

# the Monthly National Legislation Report

The Monthly National Legislation Report is published once a month listing available reports of dog and animal legislation in all States and other countries. Compiled By: Ken Sondej (4winds@viawest.net) & Linda D. Witouski (dropfred13@aol.com) Copyright © 2008, The Monthly National Legislation Report (Copyright © violations include deleting, changing, or altering of information).

October 14, 2008

## FEDERAL

[HR6949](#) / [S3519](#) -To amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies. Cited as the "Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act"

### SEC. 2. REGULATION OF HIGH-VOLUME SELLERS OF PUPPIES.

(a) Retail Pet Store Defined- Section 2 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2132) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: `(p) The term `retail pet store' means a person that--

`(1) sells an animal directly to the public for use as a pet; and `(2) does not breed or raise more than 50 dogs for use as pets during any one-year period.'

(b) Licenses- Section 3 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2133) is amended in the second proviso--

(1) by striking `retail pet store or other person who' and inserting `retail pet store, or other person who (1) does not breed or raise more than 50 dogs for use as pets during any one-year period, and (2)'; and

(2) by striking `research facility' and inserting `research facility,'.

(c) Humane Standards- Section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended--

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) and (h) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively;

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

`(j)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a dealer shall provide each dog held by such dealer that is of the age of 12 weeks or older with a minimum of two exercise periods during each day for a total of not less than one hour of exercise during such day. Such exercise shall include removing the dog from the dog's primary enclosure and allowing the dog to walk for the entire exercise period, but shall not include use of a treadmill, catmill, jenny mill, slat mill, or similar device, unless prescribed by a doctor of veterinary medicine.

`(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a dog certified by a doctor of veterinary medicine, on a form designated by and submitted to the Secretary, as being medically precluded from exercise.'

### SEC. 3. EFFECT ON STATE LAW.

The amendments made by this Act shall not be construed to preempt any law or regulation of a State or a political subdivision of a State containing requirements that are greater than the requirements of the amendments made by this Act.

## STATES - in alphabetical order

### ALABAMA

[Florence](#) - (10/8/08) - An ordinance intended to add more bite to the city's vicious-dog ordinance could come up for vote by the next city council meeting. A dog does not have to have bitten someone to be considered vicious. "Hopefully, we'll be able to pass this at the next council meeting," Shoemaker said. That meeting is Oct. 20..

**Fultondale** - (9/23/08) -The Fultondale City Council Friday **approved an ordinance to ban what it considers dangerous dogs from the city.** The council has been considering the ordinance for some time, first bringing it to the table almost a year ago. Fultondale Mayor Jim Lowery said he and the council wanted to examine the ordinances from other cities to create a bill that would work for Fultondale.**The ordinance in particular singles out any breed of pit bull, including the American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier or any dog that has an element of those breeds.** As of Friday,(9/19/08) it is now unlawful for any resident within the city limits to bring a pit bull or any other dangerous dog into the city. Those who currently own the dogs must register the dog with the city for a fee of \$50. Any puppies born to what the city considers dangerous dogs must also be removed from the city six weeks after birth. Violators of the ordinance can be fined up to \$500, lose ownership of their dog and face the possibility of jail time. Lowery said residents may pick up a full copy of the ordinance at Fultondale City Hall. In addition to passing the dangerous dog ordinance, the council passed an amendment to the city's existing leash law that will give residents more freedom to walk dogs in city parks, as long as the animals are leashed, don't pose a threat to other residents and if owners clean up animal waste.

**Tuscumbia City** - (10/12/08) - The Tuscumbia City Council is considering adopting an ordinance that strengthens enforcement of the leash law regarding vicious and potentially vicious dogs. The council could vote next week on an ordinance that broadens not only the definition of vicious dogs but of "potentially" vicious dogs. If adopted, the new ordinance would require all dogs deemed vicious to be confined in a pen that has a roof. The pen would have to be constructed in a way that prevents escape, and would have to be kept sanitary and free of offensive smells. The city council is taking an important step for public safety and in preventing cruelty to dogs. Other Shoals cities should study what Tuscumbia is doing on this front and work to create uniform ordinances that not only better protect the public but help put an end to the cruelty of dog fighting.

## ALASKA

No report for Alaska

## ARKANSAS

No report for Arkansas

## CALIFORNIA

PROP 2 - The largest and most respected veterinary association in the United States is cautioning that the California ballot initiative, Proposition 2, while admirable in its attempt to address the behavioral needs of animals, contains livestock confinement standards that may hurt the animals they are intended to help. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) issued a statement, which, in part, reads: **"The AVMA believes Proposition 2, 'Standards for Confining Farm Animals,' is admirable in its goal to improve the welfare of production farm animals; however, it ignores critical aspects of animal welfare that ultimately would threaten the well-being of the very animals it strives to protect."** Click [HERE](#) to read more about Prop 2 from the AVMA. (The importance of Prop 2 was announced in the Monthly National Legislation Report in Part I of the August, 2008 report. To re- review the facts & other links relevant to Prop 2 presented in that announcement, click [here](#)).

**Lancaster** - City Council on Tuesday (10/14) will hear a report from, and ask questions of, the head of Los Angeles County's Animal Care and Control Department into pit bull problem. Officials noted that targeting pit bulls could violate the due process rights of owners of pit bulls and contribute to overcrowding at animal shelters, meeting minutes show. "Instead of picking (the dogs) up, people get warnings and citations, and when you hand out citations, people fix the problem (by paying a fine) and we still have the pit bull," the Mayor R. Rex Parris said. Under county regulations initiated by 5th District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, most dogs of all breeds in unincorporated areas must be spayed or

neutered and implanted with identifying microchips. The regulations exempt animals that compete in dog shows, work with law enforcement or assist the disabled. The report to the council will be heard Tuesday when the council meets at 5 p.m. in its chambers at City Hall, 44933 Fern Ave.

**[Los Angeles](#) - (9/23/08)** - Los Angeles pet owners have one week left to comply with the city's ordinance that requires most dogs and cats to be spayed or neutered by the time they are 4 months old. The law, which was signed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in February, takes effect Oct. 1. Owners who do not comply with the law will receive information on subsidized sterilization services. If their pets are not fixed within 60 days, owners could face a \$100 fine or eight hours of community service. A third offense could result in a \$500 fine or 40 hours of community services. The ordinance exempts animals who compete in shows or sporting competitions; guide, signal or service dogs; and dogs that are used by law enforcement agencies. Information on spay and neuter services can be found on the Animal Services' Web site [here](#).

**[Manteca](#) - (10/12/08)** -Pit bull canine breeds in Manteca require a special permit as of the first of October and must be spayed or neutered according to a recently passed city ordinance. The city is allowing a 30-day grace period, however, that ends Nov. 1. The "Pit Bull" classification refers to any bull terrier, miniature bull terrier, American pit bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier or any other dog displaying the physical traits of any one or more of those breeds. City officials suggest that if a dog owner is unsure as to whether their unspayed or unneutered animal is an "intact" pit bull, they may make an appointment with the animal control officer who will identify the breed. If the dog is less than eight weeks old or has been in the city for less than 30 days there are exemptions as is the case with AKC or UKC show dogs. The owner or guardian of the show animal must present animal control with the dog's pedigree papers and show dog registration within 30 days of ownership. The show dogs must follow the same breeding permit guidelines as any other intact pit bull in the community. Breeding is limited to one litter of puppies.

**[Palm Springs](#) - (9/17/08)** - The Palm Springs Council on Wednesday will consider changing an ordinance that bans dog owners from enjoying city parks with their pets. The ordinance banning dogs from city parks became law in 2006 after city officials received complaints about dogs running around without leashes, dog waste and loitering and camping, especially at Sunrise Plaza, according to a city staff report. Officials have found the camping and loitering issues "seem to be under control" and no significant problems have been reported," according to the report.

**[Santa Barbara](#) - (9/15/08)** - The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors announced it has selected 11 people to serve on a Spay, Neuter Ordinance Task Force that will be charged with drafting language for a local spay and neuter ordinance. Thirty-one people throughout the county submitted applications and letters of interest to serve on the task force. Each supervisor selected two members for the task force, while Board Chairman Salud Carbajal picked three, including a designated task force chair. The task force's first meeting is scheduled for 5:30 on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at the Public Health Department located at 300 N. San Antonio Rd. in Santa Barbara. At that meeting, the task force is expected to identify information that is needed in order to reach its goal, plan for tours of animal shelters and schedule additional meetings. The task force should have the ordinance completed by February of next year, according to a county statement announcing the task force.

**[Santa Clara](#) - (10/8/08)** -A public meeting will be held tonight in Gilroy to allow county residents to comment on a proposed local ordinance that aims to prevent animal cruelty at rodeos and circuses. The county ordinance would be more restrictive than state laws regarding animal cruelty at such venues, according to the county Animal Advisory Commission. The ordinance will go before the Housing, Land Use, Environment and

Transportation Committee on Nov. 20. If approved, it will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

**Shasta Lake - Redding** - (10/6/08) -In a report to the council Assistant City Manager, John Duckett said that city administrators recently were asked to explore the possibility of banning dogs within city parks. As a part of Tuesday's discussion, the council could consider a variety of options to an outright ban, Duckett said. Those options include banning dogs from specific areas of the parks or from specific events. Or it could decide to keep the status quo. Duckett said he thought it best to discuss the issue with council members before attempting to draft an ordinance.



## **COLORADO**

**Brighton** - city council rejected the idea of a pit-bull specific ban within city limits following the advice of animal control and police department staff. A Sept. 4 statement from the police department staff, several municipalities in the area instituted pit-bull bans with no reduction in vicious animal complaints and with a significant increase in the number of hours worked by animal control staff. In addition, costs associated with enforcing breed specific bans on domestic animals escalate if the owner opts for trial, with DNA testing of the dogs posing a potential fiscal liability for the city. Under a ruling from the Colorado Supreme Court, the burden of proof for establishing the genetic identity of the canine falls on the state or municipal entity imposing the ban.

