

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 907 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY YAW, FONTANA, MUTH, BAKER, BREWSTER AND BROOKS, OCTOBER 18, 2021

SENATOR VOGEL, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, AS AMENDED, APRIL 5, 2022

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Animal Welfare Board; and providing for its
2 powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Animal
7 Welfare Board Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Board." The Animal Welfare Board established in section 3.

13 "Dog Law." The act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),
14 known as the Dog Law.

15 Section 3. Animal Welfare Board.

16 (a) Establishment.--The Animal Welfare Board is established.

17 (b) Membership.--The board shall consist of THE FOLLOWING <--

1 residents of this Commonwealth ~~who are members from each of the~~ <--

2 following:

3 ~~(1) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee.~~

4 ~~(2) The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary~~
5 ~~Medicine.~~

6 ~~(3) The College of Agricultural Sciences of The~~
7 ~~Pennsylvania State University.~~

8 ~~(4) The American Kennel Club.~~

9 ~~(5) The Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania.~~

10 ~~(6) The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of~~
11 ~~Cruelty to Animals.~~

12 ~~(7) Two individuals from the Pennsylvania Federation of~~
13 ~~Dog Clubs, at least one of whom represents a licensed kennel.~~

14 ~~(8) Two individuals from the Pennsylvania Veterinary~~
15 ~~Medical Association.~~

16 ~~(9) The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.~~

17 ~~(10) PennAg Industries Association.~~

18 ~~(11) The Pennsylvania State Grange.~~

19 ~~(12) The Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania.~~

20 ~~(13) The Office of Attorney General.:~~ <--

21 (1) ONE MEMBER FROM:

22 (I) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OR A DESIGNEE.

23 (II) THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF
24 VETERINARY MEDICINE.

25 (III) THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES OF THE
26 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY.

27 (IV) THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB.

28 (V) THE FEDERATED HUMANE SOCIETIES OF PENNSYLVANIA.

29 (VI) THE NORTHEAST BEAGLE GUNDOG FEDERATION.

30 (VII) THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF

1 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

2 (VIII) THE PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU.

3 (IX) PENNAG INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION.

4 (X) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE.

5 (XI) THE INSURANCE FEDERATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

6 (XII) THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.

7 (XIII) THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE.

8 (2) TWO MEMBERS FROM:

9 (I) THE PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF DOG CLUBS, AT
10 LEAST ONE OF WHOM REPRESENTS A LICENSED KENNEL.

11 (II) THE PENNSYLVANIA VETERINARY MEDICAL
12 ASSOCIATION.

13 (c) Chairperson and terms.--Except for members who serve ex
14 officio, members of the board shall serve until a successor is
15 appointed.

16 (d) Meetings.--The board shall meet at least once every
17 legislative session or at intervals that may be necessary to
18 fulfill the duties of the board under this act.

19 Section 4. Powers and duties.

20 (a) Strategic plan.--The board shall develop an initial
21 report within one year of inception.

22 (b) Powers and duties.--The board shall review existing laws
23 and regulations in this Commonwealth related to the keeping and
24 handling of animals, including the following, and make
25 recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes:

26 (1) The Dog Law.

27 (2) Section 9.3 of the act of December 17, 1968

28 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and
29 Consumer Protection Law.

30 (3) 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55 Subch. B (relating to cruelty to

1 animals).

2 (4) 22 Pa.C.S. Ch. 37 (relating to humane society police
3 officers).

4 (5) The Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C.
5 § 2131 et seq.).

6 (6) Any other law or regulation in this Commonwealth
7 that the board determines relevant under this act.

8 (c) Report.--The board shall issue at least one biannual
9 report to the General Assembly relating to board activities
10 under this act and any recommendations for legislation or
11 regulatory updates.

12 Section 5. Effective date.

13 This act shall take effect in 120 days.