

AN ACT

To repeal sections 273.327 and 273.345, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to the care of dogs, with penalty provisions and an emergency clause.

Section A. Sections 273.327 and 273.345, RSMo, are repealed and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 273.327, 273.345, 273.347, and 1, to read as follows:

273.327. No person shall operate an animal shelter, pound or dog pound, boarding kennel, commercial kennel, contract kennel, pet shop, or exhibition facility, other than a limited show or exhibit, or act as a dealer or commercial breeder, unless such person has obtained a license for such operations from the director. An applicant shall obtain a separate license for each separate physical facility subject to sections 273.325 to 273.357 which is operated by the applicant. Any person exempt from the licensing requirements of sections 273.325 to 273.357 may voluntarily apply for a license. Application for such license shall be made in the manner provided by the director. The license shall expire annually unless revoked. As provided by rules to be promulgated by the director, the license fee shall range from one hundred to **two thousand** five hundred dollars per year. **Each licensee subject to sections 273.325 to 273.357 shall pay an additional annual fee of twenty-five dollars to be used by the department of agriculture for the purpose of administering Operation Bark Alert or any successor program.** Pounds or dog pounds shall be exempt from payment of **[such fee] the fees under this section.** License fees shall be levied for each license issued or renewed on or after January 1, 1993.

273.345. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "[Puppy Mill] **Canine Cruelty Prevention Act.**"

2. The purpose of this act is to prohibit the cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs **[in puppy mills] bred in large operations** by requiring large-scale dog breeding operations to provide each dog under their care with basic food and water, adequate shelter from the elements, necessary veterinary care, adequate space to turn around and stretch his or her limbs, and regular exercise.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person having custody or ownership of more than ten female covered dogs for the purpose of breeding those animals and selling any offspring for use as a pet shall provide each covered dog:

- (1) Sufficient food and clean water;
- (2) Necessary veterinary care;
- (3) Sufficient housing, including protection from the elements;
- (4) Sufficient space to turn and stretch freely, lie down, and fully extend his or her limbs;
- (5) Regular exercise; and
- (6) Adequate rest between breeding cycles.

4. [Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person may have custody of more than fifty covered dogs for the purpose of breeding those animals and selling any offspring for use as a pet.

5.] For purposes of this section and notwithstanding the provisions of section 273.325, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Adequate rest between breeding cycles" means, at minimum, ensuring that **female** dogs are not bred to produce more [than two] litters in any [eighteen-month] **given period than what is recommended by a licensed veterinarian as appropriate for the species, age, and health of the dog;**

(2) "Covered dog" means any individual of the species of the domestic dog, *Canis lupus familiaris*, or resultant hybrids, that is over the age of six months and has intact sexual organs;

(3) "Necessary veterinary care" means, at minimum, examination at least once yearly by a licensed veterinarian, prompt treatment of any **serious** illness or injury by a licensed veterinarian, and where needed, humane euthanasia by a licensed veterinarian using lawful techniques deemed acceptable by the American Veterinary Medical Association;

(4) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, limited liability company, corporation, estate, trust, receiver, or syndicate;

(5) "Pet" means any [domesticated animal] **species of the domestic dog, *Canis lupus familiaris*, or resultant hybrids**, normally maintained in or near the household of the owner thereof;

(6) "Regular exercise" means [constant and unfettered access to an outdoor exercise area that is composed of a solid ground-level surface with adequate drainage, provides some protection against sun, wind, rain, and snow, and provides each dog at least twice the square footage of the indoor floor space provided to that dog] **the type and amount of exercise sufficient to comply with an exercise plan that has been approved by a licensed veterinarian, developed in accordance with regulations regarding exercise promulgated by the Missouri department of agriculture, and where such plan affords the dog maximum opportunity for outdoor exercise as weather permits;**

(7) "Retail pet store" means a person or retail establishment open to the public where dogs are bought, sold, exchanged, or offered for retail sale directly to the public to be kept as pets, but that does not engage in any breeding of dogs for the purpose of selling any offspring for use as a pet;

(8) "Sufficient food and clean water" means access to appropriate nutritious food at least [once] **twice** a day sufficient to maintain good health, and continuous access to potable water that is not frozen and is **generally** free of debris, feces, algae, and other contaminants;

(9) "Sufficient housing, including protection from the elements" means [constant and unfettered access to an indoor enclosure that has a solid floor, is not stacked or otherwise placed on top of or below another animal's enclosure, is cleaned of waste at least once a day while the dog is outside the enclosure, and does not fall below forty-five degrees Fahrenheit, or rise above eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit] **the continuous provision of a sanitary facility, the provision of a solid surface on which to lie in a recumbent position, protection from the extremes of weather conditions, proper ventilation, and appropriate space depending on the species of animal as required by regulations of the Missouri department of agriculture. No dog shall remain inside its enclosure while the enclosure is being cleaned. Dogs housed within the same enclosure shall be compatible, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Missouri department of agriculture;**

(10) "Sufficient space to turn and stretch freely, lie down, and fully extend his or her limbs" means having:

(a) Sufficient indoor space **or shelter from the elements** for each dog to turn in a complete circle without any impediment (including a tether);

(b) Enough indoor space **or shelter from the elements** for each dog to lie down and fully extend his or her limbs and stretch freely without touching the side of an enclosure or another dog;

(c) [At least one foot of headroom above the head of the tallest dog in the enclosure; and

(d) At least twelve square feet of indoor floor space per each dog up to twenty-five inches long, at least twenty square feet of indoor floor space per each dog between twenty-five and thirty-five inches long, and at least thirty square feet of indoor floor space per each dog for dogs thirty-five inches and longer (with the length of the dog measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail)] **Appropriate space depending on the species of the animal, as specified in regulations by the Missouri department of agriculture, as revised.**

[6. A person is guilty of the crime of puppy mill cruelty when he or she knowingly violates any provision of this section. The crime of puppy mill cruelty is a class C misdemeanor, unless

the defendant has previously pled guilty to or been found guilty of a violation of this section, in which case each such violation is a class A misdemeanor. Each violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense. If any violation of this section meets the definition of animal abuse in section 578.012, the defendant may be charged and penalized under that section instead.

7.] 5. Any person subject to the provisions of this section shall maintain all veterinary records and sales records for the most recent previous two years. These records shall be made available to the state veterinarian, a state or local animal welfare official, or a law enforcement agent upon request.

6. The provisions of this section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other state and federal laws protecting animal welfare. This section shall not be construed to limit any state law or regulation protecting the welfare of animals, nor shall anything in this section prevent a local governing body from adopting and enforcing its own animal welfare laws and regulations in addition to this section. This section shall not be construed to place any numerical limits on the number of dogs a person may own or control when such dogs are not used for breeding those animals and selling any offspring for use as a pet. This section shall not apply to a dog during examination, testing, operation, recuperation, or other individual treatment for veterinary purposes, during lawful scientific research, during transportation, during cleaning of a [dogs] **dog's** enclosure, during supervised outdoor exercise, or during any emergency that places a [dogs] **dog's** life in imminent danger. [This section shall not apply to any retail pet store, animal shelter as defined in section 273.325, hobby or show breeders who have custody of no more than ten female covered dogs for the purpose of breeding those dogs and selling any offspring for use as a pet, or dog trainer who does not breed and sell any dogs for use as a pet.] Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit hunting or the ability to breed, raise, [or] sell [hunting], **control, train, or possess dogs with the intention to use such dogs for hunting or other sporting purposes.**

7. Any law to the contrary notwithstanding the following space requirements shall apply pursuant to the sections of this act:

(1) For any enclosure existing prior to April 15, 2011 the minimum allowable space shall:

(a) Be two times the space allowable under current regulation of the Missouri Department of Agriculture by January 1, 2012;

(b) Except as prescribed by rule, provide constant and unfettered access to an attached outdoor run; and

(c) Meet all other requirements set forth by rule and regulation of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

(2) For any enclosure newly constructed after April 15, 2011 and for all enclosures as of January 1, 2016 the minimum allowable space shall:

(a) Be three times the space allowable under current regulation of the Missouri Department of Agriculture;

(b) Except as prescribed by rule, provide constant and unfettered access to an attached outdoor run; and

(c) Meet all other requirements set forth by rule and regulation of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

(3) For any enclosure newly constructed after April 15, 2011 and for all enclosures as of January 1, 2016 wire strand flooring shall be prohibited and all enclosures shall meet the flooring standard set forth by rule of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

8. If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid or unconstitutional, that invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications of this section that can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

9. The provisions herewith shall become operative one year after passage of this act.

273.347. 1. Whenever the state veterinarian or a state animal welfare official finds past violations of sections 273.325 to 273.357 have occurred and have not been corrected or addressed, including operating without a valid license under section 273.327, the director may request the attorney general or the county prosecuting attorney or circuit attorney to bring an action in circuit court in the county where the violations have occurred for a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, permanent injunction, or a remedial order enforceable in a circuit court to correct such violations and, in addition, the court may assess a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

2. A person commits the crime of canine cruelty if such person repeatedly violates sections 273.325 to 273.357 so as to pose a substantial risk to the health and welfare of animals in such person's custody, or knowingly violates an agreed-to remedial order involving the safety and welfare of animals under this section. The crime of canine cruelty is a class C misdemeanor, unless the person has previously pled guilty or nolo

contendere to or been found guilty of a violation of this subsection, in which case, each such violation is a class A misdemeanor.

3. The attorney general or the county prosecuting attorney or circuit attorney may bring an action under sections 273.325 to 273.357 in circuit court in the county where the crime has occurred for criminal punishment.

4. No action under this section shall prevent or preclude action taken under section 578.012 or under subsection 3 of section 273.329.

Section 1. Any person required to have a license under sections 273.325 to 273.357 who houses animals in stacked cages without an impervious barrier between the levels of such cages, except when cleaning such cages, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Section B. In order to allow businesses enough time to modify their facilities to comply with changes in the law, section A of this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.