**Leadville** - (10/8/09) -The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted a new animal control ordinance on Oct 6, replacing the former ordinance that had existed in Lake County since 1992. The new ordinance is effective immediately and specifies new perimeters for the control and licensing requirements of pet animals, excluding livestock, and addresses the impoundment and disposition of pets, while providing updated penalties for owners who fail to act in accordance. It was still a work in progress at the very meeting in which it was approved, with final corrections, deletions and additions made just before the BOCC voted on it. While the long-standing countywide leash law remains intact, many other aspects will be different under the new ordinance. Licenses are now required for all dogs age four months and older, and fines are higher for dogs at large. Particularly, unlicensed dogs and un-neutered or un-spayed dogs found at large will face higher fines than those who are properly licensed, vaccinated and neutered or spayed. Another last-minute detail was the allowance of the definition of working dog, to include sled dogs used for commercial purposes or competitive racing. This definition allows for working dogs to be unleashed while in county limits when being trained or worked, without persecution. Working dogs also include those working livestock, locating or retrieving wild game in season for a licensed hunter, assisting law enforcement officers, assisting an incapacitated person, assisting in rescue efforts or being trained for any of such purposes, according to the ordinance. Overall, the process of adopting the ordinance was much less tenuous this time around, **with only a dozen or so people attending the public meetings to offer input.**

## **CONNECTICUT**

**Canterbury** - (9/21/08) - The Board of Selectmen has scheduled a busy October for residents, setting town meetings to discuss a state grant and housing incentive zones, and a referendum on whether to reopen the town dog pound. The board a **town meeting for Oct. 16** and a **referendum for Oct. 29** to discuss and decide on a proposed

ordinance for the dog pound. On July 1, the town closed the local facility and switched to a regional service provided by the Northeast Connecticut Council on Governments. After receiving six petitions to reopen the local pound, Sear decided to put the issue to residents. **Oct. 16:** A town meeting at 7 p.m. in the community room to discuss a proposed ordinance on the dog pound. **Oct. 29:** A referendum on the dog pound ordinance from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the community room.

## **D.C.**

[Fairfax, Va.](#) - (9/17/08) - The U.S. House of Representatives voted today to approve the National Rifle Association (NRA)-backed "Second Amendment Enforcement Act" in an overwhelming bi-partisan vote of 266-152. The Act, passed as an amendment to H.R. 6842, will overturn the District of Columbia's gun control restrictions that defy the recent Supreme Court ruling by continuing to limit D.C. residents' right to self-defense. This bill is necessary to enforce the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled "the District's ban on handgun possession in the home violates the Second Amendment, as does its prohibition against rendering any lawful firearm in the home operable for the purpose of immediate self-defense." The Second Amendment Enforcement Act will:

Repeal the District's ban on semi-automatic handguns. Semi-automatic pistols have been the most commonly purchased firearms in the United States over the last 20 years, and therefore a ban on those firearms is unconstitutional as decided by *Heller*; Restore the right of self-defense by repealing the requirement that firearms be disassembled or secured with a trigger lock in the home; Reform the current D.C. registration system that requires multiple visits to police headquarters; ballistics testing; passing a written test on D.C. gun laws; fingerprinting; and limiting registration to one handgun per 90 days. The current system is unduly burdensome and serves as a vehicle for even more onerous restrictions; and Create a limited exemption to the federal ban on interstate handgun sales by allowing D.C. residents to purchase handguns in Virginia and Maryland. Currently there is only one licensed firearm dealer in the District, and the District government is standing in the way of additional dealers opening their doors. A 40-year old federal law prohibits residents from purchasing handguns outside of the District.

## **DELAWARE**

[Seaford](#) - (9/23/08) - Proposed revision of the city of Seaford's dog ordinance was presented to council for first reading at the Sept. 23 meeting. If adopted, the city code amendment would limit to three the number of dogs allowed per dwelling, specify humane handling, treatment and care for dogs and prohibit dogs running at large. It also governs licensing and vaccination requirements, sanitary responsibilities of dog owners, penalties and fines for violators and identifies "dangerous" dogs, with notification and appeal process of such breeds. The ordinance would limit no more than three dogs of six months of age per dwelling, except persons who have a kennel or retail dealer license. Additional dogs may be permitted if approved by the city Board of Animal Control, which would consist of the city building official and two members of the public appointed by Mayor Edward H. Butler. Under the proposal, all dogs must be kept indoors or in a locked kennel pen, fenced in area or within the confines of an electronic pet containment area. Leashes would be required as dogs are not permitted to run loose. Any owner or custodian of a dog running at large that without provocation bites a person will be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 or more \$500 for the first offense,

with fines ranging from \$750 to \$1,500 for each subsequent offense. **The ordinance will come before council Oct. 14 for possible revision, second reading and adoption.** The ordinance would not become effective until 30 days after adoption, Mrs. Slatcher said.

## FLORIDA

**Manatee County** - (9/22/08) - A new state law requires wildlife trappers who can't find a new home for raccoons, armadillos and other wildlife to kill the animals.

**Melbourne Beach** - (9/20/08) -The Melbourne Beach Town Commission voted unanimously Wednesday to table a proposal to consider allowing dogs on the beach. First-term Commissioner Charles "Chad" Tennant, who brought the proposed ordinance before the commission, said the measure would be good for the town. His proposal calls for allowing dogs on a leash or under voice command to be allowed on the beach during early morning and late afternoon hours. Owners would be issued a collar for their dog after they proved that the animal is vaccinated. "Dog-friendly beaches make a community very special," Tennant said. In the end, commissioners backed off making a decision until they could study the issues, possibly scheduling workshops to discuss it before bringing it back for a vote.

**Miami Dade County** - On October 7, Miami-Dade County Commissioners will vote on an ordinance to restrict dog tethering in the county. (no update available)

## GEORGIA

**Monroe County - Forsyth** - (9/20/08) -The county and city have changed their ordinances to leave dogs at the pound for at least three days.

## HAWAII

No report for Hawaii

## IDAHO

**St. Anthony** - (10/11/08) The dog ordinance was tabled to allow the city attorney time to make a couple of changes made Wednesday night. It will be brought up again later this month for adoption.

It contains a chapter addressing cruelty and abandonment of animals and a chapter specifically related to dogs. As proposed, it also contained provisions for licensing and fees, keeping dogs under control and/or under lease, public nuisances, vicious dogs, an impoundment processes, kennels and fees, rabies, destruction of dogs and penalties for violations. Fullmer recommended the city charge \$30 for a license for nonspayed or neutered dogs, with \$10 earmarked for education on the benefits of spaying and neutering pets and \$20 for administration costs. The council also agreed with Councilman Woody Andersen that the fee schedule appendix should be considered as a resolution separate from the ordinance to allow a regular review of the license fees to change them if needed.

## ILLINOIS

**Chicago** - (9/22/08) -The Chicago city council had drafted an ordinance that would require a detailed list of disclosures pet retailers must make to potential dog and cat buyers. Although not formally introduced yet, the draft ordinance would also change existing regulations to apply to a broader category of "pet retailers" rather than "pet

shops." As drafted, the ordinance would also change the scope of the municipal code from pet shop to pet retailer and defines pet retailer as "any entity, association, organization or person engaged in the business of selling or offering to sell pets via retail store, website or any other means." The draft ordinance excludes humane societies, animal shelters and anyone with two or fewer breeding females or anyone producing fewer than two litters per year. Thus, the draft ordinance would expand the number of businesses requiring licenses for selling cats or dogs and for owning dogs older than 4 months old. Pet retailers would be required to obtain a license to operate and obtain a license for each dog age 4 months or older, unless the dog is to be in the retailers possession temporarily. The ordinance, as drafted, would also require retailers to post a disclosure notice by each cat or dog for sale. Each notice would cover 19 areas of information, including the sales price of each animal ; the expected weight of the animal when full grown; general expected lifespans of cats (12-18 years) or dogs (10-15 years); annual cost estimates of owning cats and dogs (including food, veterinary care, litter [for cats], and other expenses such as grooming and supplies); health information about the dog, including any known hereditary conditions of its mother or father; and name of breeder and the number of litters that business produced in the past year. The ordinance has not been formally introduced by the council and a public hearing has not been set.

**Hampshire** - (9/20/08) -Just one week after the village board voted 5-0 to toughen rules for buried "invisible fences" that keep pets inside yards and rules for leashes used by people walking pets, officials are having some second thoughts.

**Rantoul** - (10/8/09) -Rantoul Police want to find the best way to deal with dangerous dogs. This after a councilman asked some dogs like.. Pit Bulls.. be banned from the village.The Rantoul Police Department hopes to work with different animal controls and other police departments to find what's the best way to come up with some guidelines for dogs. Dog breeders are happy to hear Rantoul is not picking on just one type of dog.

**Springfield** - (9/16/08) - What began as an attempt to copy Sangamon County's law has turned into an overhaul of penalties for animal-control violations in Springfield as aldermen Monday unveiled a proposal scheduled for a final city council vote tonight (9/16/08) Besides setting fines as high as \$1,000 when dogs bite, the proposal would ban people from owning dogs in the city for two years on the third unprovoked biting offense. Owners cited for cruelty to animals would have to pay \$1,000 to get their pet back and would be banned from owning pets in the city for two years on a second offense. Owners whose pets are repeatedly impounded would see violations go from a maximum of \$150 to a standard \$500 for a third offense. Pet owners who fail to clean up excrement now face fines as high as \$500. The fine would be set at \$100 for a first offense and \$150 for all subsequent offenses within a two-year period. The proposal surfaced publicly after 5 p.m. Monday, when the councils public affairs and safety committee sent it on to the full council for a vote tonight. The measure approved by the committee is a far cry from what was introduced in July. It was mentioned that the public hasn't had sufficient opportunity to review and comment on the proposed penalties. I don't think it's any different (than the original proposal), Mahoney said. There is some difference in the fines. Tomorrow, the public will be able to weigh in if they wish to. □ □

**Waukegan** - (9/17/08) - City officials say they're re-examining pet ordinances. Meanwhile, an animal rights group is calling for restrictions on how long a dog may be chained outdoors. Second Ward Ald. John Balen said then that he wanted pit bulls outlawed. However, 9th Ward Ald. Rafael Rivera, chairman of the council's Public Safety Committee, pointed out the legal ramifications of a breed-specific ordinance.

