

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1083 Session of  
2004

INTRODUCED BY GORDNER, M. WHITE, ERICKSON, COSTA, THOMPSON,  
LEMMOND, FERLO, BOSCOLA, MADIGAN, D. WHITE, CONTI AND PIPPY,  
APRIL 5, 2004

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, APRIL 5, 2004

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),  
2 entitled, as amended, "An act relating to dogs, regulating  
3 the keeping of dogs; providing for the licensing of dogs and  
4 kennels; providing for the protection of dogs and the  
5 detention and destruction of dogs in certain cases;  
6 regulating the sale and transportation of dogs; declaring  
7 dogs to be personal property and the subject of theft;  
8 providing for the abandonment of animals; providing for the  
9 assessment of damages done to animals; providing for payment  
10 of damages by the Commonwealth in certain cases and the  
11 liability of the owner or keeper of dogs for such damages;  
12 imposing powers and duties on certain State and local  
13 officers and employees; providing penalties; and creating a  
14 Dog Law Restricted Account," providing for a voluntary  
15 checkoff on license application for spay and neutering  
16 programs; and creating the County Dog Shelter Restricted  
17 Account.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. Section 201 of the act of December 7, 1982  
21 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, amended December 11,  
22 1996 (P.L.943, No.151), is amended to read:

23 Section 201. Applications for dog licenses; fees; penalties.

24 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (b), on  
25 or before January 1 of each year, unless and until the

1 department promulgates regulations establishing a system of dog  
2 license renewal on an annual basis throughout the calendar year,  
3 the owner of any dog, three months of age or older, except as  
4 hereinafter provided, shall apply to the county treasurer of his  
5 respective county or an agent under section 200(a), on a form  
6 prescribed by the department for a license for such dog. The  
7 application and license certificate shall state the breed, sex,  
8 age, color and markings of such dog, the name, address and  
9 telephone number of the owner and the year of licensure. The  
10 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee  
11 as follows:

12 (1) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed  
13 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor of  
14 veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is  
15 produced, the license fee shall be \$5.

16 (2) For all other male and female dogs, the license fee  
17 shall be \$7.

18 (3) For Pennsylvania residents 65 years of age or older  
19 and persons with disabilities:

20 (i) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed  
21 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor  
22 of veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is  
23 produced, the license fee shall be \$3.

24 (ii) For all other male and female dogs, the license  
25 fee shall be \$5.

26 (4) Compensation, if collected under section 200(b),  
27 shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless of age or  
28 disability.

29 (b) Lifetime license.--The owner of any dog three months of  
30 age or older which has been permanently identified may apply to

1 the county treasurer of his respective county or an agent under  
2 section 200(a), on a form prescribed by the department for a  
3 lifetime license for such a dog. Except as otherwise provided in  
4 this act, a dog which has been issued a lifetime license shall  
5 be required to wear a license tag. The application and license  
6 certificate shall state the breed, sex, age, color and markings  
7 of such dog, the type and number of permanent identification and  
8 the name, address and telephone number of the owner. The  
9 application shall be accompanied by the appropriate license fee  
10 as follows:

11 (1) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed  
12 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor of  
13 veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is  
14 produced, the lifetime license fee shall be \$30.

15 (2) For all other male and female dogs, the license fee  
16 shall be \$50.

17 (3) For Pennsylvania residents 65 years of age or older  
18 and persons with disabilities:

19 (i) For each neutered male dog and for each spayed  
20 female dog for which the certificate of a licensed doctor  
21 of veterinary medicine or the affidavit of the owner is  
22 produced, the license fee shall be \$20.

23 (ii) For all other male and female dogs, the license  
24 fee shall be \$30.

25 (4) Compensation, if collected under section 200(b),  
26 shall also be paid by all applicants, regardless of age or  
27 disability. A dog which has been issued a lifetime license  
28 prior to the effective date of this act shall not be subject  
29 to fees under this subsection.

30 (b.1) County dog shelter contribution.--The department shall

1 place a checkoff box on the application. If an applicant checks  
2 the \$1 box, the \$1 shall be added to the license fees of this  
3 section. The extra \$1 shall be deposited into the County Dog  
4 Shelter Restricted Account as created in section 1003.

5 (c) Penalty.--A person who violates this section commits a  
6 summary offense and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay  
7 a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$300 for each  
8 unlicensed dog.

9 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:  
10 Section 1003. County Dog Shelter Restricted Account.

11 (a) County Dog Shelter Restricted Account created.--Every  
12 county in this Commonwealth shall create a County Dog Shelter  
13 Restricted Account. Any interest accrued on the account shall be  
14 credited to this fund.

15 (b) Appropriation.--The moneys and interest in the County  
16 Dog Shelter Restricted Account shall be appropriated as follows:

17 (1) Semiannually the county treasurer shall pay out in  
18 equal shares the balance of the County Dog Shelter Restricted  
19 Account to humane societies or associations for the  
20 prevention of cruelty to animals, as defined in section 102,  
21 of that county that are registered with the Bureau of Dog Law  
22 Enforcement. The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement shall provide  
23 the county treasurers with the list of registered humane  
24 societies and associations semi-annually.

25 (2) If the county does not have any humane societies or  
26 associations for the prevention of cruelty to animals, as  
27 defined in section 102, then the county treasurer shall pay  
28 out to another county of the treasurer's choice that does  
29 have such societies and associations. The payout shall be the  
30 same as described in paragraph (1).

1           (3) The county shall not place any restrictions or  
2           matching fund requirements for distribution of these funds.

3           (4) The appropriations distributed from this fund shall  
4           be used for funding spay and neutering programs.

5           Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.