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 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA
 

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# SENATE BILL

No. **82** Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, FARNESE, ALLOWAY, MENSCH, TARTAGLIONE,  
TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, WASHINGTON, YUDICHAK, SOLOBAY, SMITH,  
FERLO, WOZNIAK, COSTA, BOSCOLA AND DINNIMAN, JANUARY 9, 2013

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 23, 2013

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## AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387),  
2 entitled "An act prohibiting unfair methods of competition  
3 and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of  
4 any trade or commerce, giving the Attorney General and  
5 District Attorneys certain powers and duties and providing  
6 penalties," further providing for dog purchaser protection.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 9.3(a)(2), (b), (c), (d) and (i) of the  
10 act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair  
11 Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, reenacted and  
12 amended November 24, 1976 (P.L.1166, No.260) and added June 25,  
13 1997 (P.L.287, No.27), are amended and the section is amended by  
14 adding a ~~subsection~~ SUBSECTIONS to read: <--

15 Section 9.3. Dog Purchaser Protection.--(a) \* \* \*

16 (2) (i) [A] Except as provided under subsection (b.2)(3) of  
17 this section, a health certificate issued by a veterinarian  
18 shall certify the dog sold by the seller to be apparently free

1 of any contagious or infectious illness and apparently free from  
2 any defect which is congenital or hereditary and diagnosable  
3 with reasonable accuracy and does not appear to be clinically  
4 ill from parasitic infestation at the time of the physical  
5 examination. The health certificate shall include the name,  
6 address and signature of the veterinarian and the date the dog  
7 was examined.

8 (ii) [A] Except as provided under subsection (b.2)(3) of  
9 this section, a guarantee of good health issued by the seller,  
10 and dated and signed by the seller and the purchaser on the date  
11 of the sale, warranting that the dog being sold is apparently  
12 free of and does not exhibit any signs of any contagious or  
13 infectious disease, is apparently free from and does not exhibit  
14 any signs of any defect which is congenital or hereditary; and  
15 does not exhibit any signs of being clinically ill or exhibit  
16 any signs of a parasitic infestation on the date of the sale.  
17 The guarantee of good health shall clearly state in bold type:

18 THIS GUARANTEE DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THIS DOG HAS BEEN  
19 EXAMINED BY A VETERINARIAN. THE PURCHASER IS ENCOURAGED  
20 TO HAVE THIS DOG EXAMINED BY A VETERINARIAN AS SOON AFTER  
21 PURCHASE AS IS FEASIBLE.

22 The seller shall also verbally state these facts to the  
23 purchaser.

24 (A.1) A RELEASING AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE A NEW OWNER OF A DOG <--  
25 WITH A HEALTH RECORD FOR THE DOG AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION. THE  
26 HEALTH RECORD SUPPLIED BY THE RELEASING AGENCY SHALL INCLUDE THE  
27 FOLLOWING:

28 (1) THE DOG'S BREED. IF THE BREED IS UNKNOWN OR MIXED, THE  
29 HEALTH RECORD SHALL SO INDICATE.

30 (2) THE DOG'S APPROXIMATE AGE, IF KNOWN.

1       (3) THE DOG'S GENDER.

2       (4) THE DOG'S COLOR AND MARKINGS.

3       (5) A LIST OF ALL VACCINATIONS, IF KNOWN, ADMINISTERED TO  
4 THE DOG, THE DATE AND TYPE OF VACCINATIONS AND THE NAME OF THE  
5 PERSON WHO ADMINISTERED THEM, IF KNOWN, UP TO THE DATE OF  
6 ADOPTION.

7       (6) A RECORD OF ANY KNOWN DISEASE, ILLNESS OR CONDITION WITH  
8 WHICH THE DOG IS OR HAS BEEN AFFLICTED AT THE TIME OF THE  
9 ADOPTION.

10       (7) A RECORD OF ANY VETERINARY TREATMENT OR MEDICATION  
11 RECEIVED BY THE DOG WHILE IN POSSESSION OF THE RELEASING AGENCY  
12 TO TREAT ANY DISEASE, ILLNESS OR CONDITION.