"What we don't want to do is get into a legal battle. With breed-specific (laws), that's what you're asking for," Rivera said. "It's not dogs, it's the owners, (and) we have some upstanding citizens who own pit bulls -- doctors, lawyers, from all walks of life." The council enacted a non-breed-specific ordinance on dangerous dogs in December 2007. To read that ordinance, go [here](#).

## INDIANA

[Vigo County](#) - **Terre Haute - (9/15/08)** - Stricter rules could be on the way for pet owners. A redrafted ordinance will include : If you are cited three times for your animal running you are going to be forced to have it spayed or neutered. If a dog attacks a person it can be impounded and possibly euthanized. It also affects how you tether your pet to your property. West Terre Haute hopes the ordinance will apply to them as well. The final draft of the proposal will be brought before the county commissioners on Tuesday. (9/16/08) **UPDATE:** (9/17/08) - [A measure](#) to prevent animal cruelty as well as protect Vigo County residents from dangerous animals moved one step closer Tuesday as the Vigo County Board of Commissioners advanced the ordinance onto the County Council. It would include a non-reverting animal control fund, where fines collected would be used for animal welfare and control. It also establishes an "Animal Control Commission of Vigo County" with five voluntary members, three selected by commissioners and two by the council. (3 year term). Also considers documented animal history. Specific rules for owners of dangerous dogs with resulting fines and impound at owner's expense. Tied out animals, confinement, dog fighting, "active" cruelty, "passive" cruelty, and also has fines for public nuisances, which are not to exceed \$1,000, with owners expected to pay any court costs. After three citations under the ordinance for an animal running at large, the animal must be spay or neutered at the owner's cost. [The ordinance](#) will now be advertised for 14 consecutive days before it is voted on by the county council. The proposed ordinance will be voted on at the county council meeting in October. Read that ordinance [here. \(pdf\)](#)

## IOWA

[LeMars](#) - **(10/8/08)** - Le Mars city council members Tuesday got their first look Tuesday at an initial draft for a proposed dog licensing ordinance for the city. Councilman Ken Nelson who, with fellow council person Delana Ihrke has been working the ordinance proposal, said he expects the council to have a finalized version of the proposal ready in the near future. It calls for the annual licensing of all dogs six months old or older with an exception for dogs owned by operators of a state or federally licensed kennel. Dog owners will, under the proposal, be required to show proof of current vaccinations of the animals prior to or as part of the licensing procedure. The licenses, to be issued by a licensed Le Mars veterinarian, will include the owner's name and address as well as the color, sex, and breed of the dog as well as the date of the animal's most recent rabies vaccination. An annual licensing fee will be set by the city council during its city-fee approval session at a future date.

[Sioux City](#) - **(9/16/08)** - The City Council on Monday voted 5-0 to ban pit bulls. It was the council's third and final vote to enact the ban, following three hearings on the measure. The ordinance allows current pit bull owners who keep their dog registered to keep their pet but not to replace it with another pit bull when it dies. The ban exempts the Humane Society, Animal Control, dogs participating in dog shows and puppies born to pit bulls in the city, up to six months of age. Any pit bull not in compliance would be impounded, and the owner given 10 days to pay the impoundment costs and produce

evidence the dog would be permanently removed from Sioux City. Otherwise it would be put down. Councilman Jim Rixner promised to introduce a set of amendments to the ordinance at next Monday's (9/22/08) council meeting. The amendments would include strict regulations for confinements, muzzling and waist leashes when a pit bull is outdoors. The ordinance applies to the breeds American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier and Staffordshire bull terrier and to "any dog which has the appearance and characteristics of being predominately" of those breeds. Derisive laughs from the audience followed when a speaker was told that "experts" would determine whether a dog was a pit bull. **UPDATE: (9/23/08) - [Barking continues](#)** over Sioux City's Pit Bull ban. The ban passed last week but now some city councilmen want to add more Pit Bull restrictions. If the additional protections are passed, pit bulls would have to be put in a secure pen or kennel when out in the yard. When off the property, they would have to be walked with a leash no more than 6 ft. long and they must be handles by an adult. Also, they must be microchipped and the grace period to register your pit bull would change from 6 months to 60 days. Despite all the Pit Bull hype, there will be no decision on the added protections until January.

## **Kansas**

**[Arkansas City](#)** - (10/10/08) - Dogs and cats may have to be licensed in Arkansas City, but not just yet. City commissioners tabled an ordinance that would have required pet licenses at their meeting Tuesday. Mayor Mell Kuhn said the city could do a 3 yr license because some vaccines are not required each year. City officials suggest pet owners get the licenses when they have their animals vaccinated. He said he had received information that animals do not have to have a rabies vaccine every year, so he wanted to look into the time period for the licenses. Commissioner Dotty Smith said veterinarians had told her that they prefer yearly vaccinations for pets. City Manager Steve Archer noted that current city ordinances require a yearly vaccination. The city will gather information from local veterinarians on the vaccinations. The city issues are separate as vaccination requirements are included in a different ordinance. They would only be connected if pet owners are allowed to get their animals licenses at the time of vaccination.

## **Kentucky**

**[Cadiz](#)** - (10/8/08) - The Trigg County Fiscal Court passed the first reading of an ordinance governing land use & restricting the locations of confined animal feeding facilities at its session on October 6 by a 6-1 vote.

**[Maysville](#)** -(10/9/08) - An ordinance exempting service dogs from the city's pit bull ordinance was approved by the Maysville Board of Commissioners during its regular meeting Thursday night. The first reading of the ordinance was approved & will undergo a second reading at the November meeting. The ordinance amends the newly adopted Code of Ordinances 199.09 to allow pit bull service dogs that are used to accommodate a disability & were owned prior to Sept.1,2008, the date the city's ban on pit bulls within city limits took effect.

**[Pine Hills](#)** - (9/19/08) -Armed with a petition and water sample results, four residents of Pine Hills and their supporters told magistrates Tuesday they wanted an end to the barking puppies and animal feces from a kennel in their neighborhood. Fiscal court said the county kennel license ordinance would be re-written to limit where kennels can be located and to regulate the number of puppies that can be kept. The 104 people who signed the petition presented Tuesday said they are affected by one or more of the

following: a potential health hazard to surrounding neighbors; unbearable and nauseating odor/stench; around-the-clock barking; cannot use and enjoy personal property because of the smell and noise; flies; property damage; diminished property values; and unsalable home and lot because potential homebuyers will be turned off by the dog kennel and will look in subdivisions free of the stench and barking.

## LOUISIANA

No report for Louisiana

## MAINE

No report for Maine

## MARYLAND

[Baltimore](#) - (9/15/08) - After years of battling opposition from animal-rights activists, dozens of licensed hunters fanned out across a 1,600-acre area of the Loch Raven Reservoir watershed in the first day of the state's fall bowhunting season, which lasts until Jan. 31. The cull was unusual in that the area around the reservoir has traditionally been out of bounds to hunters. About 400 signed up in advance, although it was not clear to the Department of Natural Resources how many showed up today, nor how many animals were taken. Officials allowed the hunt because they fear the population of white-tailed deer has grown too large for the local ecosystem. Many deer starve, the officials say, and many more are hit by cars.

[Frederick County](#) - (9/23/08) - Animal Control officers in Frederick County want to crack down on people who leave their pets outside in harsh weather. The head of Animal Control wants to make it illegal to leave dogs outside without proper shelter. Owners would also be required to give their dogs enough food and fresh water, and they could be fined if they keep their dog tethered outside for more than 10 hours a day. "There may be reasons why a person needs to tether their dog, and we're not in the position to contradict that there might be reasons, we just feel to tether a dog for beyond 10 hours is unreasonable," said Harold Domer, the director of Frederick County Animal Control. A public hearing on the proposed new dog rules was held Tuesday (9/23/08) evening at Winchester Hall. **UPDATE: (9/24/08)** - The [Frederick County](#) Commissioners **unanimously passed** the ordinance tonight after roughly a dozen people testified, most in favor. The ordinance prohibits dog owners from restraining their dogs outside for 10 or more cumulative hours in a 24-hour period. The ordinance does not apply to the City of Frederick, which has its own animal welfare laws.

## MASSACHUSETTS

[HB1527](#) - (9/15/08) - Anyone caught attending illegal animal-fighting events - or selling copies of the fights online - would face new penalties [under a bill](#) on Gov. Deval Patrick's desk. The bill expands the state's laws against animal-fighting to target not just those sponsoring the events, but those attending as well. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Louis Kafka, D-Stoughton, also cracks down on depictions of animal cruelty, including video recordings, electronic images, streaming videos or video downloads. Under the bill anyone who creates, buys or rents videos of animal cruelty or hosts them on a computer or Internet location would face a fine of \$500 or a year in jail. Patrick has until Thursday to decide whether to sign the bill. [Bill History here.](#)

## **MICHIGAN**

**[Dearborn Heights](#) - (10/12/08)** - An ordinance prohibiting dangerous animals from roaming the streets is getting a second look from city officials, who say more needs to be done to keep the animals in line. While the ordinance primarily applies to Pit Bull breeds â" including Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers and dogs which have the appearance and characteristics of being predominantly of the breed of dogs cited above it also applies to all dangerous or vicious animals in the city of Dearborn Heights. The issue is expected to be discussed again at a future meeting of the Dearborn Heights City Council. For more information, or to register your pet, contact the City Clerk's Office at (313) 791-3430.

**[Farmington Hills](#) - (9/15/08)** - Pet owners in Farmington Hills are now subject to having their pets being labeled as dangerous and being required to carry liability insurance. The city has set up an animal review board to determine whether a pet is potentially dangerous based on reports of attacks. Read the full ordinance here: [Farmington Hills Dangerous Animals Rule](#) According to city documents, the board consists of the city manager, police chief and fire chief, or their respective designated deputies or assistants. And although not required, the board could include a licensed veterinarian, certified animal behaviorist or certified animal trainer. If the animal is labeled dangerous, owners will be required to register the animal, post notifications on their property, properly enclose the animal and take their pet to an assigned obedience class. Owners will also be required to carry at least \$1.5 million in personal liability insurance, designed to cover any claims of injury inflicted by the animal. A violation, or failure to comply with the ordinance, is a misdemeanor. Questions about the ordinance can be directed to the Farmington Hills City Clerk's office, 248-871-2410.

