

HB 405 -- Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act

Sponsor: Crawford

This bill changes the laws regarding the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Renames the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act to the Dog Cruelty Prevention Act;
- (2) Removes the provision which prohibits a person from having custody of more than 50 dogs for the purpose of breeding and selling any offspring as pets;
- (3) Revises the term "adequate rest between breeding cycles" to mean, at minimum, ensuring that female dogs are not bred to produce more than two litters in any 12-month period instead of the current 18-month period;
- (4) Changes the term "necessary veterinary care" to allow an examination or a site visit to the facility at least once yearly by a licensed veterinarian;
- (5) Revises the term "pet" from meaning any domesticated animal to only include dogs;
- (6) Changes the term "regular exercise" to mean that which is consistent with the regulations of the Department of Agriculture;
- (7) Revises the term "sufficient food and clean water" to require breeders to provide each animal with a quantity of wholesome food suitable to the species and age to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition at suitable intervals of no more than 12 hours, unless the dietary requirements of the breed require a longer interval. The breeder must also supply water continuously or at intervals suitable to the breed, not to exceed eight hours. The food and water must be served in a safe receptacle, dish, or container;
- (8) Changes the term "sufficient housing, including protection from the elements" to mean the continuous provision of a sanitary facility with protection from extreme weather conditions, proper ventilation, and appropriate space depending on the species of animal as required by department regulations;
- (9) Revises the term "sufficient space to turn and stretch freely, lie down, and fully extend his or her limbs" to be appropriate space depending on the species as specified in department regulations;

(10) Specifies that a breeder who is properly licensed will be given a grace period of between 30 and 180 days in which to correct serious violations of the act before being charged with a crime. The department is required to conduct two follow-up inspections on any properly licensed breeder who is found to have committed a serious violation. The department may revoke the license of a breeder who fails to correct a serious violation after the second inspection; and

(11) Removes the provision which exempts retail pet stores, animal shelters, certain hobby or show breeders, and dog trainers from the provisions of the act.

The bill contains an emergency clause.