13       (8) THE DATE, DOSAGE AND TYPE OF ANY PARASITICAL MEDICINE,  
14 IF KNOWN, THAT WAS ADMINISTERED TO THE DOG.

15       (9) THE NAME, ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE OF AN AUTHORIZED PERSON  
16 AT THE RELEASING AGENCY, ALONG WITH A STATEMENT AFFIRMING ALL OF  
17 THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION IS TRUE TO THE BEST  
18 OF THE RELEASING AGENCY'S KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

19       (b) If, within [ten] fourteen days after the date of  
20 purchase, a dog purchased from a seller is determined, through  
21 physical examination, diagnostic tests or necropsy by a  
22 veterinarian, to be clinically ill or [dies] to have died from  
23 any contagious or infectious illness or any parasitic illness  
24 which renders it unfit for purchase [or results in its death],  
25 the purchaser may exercise one of the following options:

26       (1) Return the dog to the seller for a complete refund of  
27 the purchase price, not including the sales tax.

28       (2) Return the dog to the seller for a replacement dog of  
29 equal value of the purchaser's choice, providing a replacement  
30 dog is available.

1 (3) Retain the dog and be entitled to receive reimbursement  
2 from the seller for reasonable veterinary fees incurred in  
3 curing [or], attempting to cure or treating the affected dog,  
4 subject to the limitation that the seller's liability for  
5 reimbursement shall not exceed the purchase price, not including  
6 sales tax, of the dog. This clause shall apply only if the  
7 purchaser's veterinarian determines the dog's illness can be  
8 treated [and corrected] by procedures that are appropriate and  
9 customary. The value of these services is considered reasonable  
10 if comparable to the value of similar services rendered by other  
11 licensed veterinarians in reasonable proximity to the treating  
12 veterinarian. Reimbursement shall not include the costs of the  
13 initial veterinary examination fee and diagnostic or treatment  
14 fees not directly related to the veterinarian's certification  
15 that the animal is unfit for purchase pursuant to this section.  
16 [If, however, the purchaser's veterinarian determines the dog's  
17 illness is incurable, only the options in clauses (1) and (2) of  
18 this subsection shall apply.

19 For the purposes of this subsection, veterinary findings of  
20 intestinal and external parasites shall not be grounds for  
21 declaring the dog unfit for purchase unless the dog is  
22 clinically ill or dies due to that condition. A dog shall not be  
23 found unfit for purchase on account of injury sustained or  
24 illness most likely contracted subsequent to the date of sale.]

25 (b.1) (1) If, within [thirty] ninety days after the date of  
26 purchase, a dog purchased from a seller is [certified]  
27 determined, through physical examination, diagnostic tests or  
28 necropsy by a veterinarian [that the dog has or] to have a  
29 defect or to have died from a defect which is congenital or  
30 hereditary and which [adversely affects or affected the health

1 of the animal] renders it unfit for purchase, the purchaser may  
2 exercise one of the options as provided in [clauses (1), (2) and  
3 (3) of this subsection.] subsection (b) of this section.

4 (2) Remedies available under [clauses (1), (2) and (3) of  
5 this] subsection (b) of this section shall also apply to  
6 replacement dogs.

7 (b.2) (1) A dog shall not be found unfit for purchase for  
8 the purposes of subsection (b) of this section because of  
9 veterinary findings of intestinal or external parasites unless  
10 the dog is clinically ill or dies due to the condition.

11 (2) A dog shall not be found unfit for purchase on account  
12 of injury sustained or illness most likely contracted subsequent  
13 to the date of sale.

14 (3) A dog shall not be found unfit for purchase because of a  
15 health problem which, in addition to a health certificate or  
16 guarantee of good health required under subsection (a) of this  
17 section, is separately disclosed by the seller in writing at the  
18 time of sale. Such disclosure shall be signed by both the seller  
19 and the purchaser at the time of sale and shall be documented in  
20 the health certificate or guarantee of good health.