**[Grosse Pointe](#) - (9/19/08)** - As part of a revamping of the suburb's dog ordinance, the City Council added a provision prohibiting ownership of dog breeds commonly known as pit bulls that "cause and pose an inherent danger to the public health, welfare, and safety. Therefore no person shall own, harbor or keep any dog commonly described as a pit bull terrier within the City." One resident is organizing opposition, and plans to **attend the council's Sept. 22 meeting** urging change to the ordinance. Dogs will be impounded by the Public Safety Department and a court order will be issued to destroy the animal or remove it from the city, the ordinance goes on to say. If convicted, the owners could face \$500 fines and 90 days in jail.

**[Livonia](#) - (9/23/08)** - Municipalities from Farmington Hills, Southfield, Allen Park, Redford Township and Wyandotte are mulling, passing and revising ordinances -- some singling out bully breeds, others requiring owners of "dangerous" dogs to purchase liability insurance, muzzle, microchip and obtain special licensing. Allen Park's City Council will review a plan tonight (9/23/08) to outlaw the breed. Southfield and Wyandotte have also studied breed-specific laws. Next month, Southfield will revisit a plan to prohibit ownership of bully breeds and Wyandotte considered, but then withdrew, a draft in August that would restrict owners of pit bulls, Staffordshire terriers and pit bull mixed breeds. In Livingston County, County Animal Shelter can euthanize pit bulls or other "bully breeds" running loose within four days if not claimed. Redford Township and Farmington Hills have taken a similar stance, passing "vicious" and "dangerous" animal ordinances instead, requiring owners to obtain liability insurance, special signage and licenses. Waterford Township, Melvindale, Grosse Pointe Woods and Ecorse prohibit bully breeds. Over the last decade, others like Dearborn Heights, Westland, Muskegon Heights, Alma, Morenci and Roosevelt Park have passed laws regulating pit bull owners.

[Tecumseh](#) - (9/18/08) -A dog leash ordinance for the City of Tecumseh passed one step toward becoming a reality on Monday night as Tecumseh City Council members conducted a first reading on the proposed ordinance. If adopted, the ordinance would require that dogs be on a leash and under the control of a person physically able to control the dog when leaving the owner's property. The issue will come before council again at a future meeting in the form of a Second Reading prior to a vote for adoption.

## MINNESOTA

[Burnsville](#) - (10/9/08) - The case of the seven chickens shined a light on Burnsville's pet ordinance, which specifies that a resident may only have two dogs. Council Member Dan Gustafson, who read the terse ordinance for the first time over the weekend, recused himself Tuesday from voting on the Remund chickens. He has three dogs. He's now in violation of the ordinance, too. City staff members, who this week had recommended that the city keep its ordinance unchanged and disallow the chickens, will do more research on options for handling the pet question, which has grown into a land-use issue. The City Council said Tuesday that Stefan could keep his chickens for now.

[Rosemount](#) - (9/17/08) - The Rosemount City Council voted to restrict where traps can be set after a dog suffocated in trap. The vote was unanimous.

[Shoreview](#) - (9/22/08) - On Sept. 15, the Shoreview City Council adopted an annual registration fee of \$250 for dogs deemed dangerous and \$100 for dogs deemed potentially dangerous. The new ruling puts the city in line with several new state laws and will theoretically reduce ownership of dangerous dogs. Aside from a long list of other restrictions, the law also requires any dog owner to have a \$300,000 surety bond to cover any injuries that result from a dog attack. That was increased from \$50,000 and payable to any person injured by the dangerous dog.

[Tracey](#) - (9/23/08) - A proposed ordinance outlining consequences for barking dog incidents in Tracy received a hearing Monday night but was not made into law. The proposed amendment outlined consequences for the owners of barking dogs deemed a nuisance. If there were four or more barking incidents confirmed in a month, the proposed amendment said, the dogs involved would have to be removed from the city, undergo a de-barking procedure or be seized.

## MISSISSIPPI

[Calhoun County](#) - (9/17/08) - The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the county's first dangerous dog ordinance Tuesday morning. The countywide ordinance authorizes law enforcement officials to impound any dog up to eight days after a sworn affidavit is presented declaring a dog to be dangerous. A dangerous dog is defined as one that approaches people away from the dog's home property, without provocation in a threatening or terrorizing manner; or without provocation bites or inflicts injury upon a person; or is known for the propensity to attack without provocation other domestic animals; or is harbored for the purpose of fighting. After eight days, if it's determined by the sworn affidavit and any additional information obtained by the officer that the animal is dangerous, then it can be humanely destroyed. If the animal is not deemed dangerous, the owner can claim his/her animal for a \$25 fee on the first offense, or \$50 on subsequent offenses, once all required vaccinations for the animal are confirmed. Additional costs for per day boarding and court costs can also be added. The ordinance also requires that all vicious animals be securely confined and that animal owners provide proper, humane care and treatment. Failure to comply with this ordinance can

result in fines up to \$500 for first offense and increasing sums on subsequent offenses including up to six months in jail.

**Madison** - Board of Aldermen in a work session dealing with a potential ban on pit bulls and have designated a pit bull as a "public nuisance" and a "dangerous animal" after it chased a Cross Creek resident and her daughter. The nuisance/dangerous dog designation, the animal must be kept in an enclosed space. If it is outside that area, then it must be in a cage or muzzled, City attorney John Hedglin said. Being on a leash does not meet the standard of being restrained.

**Ridgeland** - (10/7/08) -Board of Aldermen is expected to vote today (10/7/08) on a proposal to ban certain dog breeds in the city. The city is proposing to ban American pit bull terriers, Staffordshire bull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers, Rottweilers and "any dog whose mama or daddy is one of those things," said City Attorney James Gabriel. Gabriel presented the proposed amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance during the board's work session Monday. The proposal also would ban any animal deemed "vicious" as determined by a Ridgeland Municipal Court judge. A "vicious animal" is defined as any animal that constitutes a physical threat to human beings or other animals. "It could be a Chihuahua," Gabriel said. Aldermen appeared split on the possibility of a citywide breed ban. Clinton, the city which Ridgeland's proposed breed ban is based on, does not allow pit bulls or Rottweilers. Madison city leaders last month began talk of a pit bull ban. **UPDATE - (10/8/08)** [A vote to ban pit bulls](#) and other dangerous dogs was delayed Tuesday, but city officials expect to revisit the issue in the near future. At a Monday night work session, City Attorney James Gabriel presented an amendment to the animal control ordinance that would effectively ban the dogs and give residents 30 days to remove pit bulls, rottweilers and other breeds from their days to remove pit bulls, rottweilers and other breeds from their homes.

## MONTANA

No report for Montana

## NEBRASKA

**Omaha** - (9/16/08) - Dozens of people showed up this afternoon to debate several proposals from Mayor Mike Fahey to deal with vicious dogs. The ordinances were introduced to the City Council last week, and the public hearing was being held today. The council could vote on the package of new laws next week, although there's a chance the vote will be delayed until Sept. 30. **UPDATE: (9/23/08)** -The Omaha City Council will vote next Tuesday (9/30/08) on a package of ordinances to deal with dangerous dogs. The vote was delayed because Council President Dan Welch and Councilman Chuck Sigerson could not attend today's meeting. **UPDATE: (10/1/08)** -Is your dog a good citizen or a danger to the community? The city of Omaha says it will be the judge of that. It's a dangerous dog crackdown. **The ordinance passed today** means muzzles and monitoring of Pit Bulls, but focuses even more on the people. Omaha puts dangerous dog owners on notice. If owners don't follow the city's new rules, they can wave goodbye to their dog.

**Sarpy County** - (10/9/08) -Sarpy County is watching Omaha's dangerous dog ordinance before it decides if it will tackle its own. Officials from Bellevue, Papillion, La Vista, Gretna and Springfield met with a Nebraska Humane Society representative to discuss the possibility of combining their varying sets of rules and laws into one that's more easily enforceable. **\*\*\*SPECIAL ALERT sent 10/05/08\*\*\***

## NEVADA

Clark County (Las Vegas) - Animal Advisory Board passed the proposed mandatory spay/neuter ordinance and now it will go before the County Commission. The next meeting of the County Commission is October 21st. We do not know if it will be on the agenda

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

No report for New Hampshire

## NEW JERSEY

Bergen -Rutherford - (9/17/08) - Following a rare double-occurrence of verified rabies cases in the township since December 2007, the township has proposed new regulations for the quarantine of animals subject to rabies and other similar diseases. The move takes the responsibility off the township and put it on the owners. Unlike the past, owners of the animals that cause a bite will be liable for stricter punitive damages if they do not adhere to all the ramifications of reporting the bite and allowing for and paying for the new quarantine process. The old quarantine process will remain in effect. Now, a licensed veterinarian will examine the animal, regardless of what species, during the quarantine process at the owner's expense as well. The proposed ordinance has also significantly raised possible fines on other animal control ordinances already in place. Under the auspices of violating ordinances pertaining to licensing, general regulations and cruelty to animals, fines will be levied from a minimum of \$10 and maximum of \$50 to a minimum of \$50 and a maximum of \$500. Violating a vicious dog or cat ordinance, which could impose muzzling and leashing the animal in public, a \$500 fine and possible 30 day imprisonment opposed to a \$250 fine could be the punishment. A \$500-\$1,000 per second offense fine and up to 90 days in jail would also be imposed.

Freehold - (9/24/08) -Members of the Borough Council introduced an amendment to the local ordinance that deals with cat and dog control at a meeting on Sept. 15. The ordinance amendment, if adopted, will restrict the number of animals in one residence to five dogs or cats over the age of 2 months in any combination in or upon any residential or commercial property. Anyone violating the ordinance, upon conviction, will be required to pay a fine of not less than \$75 nor more than \$500. The ordinance also requires that any animal in excess of five be removed. A vote on the ordinance amendment is expected at an upcoming council meeting.

