

1 Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 3581 is amended to read:

2 § 3581. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3 (a) ~~(1)~~ A person who is the owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid more than six
4 months old shall annually on or before April 1 cause it to be registered,
5 numbered, described, and licensed on a form approved by the Secretary for one
6 year from that day in the office of the clerk of the municipality in which the
7 dog or wolf-hybrid is kept. A person who owns a working farm dog and who
8 intends to use that dog on a farm pursuant to the exemptions in section 3549 of
9 this title shall cause the working farm dog to be registered as a working farm
10 dog and shall, in addition to all other fees required by this section, pay \$5.00
11 for a working farm dog license. The owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid shall cause
12 it to wear a collar and attach a license tag issued by the municipal clerk to the
13 collar. Dog or wolf-hybrid owners shall pay for the license \$4.00 for each
14 neutered dog or wolf-hybrid, and \$8.00 for each unneutered dog or wolf-
15 hybrid. If the license fee for any dog or wolf-hybrid is not paid on or before
16 April 1, its owner or keeper may thereafter procure a license for that license
17 year by paying a fee of 50 percent in excess of that otherwise required.

18 ~~(2) A person shall not own more than 35 dogs. When calculating the~~
19 ~~number of dogs permitted under this subsection, a dog shall not be counted if~~
20 ~~the owner can prove that the dog:~~

21 ~~(A) is less than four months old; or~~

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2 Sec. 14. REPORT

3 On or before December 15, 2026, the Director of Animal Welfare shall
4 report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military
5 Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations on the next steps
6 necessary for the creation of a comprehensive animal welfare program in
7 Vermont, including specifically a proposal for the development of an oversight
8 structure for dog and cat breeders and sellers, and people owning large
9 numbers of these animals. The Director shall consult with stakeholders and
10 registrants for purposes of preparing the report required by this section.