dealer.  |
| 13 | (e) Refund or reimbursement required under subsection (a) of this section        |
| 14 | shall be made within ten business days following receipt of the signed           |
| 15 | veterinary certification. The certification shall be presented to the pet dealer |
| 16 | within three business days by the consumer.                                      |
| 17 | § 4303. CHALLENGE BY PET DEALER  |
| 18 | A pet dealer may contest a demand for reimbursement, refund or exchange          |
| 19 | under section 4302 of this title by requiring the consumer to produce the        |
| 20 | animal for examination by a licensed veterinarian of the dealer's designation.   |
| 21 | If the consumer and the dealer are unable to reach an agreement under            |

| 1  | provisions of this section within ten business days of an examination, the      |
|----|---|
| 2  | consumer may initiate an action in a court of competent jurisdiction in the     |
| 3  | locality where the consumer resides to obtain a refund, exchange or             |
| 4  | reimbursement. Nothing in this section shall limit the rights or remedies which |
| 5  | are otherwise available to the consumer under any other law.                    |
| 6  | § 4304. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES  |
| 7  | The commissioner may assess administrative penalties under sections 15-17       |
| 8  | of Title 6, not to exceed \$1,000.00, for violations of this chapter.           |
| 9  | Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE  |
| 10 | This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.                                     |