## NEW MEXICO

Bernalillo County - (10/9/08) -Eight families in a South Valley neighborhood said Rottweilers roaming the streets have attacked their smaller dogs even killing some pets. The community now has a petition to euthanize the dogs. The neighbors will meet Monday (10/13/08) night and want county and state leaders to be there to respond to questions regarding aggressive and dangerous animals.

Las Cruces - Dona Ana County - (9/24/08) - Dona Ana County has dealt with a lot of animal abuse and hoarding cases in the past few months and the state is paying attention. New Mexico's attorney general said the recent cases could lead to new laws. Earlier this year the Legislature helped the attorney general's office by funding the animal task force.

## NEW YORK

[Clarkstown - Rockland](#) **-(10/3/08)** - Dog owners in Clarkstown will have to contend with an updated law that triples fines for barking dogs that are considered a nuisance, defines "habitual" barking, and limits the length of dog leashes to eight feet. The revised Article 125 of the town code was approved Aug. 26 and went into effect Tuesday. Under the new town code, a dog who barks for more than 10 minutes continuously between 7 a.m and 10 p.m., and for more than 5 minutes between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., will be considered a "habitual" barking nuisance, if a complaint has been made against the dog at least once before within the last 30 days. The previous law did not define "habitual." Under the new code, a neighbor will be considered imposed upon if a dog "Engage(s) in habitual loud howling, barking, crying or whining or conduct(s) itself in such a manner so that it creates a noise disturbance that can be heard by any reasonable person of normal sensitivities in the immediate vicinity." If a neighbor decides to complain about the barking, howling, or whining, the pet owners will be issued a warning, said Pat Coleman, who has been the town's animal control officer since 1981. If a second complaint is made, a pet owner could be issued a violation and taken to court. As a result, the pet owner could be fined between \$25 and \$250, depending on the judge's discretion. Previous fines for the same violation were between \$25 to \$75 dollars.

[Clifton Park](#) - (9/14/08) - The Town Board will consider a town wide leash law tonight,(9/15/08), casting aside the current, more vague standard that mandates only that dogs be under "immediate supervision and control" -- which included a ban on habitual car-chasing but, officials say, was difficult for animal control officers to enforce. The new law would require dogs to be leashed at all times except when at the Mary Jane Row Dog Park or Kinns Road Park -- and even then only when the handler has a \$30 town permit. If approved, the law would go into affect Oct. 30. Violations would be punishable by a first-offense fine of up to \$100 or 15 days in jail, or both. A second offense in a year could bring a similar jail term or a fine between \$100 and \$250, or both. A third violation in the same year would cost between \$200 and \$500 or jail time, or both. **UPDATE: (9/16/08)** - The Town Board on Monday night approved a new town wide dog ordinance requiring the animals to be on a leash everywhere except private property and two parks. The vote was 5-0. The new law goes into effect Oct. 30.

[Kingston](#) - (9/29/08) - Animal cruelty laws, which used to be under state criminal code, are now under the state Agriculture and Markets laws, and the Ulster County SPCA would like that changed. Ulster SPCA Director Brian Shapiro said "To prosecute an animal cruelty case, district attorneys, judges, public defenders need to be up to date on Agriculture and Market laws and that's just not how it is. Ag and Market laws dictate such things as how many pounds you have to have to sell cheese at your local supermarkets right next to statutes determining the levels and degrees of animal cruelty." Shapiro said his organization is working in hopes of having that changed on the state level.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

[For You NC Hunters and Sportsmen](#) - **(9/25/08)** -In the early days of this country, one simply carried a gun and hunted with a dog anywhere and time he wanted. As time went by, restrictions for both began to take hold. Today, the where and when you can do both is more restrictive than ever. Consequently, sportsmen who arm themselves with knowledge and understanding of the various laws pertaining to the possession of firearms and canine companions will find a much more enjoyable trip afield.

[Forsyth County](#) - **(9/22/08)** - Forsyth County commissioners voted 7-0 to amend the county code that covers recognizing, registering, owning and dealing with dangerous dogs, as well as shortening the holding period for unlicensed dogs and cats that are

brought to the shelter. The board decided not to single out specific breeds in judging a dog to be dangerous, but to look at a particular dog's behavior.

**Macon County** - (9/25/08) - Macon County has been in the process of developing an animal control ordinance for nearly four years, since the county commission appointed the formation of an animal control committee headed by Commissioner Bob Simpson. Pending new changes to a proposed ordinance, the committee is close to reaching the county's goal of presenting the ordinance to commissioners. The ordinance will be complaint driven & will work to improve the identification of animals and the responsibility of pet owners. Set to meet on Oct. 1, the committee has moved the next meeting date up to **Monday, Sept. 29, at 4 p.m.** If changes made to the ordinance are satisfactory to the group, **they will present the proposed ordinance to commissioners at a 6 p.m. meeting the same night.**

**New Hanover** - (9/23/08) - New Hanover County is cracking down on people who operate dog kennels, targeting backyard breeders and puppy mills. "It's a great step working toward reducing animal cruelty and neglect by breeders who's main concern is profit without welfare of the animal," said Beth Mathews, the founder of the community animal protection team. Mathews watched as county commissioners approved a new law requiring breeders who produce more than four litters a year to get a permit. Violators could face up to a \$500 fine. Animal control officers will meet with the board of health sometime in the near future to discuss the amount of the fines. After that is decided, the law will be enforced.

**Orange County** - (9/22/08) Orange County currently restricts the length of a tether, but doesn't have a time restriction on tethering. If approved, a proposed amendment would allow for a period of public outreach and a warning period similar to Durham County's. The amendment includes the following:

- No more than a total of three hours of tethering within a 24-hour period.
- A specification of the types of collars and equipment.
- A requirement for minimum kennel size.
- An exemption for certain organized and lawful animal functions, such as sporting or hunting events.

## **OHIO**

**Canton** - (9/15/08) - Council has postponed a vote on the legislation designating American bulldogs as vicious animals and the proposal may be dead. The council president gave the impression that the attempt to put special restrictions on American bulldog owners may not be revisited. Council sent the legislation back to the judiciary committee tonight on the recommendation of Safety Director Thomas Nesbitt, so council could make a more informed decision on the proposal introduced by Councilman Greg Hawk, D-1. Hawk has said the idea was spurred by concerns of a neighborhood association.

**Canton** - (9/24/08) - Police and an animal control officer will start writing tickets to Canton residents who walk pit bulls in the city without muzzles. Last year, the council passed a vicious dog ordinance that requires pit bulls not in their owners' yards to be on leashes and muzzled. Police Chief Dan Taylor said no tickets have been written because the animal control officer, Dustin Pollitt, has been told it's unconstitutional to discriminate against one particular breed. Taylor said City Attorney Chrissie Peterson agreed with Pollitt. Peterson said she will prosecute any cases brought forth on behalf of the city.

**Jackson Township** - (9/24/08) - Proposed "vicious dogs" legislation was introduced Monday night (9/22/08) by township trustees. A vote will be taken Oct. 14. It does not

target any specific breeds, such as pitbull. The legislation comes with registration requirements, as well as penalties.

**Johnstown** - (10/6/08) -The Village Council could vote Tuesday (10/7/08) on legislation that would cap the number of animals per household at any combination of four dogs or cats, and prohibit owners from having more than one vicious or dangerous dog, including a pit bull. Residents who violate the ordinance could face up to 30 days in jail and be fined as much as \$250. Phillips said the council never really discussed the animal-limit issue, but it was added to the draft ordinance at council members' request. She said the language was patterned after ordinances elsewhere in central Ohio, including in Bexley, Whitehall and Upper Arlington. **UPDATE: (10/10/08)** -**A proposed ordinance** in the village of Johnstown that would have limited the number of pets residents can keep in their homes was tabled Tuesday by the Johnstown Village Council.

## **OKLAHOMA**

**Glenpool** - (9/23/08) - Glenpool City Council passed city ordinance 605 amending city code chapter six providing for the definition of a vicious dog, harboring a vicious dog and the penalties at the Sept. 15, 2008 meeting. Ed Tinker said "We are not a charter city. If we were, we could pass much stronger codes in fact Drumright being a charter city passed strong rules including fences buried so many inches, more insurance and more. We nearly eradicated pit bulls and Rottweilers from Drumright. This is the strongest code we could pass and I think it will help." The new ordinance provides for "proper enclosure of a vicious dog" confined to a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure with top and sides and at least 150 square feet of space for each dog over six months old. Harboring a vicious dog brings a fine of \$250 plus court costs, \$250 for destruction of dog plus court costs and impoundment fees. The impoundment and veterinarian fees will be charges to the owner in all instances. (This is only a partial list of provisions and definitions, for a complete copy of the ordinance contact the city of Glenpool.)

**Grove - Grand Lake** - (9/27/08) -Oklahoma has the second largest number of puppy mills in the United States. While some other states have high-volume breeder legislation to regulate these breeders, the state of Oklahoma does not. Many breeders, unable to meet regulations in other states have flocked to Oklahoma. Land in Oklahoma is cheaper than it is in other states and there are lots of rural areas where breeders can set up shop and go unnoticed. The number of licensed high-volume breeders in Oklahoma has increased by over 70% since 2000, according to Humane Society figures. The number of unlicensed breeders has also grown and is estimated to be in the thousands. Earlier this year legislation was introduced in Oklahoma to regulate these breeders. The bill died in committee. It is expected to be filed again in the next session of the Oklahoma Legislature.

**Moore City** - (10/8/08) -Just minutes after they voted to accept more than \$50,000 in state grant funds to plant hundreds of trees in the city, Moore City councilmembers voted to develop an ordinance which prevents the city's canine (and feline) population from using those trees for anything more than shade.

Yes, public pooping by puppies (and cats) soon could be outlawed. Voting 6 to 0, councilmembers Robert Krows, Janie Milum, Shelia Hayworth, Dave Roberts and Kathy McMillan joined mayor Glenn Lewis in endorsing a proposal to "discuss an ordinance amendment creating a violation for permitting animals or fowls to defecate on public property or on certain private property."

