
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1449 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SONNEY, BROOKS, CIRESI, DAVANZO, HILL-EVANS,
JAMES, MILLARD, NEILSON, ROWE AND THOMAS, MAY 20, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
MAY 20, 2021

AN ACT

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

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

19 Section 1. Section 302(c) of the act of December 7, 1982
20 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, is amended to read:

21 Section 302. Seizure and detention of dogs; costs; destruction
22 of dogs.

23 * * *

24 (c) Unlicensed dogs.--Except as otherwise provided by

1 section 305, any police officer, State dog warden, employee of
2 the department or animal control officer shall cause any
3 unlicensed dog to be seized, detained, kept and fed for a period
4 of [48] 72 hours at any licensed kennel approved by the
5 secretary for those purposes, except any dog seriously ill or
6 injured or forfeited with the owner's permission. The [48-hour]
7 72-hour period shall not include days the approved kennel is not
8 open to the general public. Any person may view the detained
9 dogs during normal business hours. Any unlicensed dog remaining
10 unclaimed after [48 hours] 72 hours may be humanely killed or
11 given to a humane society or association for the prevention of
12 cruelty to animals. No dog so caught and detained shall be sold
13 for the purpose of vivisection, or research, or be conveyed in
14 any manner for these purposes.

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