21 (c) A veterinarian's certification of illness, congenital or  
22 hereditary defects or death shall be necessary for a refund or  
23 replacement or to receive reimbursement for veterinary costs if  
24 the dog is retained by the purchaser and treated for illness or  
25 congenital or hereditary defect as provided in this section. The  
26 veterinarian's certification shall be supplied at the  
27 purchaser's expense. The veterinarian's certification shall  
28 state the following information:

29 (1) The purchaser's name and address.

30 (2) The date the dog was examined.

1 (3) The breed and age of the dog.

2 (4) (i) That the veterinarian examined the dog.

3 (ii) That the dog has or had an illness as described in  
4 subsection (b) of this section or a defect as described in  
5 subsection (b) of this section which renders it unfit for  
6 purchase or which resulted in its death.

7 (iii) The precise findings of the examination, diagnostic  
8 tests or necropsy.

9 (5) The treatment recommended, if any, and an estimate or  
10 the actual cost of the treatment should the purchaser choose to  
11 retain the dog and seek reimbursement for veterinary fees to  
12 cure or attempt to cure the dog.

13 (6) The veterinarian's name, address, telephone number and  
14 signature.

15 Within [two] five business days of a veterinary examination  
16 which certifies illness, defect or death, the purchaser shall  
17 notify the seller of the name, address and telephone number of  
18 the examining veterinarian. Failure to notify the seller or to  
19 carry out the recommended treatment prescribed by the examining  
20 veterinarian who made the initial diagnosis until a remedy as  
21 provided for in subsection (b) of this section is agreed upon  
22 shall result in the purchaser's forfeiture of rights under this  
23 section. [Subsection (b) of this section shall not apply where a  
24 seller who has provided a health certificate issued by a  
25 veterinarian discloses in writing at the time of sale the health  
26 problem for which the buyer later seeks to return the dog. Such  
27 disclosures shall be signed by both the seller and purchaser.  
28 Where the seller has provided a guarantee of good health,  
29 subsection (b) of this section shall apply regardless of whether  
30 the seller disclosed the health problem at the time of sale.]

1 (d) The refund or reimbursement required by this section  
2 shall be made by the seller not later than fourteen days  
3 following receipt of the veterinarian's certification that the  
4 dog is unfit for purchase or has died from a condition defined  
5 as unfit for purchase in this section. The certification shall  
6 be presented to the seller not later than [five] seven days  
7 following receipt thereof by the purchaser.

8 \* \* \*

9 (i) As used in this section:

10 "ADOPT" OR "ADOPTION" MEANS THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF A <--  
11 DOG FROM A RELEASING AGENCY TO A NEW OWNER.

12 "NEW OWNER" MEANS A PERSON WHO ADOPTS A DOG FROM A RELEASING  
13 AGENCY.

14 "RELEASING AGENCY" MEANS A RELEASING AGENCY AS DEFINED UNDER  
15 SECTION 901-A OF THE ACT OF DECEMBER 7, 1982 (P.L.784, NO.225),  
16 KNOWN AS THE "DOG LAW."

17 "Seller" means a kennel, pet shop operator or other  
18 individual who sells dogs to the public and who owns or operates  
19 a kennel or pet shop which is required to be licensed by the  
20 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture or the United States  
21 Department of Agriculture. The term shall not include nonprofit  
22 kennels as defined under the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784,  
23 No.225), known as the "Dog Law."

24 "Unfit for purchase" means any disease, deformity, injury,  
25 physical condition, illness or any defect which is congenital or  
26 hereditary and which [severely affects] has a significant  
27 adverse effect on the health of the animal or which was  
28 manifest, capable of diagnosis or likely to have been contracted  
29 on or before the sale and delivery of the animal to the  
30 consumer.

1 "Veterinarian" means an individual licensed under the laws of  
2 this Commonwealth or any other state to practice veterinary  
3 medicine and surgery.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.