**Oklahoma City** - (9/21/08) - In coming weeks, the city council will consider ordinances that would

encourage owners to spay and neuter their pets, an attempt to dramatically cut the number of unwanted animals taken to the shelter. The city recently studied what other cities are doing to encourage spaying and neutering and found a variety of approaches, said Catherine English, head of the city's animal welfare division. Some cities, such as Tulsa, require pets be spayed or neutered, with some exceptions. Owners can be fined for violating the requirement. English said her staff should recommend some changes to the council by next month.

**Pryor** - (9/20/08) - It is now a violation to confine an animal by rope or chain. The ordinance states an adequate fenced area must be provided with shelter, food and water. It is now a violation to confine an animal by rope or chain. The ordinance states an adequate fenced area must be provided with shelter, food and water. A stray is any animal found wandering for 10 days without an obvious home. Any person who takes in a stray for 10 days or more is considered the owner of that animal. Dogs kept within city limits must be registered and wear a tag with the owner's name and phone number. Any dog acquired or brought into the city must be registered within 30 days. The city will charge \$20 for each animal turned over to the animal shelter. The owner of an impounded animal must pay \$20 to insure the return of the animal. A notice of impoundment will be posted at the police station or animal shelter. Any animal not redeemed within five days of impoundment will be eligible for adoption. The owner of a dog or cat must keep the animal vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. The animal must be vaccinated before it is four months old. A veterinarian must supply a certificate of vaccination and a metal tag for the collar. Any dog or cat adopted from the animal shelter must be spayed or neutered. Otherwise, the new owner must sign an agreement to have the animal spayed or neutered and leave a \$35 deposit with the animal control officer.

## OREGON

No Report for Oregon

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Harrisburg** - (9/17/08) - A bill (HB2525) to improve conditions for dogs in Pennsylvania kennels passed the state House of Representatives overwhelmingly and was sent to the state Senate. The House voted 181-to-17 on Wednesday in favor of the new regulations. They would increase the size of cages, require annual veterinary checkups and crack down on what critics describe as inhumane puppy mills. A leading opponent, Rep. Bob Bastian, called the bill "a triumph of extreme policy making over sensible regulation." Bastian, a veterinarian, said a number of amendments the House rejected Monday would have resulted in a more balanced bill. Also Wednesday, the House voted unanimously in favor of a companion bill (HB2532) to prohibit owners and breeders from performing surgical techniques on their dogs. **UPDATE** - (9/24/08) - **A bill aimed** at ending Pennsylvania's reputation as a haven for puppy mills has cleared another key legislative hurdle. The bill that would overhaul the state's dog breeding laws passed the House last week ([see related story](#)) and now has cleared the Senate Agriculture Committee. The state senate is now slated to vote on the dog law revisions during the week of October 6th. If the bill passes the Senate, it would go back the House, which would have to approve the Senate's changes. **UPDATE** - (9/26/08) - **Legislation to regulate puppy mills** is getting watered down in the Pennsylvania

Senate. The bill is moving, but came out of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee with two omnibus packages of amendments sponsored by committee chairman Sen. Michael W. Brubaker, R-Lititz. **UPDATE - (10/10/08) - [In the waning days](#)** of the legislative session, lawmakers approved a hotly debated bill overhauling the dog law and another contested bill on energy conservation - but failed to pass Gov. Rendell's proposal to expand health care for the uninsured.

**[Lower Pottsgrove - Sanatoga](#)** - (10/9/08) - One resident complained Monday (Oct. 6, 2008) to [the township Board of Commissioners](#) regarding barking dogs. Babura wants a township law that effectively muzzles noise-making dogs. Commissioners agreed to explore the matter. They directed township Manager Rodney Hawthorne to research a [Robesonia \(Berks County\) PA](#) law she cited as a potential model, but they expressed doubts that putting a law on the books would end Babura's problem.

**[Pottstown](#)** - (10/11/08) -Barking dogs/noise ordinance. A draft will be ready for consideration at the November meeting. The solicitor also consulted with police, codes and the animal control officer in mulling changes to the borough's animal control law. He told the council whatever proposed changes he brings to the animal control law will not include a limit on the number of pets residents will be allowed to have.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

No report for Rhode Island

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**[Rock Hill - York County](#)** - (9/21/08) - York County officials need to address the issue of whether the county should bar dog owners from keeping their dogs chained. But, as county officials note, that is only one of many issues concerning animals in the county, and the time has come for a more comprehensive approach in coming weeks, the county will hold a workshop for staff members to outline plans for updating the county's animal policies. No specific changes have been recommended, but officials expect to analyze everything from vaccination requirements to animal control fees. County officials also will examine what other growing counties have done in the way of animal ordinances. While county officials have not specified which issues they will address, tethering, already a hot issue in the county, is likely to come up for debate. We also hope the county will consider limiting the number of animals in an individual household. Zoning regulations limit the number of unrelated people who can live in one residence, why not the number of animals as well? No one can make a reasonable case for keeping 13 dogs as house pets, as occurred in one local home recently. But without official limits, the county is powerless to do anything about it. At some point, undoubtedly, the public will be invited to comment on proposed changes in the animal ordinance. This is guaranteed to be an animated discussion; few things get people worked up as much as a debate over what they can and can't do with their pets.

**[Spartanburg](#)** - (9/30/08) -City Council **unanimously passed final reading** of an animal control ordinance Monday. (9/29/08) The ordinance requires cat owners to comply with a licensing provision that previously applied only to dog owners. All dogs and cats more than 4 months old that have been in the city limits for 30 days or more must be licensed. Council approved a \$6 annual or \$40 lifetime license fee for altered dogs and cats with proof of rabies vaccination. Residents 60 or older are required to pay \$5 and \$25 for annual or lifetime licenses, respectively. Owners of fertile dogs and cats must pay \$25 annual license fee and aren't eligible for a lifetime license. The ordinance requires owners of more than five dogs or cats more than 4 months old to purchase a multiple animal permit that allows officers to inspect the premises where the animals are kept when a 24-hour notice is

given. Owners of animals deemed "vicious," those that have attacked or injured any person or domestic animal without provocation, are required to meet certain specifications. The ordinance restricts the time that an animal can be tethered or tied to a stationary object to 12 hours in a 24-hour period. Livestock, wild and exotic animals are also prohibited unless the animal has been previously registered with the city. Prohibited animals include horses, donkeys, mules, swine, sheep, goats, cattle, chickens, geese, turkeys, guineas, pheasants, emus, ostrich and other domesticated fowl.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Brookings** - (9/17/08) - City councilors have decided that citizens here cannot keep more than six pets in their residences at one time. Its creators say the pet limit is a new tool to help authorities deal with animal-related complaints. That new regulation is among several changes to Brookings animal control requirements, approved by city councilors on Tuesday (09/16/08). The recently passed Ordinance No. 32-08 makes it unlawful for any person or caretaker to have or keep more than six domestic pets over the age of 4 months (except birds and fish) on any lot or premises in the city. The only planned exception to that rule is for veterinarians and any person with a valid shelter or kennel license issued by the city. The ordinance includes a new section that deals with vicious or biting dogs. Once a pet has been declared a biting, dangerous or vicious animal by officials, the owner will have to register it with the city as such and follow certain regulations, like reporting how and where it's kept and its health and ownership status.

**Fort Pierre** - (10/8/08) -The Fort Pierre City Council has unanimously passed an ordinance that bans vicious dogs. The measure defines a vicious dog as one that attacks or tries to attack a person on public property or on private property where that person had a right to be present. The ordinance contains new, higher fees for impounding and licensing dogs and specifies the process for dealing with vicious dogs.

**Sturgis** - (9/17/08) - Sturgis officials have given preliminary approval to an ordinance that would regulate the owners of pit bulls. If enacted by city officials, the ordinance will force pit bull owners to carry liability insurance. They also will have to register their dogs and keep them restrained at all times.

## **TENNESSEE**

**Dyersburg** - (9/23/08) - Changes to the city's vicious dog ordinance proposed for "tightening the definition of 'vicious,'" allowing police officers to issue warrants and "streamlining the remaining language" of the document. "So (the changes) strengthen the ordinance and clarify some things," said Kirk. Norman made the motion to amend the vicious dog ordinance, with Walker adding a second. The motion passed unanimously.

**Newbern** - passed a generic dangerous dog ordinance in January 2008. It should be noted that the AC was instructed to draft a breed specific ordinance and after doing much research, he reported to the council that BSL was not the way to go. The city voted unanimously to pass the generic DDO, but considering the AC was initially instructed to look at BSL. Alderman Olen Parker motioned that the city ordinance be revised to include provisions that reflected the state laws about vicious dogs

## **TEXAS**

No report for Texas

## UTAH

**Sandy** - (9/30/08) - Sandy's City Council dropped breed-specific provisions in a proposed animal control ordinance on Tuesday, but vowed to revisit the new law in six months if high rates of pit bull and Rottweiler attacks continue. Residents who have any dog that is deemed "dangerous" by the city soon will have to comply with tighter restrictions. The **council plans to pass, at its next meeting**, an ordinance that would require overly aggressive pups to be kept inside, or in a locked-and-roofed backyard kennel or muzzled and on a leash at all times. One committee member urged the Council to enact breed-specific restrictions and ban additional pit bulls in Sandy. Councilman Dennis Tenney suggested breed-specific restrictions or bans could be considered again. "We're very open to making this a whole lot stiffer." **UPDATE:** (10/10/08) - **The City Council voted unanimously** Tuesday to approve an animal control ordinance that restricts dangerous dogs based on their behavior rather than their breed. The revised proposal was discussed at length last week but not approved until Tuesday, when a last-minute change was made to allow the owners of dangerous dogs to be licensed for only one animal. Other dog owners can have up to two animals or can obtain a special hobby license for more.

## VERMONT

**Milton** - (9/17/08) - At Monday's meeting, vice chairwoman Diana Palm said the Selectboard sympathized with those bothered by barking, but resisted the idea of creating a new regulation. The board discussed the ordinance, which does not discriminate between dogs barking indoors or outdoors, at its Sept. 2 meeting and chose not to act. The issue was included on Monday's Selectboard agenda for further public discussion, although there were no specific proposals under discussion, or proposed by the Selectboard. Milton's dog ordinance can be found at the town web site [here](#).

**Rockingham** - (10/10/08) - The Selectboard, at its regular meeting Tuesday, finally approved an animal control ordinance after debating the issue for years. Among other provisions in the new law, all dogs within the villages of Bellows Falls and Saxtons River will have to be restrained on a leash once the law goes into effect. The Rockingham board moved ahead with its vote Tuesday even though the Saxtons River trustees at their meeting Monday said they did not want the law in their downtown. The new law takes effect in 60 days, though residents can gather signatures from 5 percent of the towns' registered voters and call for a vote on the proposed ordinance.

## VIRGINIA

**Chantilly** - (9/15/08) - In two separate Virginia counties, animal rescue group foster homes have been cited for zoning violations with respect to the temporary housing of dogs as a volunteer service to a legitimate 501(c)(3) animal rescue organization. In neither case are the foster homes being cited for exceeding County zoning guidelines concerning the number of dogs being kept; the assertion is that dogs are being housed for commercial purposes. In Fairfax County the relevant sections of the Zoning Ordinance are Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Sect. 2-302. The notice of zoning violation states, in part:

The keeping of dogs and/or cats in conjunction with an animal rescue service is not a permitted use in the R-3 District. Therefore, these animals are not for personal use and enjoyment; rather they are kept for commercial purposes. Arlington County is more

succinct:

CODE OR ORDINANCE VIOLATION Arlington County Code, Zoning Ordinance, Section 31.12.b.(6) and Section 31.12.b.(6) (amended) Operating a kennel, boarding facility or adoption center from [sic] a residence in an R2-7 Zoning District. The zoning ordinances in each county allow for citizens to keep dogs, within guidelines, for their own personal use and enjoyment; however, since the animals in question are kept in conjunction with a rescue organization, they are being considered commercial use and thus the right to house them is being challenged. A primary consideration for classifying something as commercial is a profit motive.

**Louisa County - (9/14/08)** - A possible dog barking ordinance is up for discussion in Louisa County on Monday. (9/15/08) Some Louisa board members have received emails from people about creating strict rules for dog barking. But one member says an ordinance may be hard to enforce in a predominantly rural county. "I've always felt that when you move into the country, there are certain things you deal with, and that's a fact of life," said county Supervisor Fitzgerald Barnes. "So if you live in a subdivision and you want to create your own ordinance within that subdivision, go for it. But when you live in a rural area, certain things come with that." Supervisors will meet at the County Office Building on Monday at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

**Martinsville - Henry County** - (9/22/08) - Only a few months after it decided not to regulate cats, the Henry County Board of Supervisors is turning its attention to dogs but only those that keep people awake at night or otherwise are a nuisance. Vice Chairman H.G. Vaughn said recently that when the board meets Tuesday (9/23/08), he plans to ask the county staff to examine the county's noise ordinance to see if it can be modified to control barking dogs. At least two other supervisors are lending their support. Vaughn said he wants any provisions added to the ordinance to be focused on very extreme cases ... continuous and annoying dog-barking, as well as situations in which the owner is not willing to remedy the situation. □□

## **WASHINGTON**

**Ferndale - (10/9/08)** -A series of dog attacks in residential neighborhoods have prompted city officials and the Whatcom Humane Society to take a closer look at Ferndale's animal control ordinances. During a City Council meeting Monday, (Oct. 8), the council decided to revise the city's animal control ordinances, look into creating separate impound fees for dangerous dogs and possibly renegotiate its animal control contract. Officials are thinking about creating higher fees for dogs that are a public safety problem and have been deemed "dangerous." A \$600 confiscation fee is in discussion, as well as a separate fee for dangerous dogs caught running loose, Cistaro said. The city is also working on contract negotiations with Animal Control, which is provided by the Whatcom Humane Society. Although officials are still hashing out the details, Ferndale Mayor Gary Jensen said the revised ordinance should go into effect sometime next week.

**Moses Lake** - (9/24/08) - A committee will be created to find a compromise acceptable to Moses Lake, community members and pit bull owners regarding keeping the dogs within city limits. The city council listened to public input about a potential ordinance banning pit bulls from city limits. Council took no action on the suggested ordinance amendment. Councilmember Richard Pearce said he favors creating a committee to review the ordinance amendment. The committee to review the ordinance will consist of pit bull owners who attended the meeting, councilmembers, law enforcement and concerned citizens. (NOTE: Royal City and Othello prohibit pit bulls within their city limits. Warden declined a similar ban.) **UPDATE**: City Council took no action

Wednesday (09/24/08) on a proposed ordinance to ban pit bulls in the city. The council decided to form a committee of dog owners and other residents to find a compromise.

**Mount Vernon** - (10/9/08) - The city is looking at whether to require owners of "dangerous dogs," dogs that have viciously attacked in the past, to carry \$500,000 insurance policies. Owners of so-called "potentially dangerous dogs" would have to carry \$250,000 policies. "Any dog that would be menacing, threatening, chasing other people or other domestic animals, would be an example of behavior of a potentially dangerous dog," said Jill Boudreau of the Mount Vernon Police Dept. The city animal control officer is the one who makes the decision and often bases that decision on what witnesses say.

**Sumner** - (10/1/08) - Sumner dog owners might face police background checks before they could get a pet license under one idea circulating for the city's first dangerous dog ordinance. Sumner City Councilman Matt Richardson suggested at a council meeting Monday night that a procedure is needed to spot dangerous dogs coming into the community. The ordinance, he said, must have no loopholes. □□ The idea of background checks for dog owners elicited interest among city leaders and is likely to come up again. Sumner is working on adopting rules to help it catch up with other East Pierce County cities. Checks could be triggered by the breed of the dog being licensed because some are known to be more dangerous. A draft list of known dangerous breeds, such as pit bulls, is to be drawn up and the ordinance brought back to the council.

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

**Charlestown -Jefferson County** - (9/15/08) - The barking dog law now being considered is similar to the previous proposal (2004) in that the county would consider a barking dog a nuisance whenever two or more people in two households complain about a dog. Public nuisance refers to a dog that excessively barks, howls or yelps intermittently or continuously for more than 15 minutes, according to the proposal. According to the proposed law, anyone complaining about barking dogs could contact local police to investigate. A first violation of the proposed law could result in a fine of \$50 to \$300; second offense would carry a possible fine of \$100 to \$500; and a third offense would carry a fine of \$200 to \$500, the proposal states. A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Oct. 2 during the county commission meeting at the Jefferson County Courthouse at the intersection of George and Washington streets. The entire barking dog law can be viewed on the Jefferson County government's Web site [here](#). **UPDATE - (10/10/08)** - **In 30 days, excessive dog barking in Jefferson County** will be illegal. After receiving complaints from some county residents about constant dog barking in some neighborhoods, the Jefferson County Commission on Thursday passed a law that allows for fines up to \$500 for barking dogs. Under the law, a barking dog would be considered a nuisance whenever two or more people in two different households complain about the animal. Public nuisance refers to a dog that excessively barks, howls or yelps intermittently or continuously for more than 15 minutes, according to the proposal.

**Lewisburg** - (10/11/08) - Greenbrier County's leash law ordinance is being rewritten after a magistrate found a flaw in how fines are assessed. An amendment to the county's 1994 original leash law was beefed up to include stricter provisions and passed by the county commission in 2006. However, commission president Lowell Rose said a magistrate recently threw out a case involving an alleged violator because of a faulty

provision in the law. In recent months, several county citizens have also complained to commissioners that the leash law wasn't strict enough and have asked for the law to be further amended. e are having the prosecuting attorney's office looking at the law and getting back to us with new wording, Rose recently said. An amendment to the leash law would be forthcoming soon. The subject is on the agenda for the next county commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday. (10/14/08)

[New Haven](#) - (9/19/08) - Council members in the Town of New Haven unanimously approved the final reading of a revised animal ordinance during Tuesday's meeting. Changes in the revised ordinance include that dogs over the age of eight weeks must be registered with the town, but owners who provide proof of paid county taxes on the animal will not be required to pay a \$5 fee. Additionally, fines will be imposed by the municipal judge in accordance with West Virginia state code, and owners whose dogs engage in vicious behavior, regardless of breed, will be asked to remove the dog from town limits within 48 hours of the alleged offense. Mayor Steve Smith said residents can begin registering their dogs at the city building Oct. 1. In addition, they have the option of submitting pictures of their dogs during registration, but pictures are not required. The ordinance went into effect immediately.

[Parkersburg](#) - (9/15/08) - Just weeks after about 1,000 dogs were rescued from a Parkersburg-area kennel, West Virginia lawmakers are working to draft legislation to regulate such operations. Senator Donna Boley says there isn't much in state law regarding kennels. The Pleasants County Republican says she and other legislators are working with humane society officials to come up with a plan. Boley is also gathering information from other states with kennel regulations. Once a bill is drafted, it will be presented during next year's regular legislative session.

## WISCONSIN

[Baraboo](#) - (10/10/08) - City officials are dropping a proposal to change the number of dogs or cats allowed in Baraboo households after facing strong opposition from the public. Committee Chairman Gene Robkin appealed for public comment on allowing more animals per household, perhaps any combination of cats and dogs up to four animals. Judging from the amount of opposition, Robkin said he did not think a proposal to change the city's limit on pets would pass muster at City Council.

[Thorpe](#) - (9/27/08) -A lawmaker who attended a dog auction at Thorp says he'll push for a law to govern so-called puppy mills that are operating in Wisconsin. State rep. Jeff Smith says he's had enough complaints from constituents and seen enough to know the state needs a law to make sure dogs are treated humanely. Smith says he wants the law to protect legitimate breeders and set regulations for those who sell more than 50 dogs a year. He's hoping it can be passed in the next legislative session.

## WYOMING

No report for Wyoming

## COUNTRIES OF OTHER INTEREST

### AFRICA

[Capetown](#) - (9/30/08) -More than a year in the making, a new bylaw to regulate animal control in the city of Cape Town could be introduced by the end of 2008. The proposed bylaw, which seeks to consolidate a number of bylaws from previous council administrations, limits the number of dogs over the age of six months that may be kept on a single premises within a residential area as well as the number of cats. The bylaw

will also make it mandatory for permits to be obtained from council for working horses and donkeys. The public has until October 31 to comment on the bylaw. Unless dog owners apply for a permit, they will not be allowed to keep more than two dogs in a residential dwelling unit. The same limits apply to the number of cats that may be kept on a residential property. Four dogs or cats may only be kept on a single premises if there is more than one dwelling. Up to six dogs may be kept on agricultural property. A council official reserves the right to sterilise a dog or cat if deemed necessary and the costs recouped from the owner. No person will be allowed to keep a dog if the premises are not properly and adequately fenced to keep the dog inside when it is not on a leash. Dog owners will be required to clean up any dog excrement in a public street, place or road and carry with them sufficient plastic bags or wrappers in which to dispose of it while walking their animals. Only people assisted by a guide dog will be exempt from this provision.

## **AUSTRALIA**

[Queensland](#) - (10/11/08) - Dangerous cross-bred dogs, including the notorious American pitbull terrier, could be allowed to run free on the Gold Coast under new state laws. Council heavies are perplexed by plans to overhaul the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Bill, which would weaken restrictions on dangerous dogs. The changes would make it tougher for council officers to keep track of pure-bred and cross-bred dogs and leave the council in the dark on the declaration of dangerous dogs. Dog owners could also cop bigger infringement fines, with a 'wandering at large' charge increasing from \$75 to \$220 and dangerous dog fines increasing from \$375 to \$1760.

[South Australia](#) - (9/19/08) - New laws to double the penalties for acts of animal cruelty will come into effect in South Australia next month. Premier Mike Rann said they would allow fines of up to \$20,000 or two year jail terms for mistreating an animal. The government has also created a new offence of aggravated animal cruelty which would carry a maximum fine of \$50,000 or a four-year jail sentence. The new laws will allow animal welfare inspectors to routinely inspect intensive farming establishments, puppy farms, circuses and council-operated dog pounds. They will also have the power to enter any property to rescue an animal even if the owner is not present.

## **BULGARIA**

[Sofia](#) - (9/29/08) - On September 28, about 100 people accompanied by their pets staged a silent protest in front of Ivan Vazov national theatre in Sofia against the new amendments to the Condominium Act, which foresee that people who want to keep pets would have to get permission from their next-door neighbours. According to art.6, par.1 in the draft Condominium Act, wners are obliged not to take care of animals in their own properties without the agreement of their immediate neighbours, excluding (pets) that who live in cages and aquariums. Decisions on permits for pet breeding would be taken by the general assembly of residents, grouped on the basis of their apartments being reached by a common entrance, where the person wanting to adopt a pet was resident.

## **CANADA**

[Alberta - Calgary](#) - (10/8/08) - The city wants to put more bite into the animal by-law. The head of the by-law department Bill Bruce tells the Herald there will be no more tying your pets up outside if you're going out of town. As well, pets that are deemed to be a nuisance could face higher licensing fees. The changes also include the ability for judges to ban a person with a vicious dog from owning others for a period of time. A city committee approved the changes yesterday, but they must still come before full council for final approval.

[Manitoba](#) - (9/18/08) - Changes to Manitoba's Animal Care Act were proposed at the Manitoba Legislature Thursday. The proposed new laws would include higher fines for the mistreatment of animals, stronger licensing requirements for pet breeders, and expanding inspection and enforcement provisions. The legislation was introduced by Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister Rosann Wowchuk. The proposed changes include:

developing a public registry of licensed pet breeders that would allow the public to easily locate reputable breeders prior to purchasing a family pet, requiring pet stores to be licensed including provisions that would require stores to keep records of the breeders from whom they purchase their pets, requiring veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal neglect or abuse

giving the chief veterinary officer authority to issue orders that would require owners to take action to relieve an animal in distress or to carry out their duties under the act toward their animals, providing expanded powers to enter and inspect premises, providing animal protection officials with specific authority to take abandoned animals into custody including animals left behind in rental properties, animals not retrieved from kennels and other temporary caregivers, and animals that are apparently ownerless, increasing the maximum penalties for offences to \$10,000 from \$5,000 for a first offence and to \$20,000 from \$10,000 for a second or subsequent offence, and the maximum term of imprisonment to 12 months from six months for a second offence, increasing the limitation period for prosecution of offences under the act to two years from six months, implementing restrictions, as part of new licensing requirements, on the number of animals a breeder may have, based on individual breeding facilities.

[New Brunswick - Fredericton](#) - (10-2-08) - New Brunswick veterinarians will soon no longer perform so-called cosmetic surgeries on animals, including docking the tails of dogs or cropping their ears to make them stand at point. **The New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association passed a bylaw at its annual general meeting on the weekend that bans surgeries performed purely for cosmetic reasons.** The surgeries are typically requested by purebred dog owners who plan on showing their dogs. It's now considered unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian in New Brunswick to perform cosmetic surgery on an animal, said Jim Berry, a member of the association. The ban will take effect in six months.

[Ontario](#) - (9/15/08) - A provincial law banning pit bulls should be struck down because it is too broad and vague, lawyers argued Monday in Ontario Appeal Court. Lawyer Clayton Ruby told the three-judge panel the definition of pit bull under the Dog Owner's Liability Act is too vague because it snares dozens of breeds that look like pit bulls but are in fact other breeds, half-breeds or mutts. The definition of pit bull is too broad as it is written in Ontario law. Under the provincial law, pit bulls are defined as American pit bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, American Staffordshire bull terrier or any dog that looks similar. Owners are required to have their dogs neutered, muzzled and on a leash in public. Violators face a maximum penalty of \$10,000 and six months in jail. "It is people who create dangerous dogs," Ruby said. "We should be attacking those people and stopping that process." Arguments continue Tuesday.

[Owen Sound](#) - (9/23/08) - Owen Sound Council is taking a second look at a proposed bylaw that limits the number of cats you can own. Council will re-visit the new cat restriction by-law after opposition from an Owen Sound resident. Under the proposed new by-law, pet owners who have more than 3 unlicensed cats must get rid of them if a complaint is filed by neighbours. A motion was put forth to review the by-law, and allow for public input. Council voted 7-1 in favour of the motion.

[Quebec](#) - (10/10/08) -Animal rights activists say two recent puppy mill busts in Quebec illustrate a far greater problem than previously imagined and highlight the need for more government action. With that in mind, the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is heading to Quebec City on Friday hoping to secure more powers from the agriculture minister as well as funding to help tackle what some are calling a burgeoning, unchecked problem.

[Vauxhall](#) - (10/10/08) -Come next Thursday, the direction of the town's new dog bylaw could be made much more clear, thanks to an open house **scheduled for Oct. 16**. Up for discussion is a change to Section XXV of Vauxhall's bylaw concerning the licensing and control of animals. The proposal is to eliminate that, and make it a case-by-case, said Coun. Brian Hagan about that particular section. "We want to make dog owners responsible. Section XXV - Restricted and Vicious Dogs, names a number of breeds, mainly various types of pit bulls, rottweilers, dobermans, mastiffs and the Rhodesian ridgeback, and various mixed breeds with physical characteristics of the above animals, as restricted.

The section calls for a \$1,000-a-year restricted-licence fee to be paid, and requires the dog owners in question to have liability insurance providing third-party liability coverage in a minimum amount of \$1 million for potential injuries caused by the restricted dog. It basically says you can't have it, said Hagen of the section of the bylaw, who added in some cases, people are not registering their restricted dogs. We suspect that. He added dogs, even those on the restricted list, are fine with responsible owners, which has led to the proposed changes in the town's bylaw. The proposal seeks to rename Section XXV to Dangerous Dogs but more importantly, it would strike out the list of restricted dogs, among other items. In its place, the bylaw would attempt to label a dangerous dog as a dog of any age, which when on or off the property of its owner: a) shows a propensity, disposition or potential to attack or injure, without provocation, other animals or humans.□□

[Winnipeg](#) - (9/16/08) - The City of Winnipeg is looking to take aim at puppy mills, even if they are operating outside city limits. "We want to ensure that no dog sold in the city comes from a puppy mill," said Coun. Gord Steeves (St. Vital). That could be done by requiring individuals selling dogs to provide specific information about the animal's origin, said Steeves. The city's four-member protection and community services committee passed a motion yesterday to examine the issue. However, it will wait to do so until the province finishes reviewing the Animal Care Act. Bill McDonald, executive director of the Winnipeg Humane Society, said planned changes to the act will further define what a breeder is and how they are licensed. But he said any new regulation put in place by the city will assist in cutting down on puppy mills, which in some sad cases put profit before the health of animals.

[Winnipeg](#) - (9/21/08) - A councillor from the city of Winnipeg located in Manitoba Canada, wants the city to be the first in Canada to offer the power to animal control officers to remove constantly barking dogs from their owners. Mike Pagtakhan is proposing the law, that would make neighbors of barking dogs very happy, but will make actual dog owners very unhappy for sure. Currently if dogs bite, animal control officers may take them away from their owners, but dogs that bark day and night are not dealt with in that sort of manner. "Something needs to change," Pagtakhan said. "Barking dogs are a problem and if it's identified as a major quality of life issue, we ought to be able to do something." In an attempt to make his point, he video taped his neighbor's dogs barking, and barking, and barking, and barking and played it during a council meeting. City officials are mulling over the idea, and should be recommending appropriate action within a few months.

## **IRELAND**

[Dublin](#) - (10/10/08) - Dog wardens are seizing 80 dogs per month, a large percentage of which are restricted breeds such as pitbulls and rottweilers. Figures obtained by the Herald show that between January and August this year, 645 dogs were seized in the city. And about 20pc of these were dangerous breeds which are deemed illegal. The Dublin City Council statistics were released on foot of a request from TD Chris Andrews, who believes people are buying illegal dogs to intimidate their neighbours. Speaking about the findings, he said that the number of restricted breeds "should be causing some concern". While praising Ashton Boarding Kennels and Pound, which provides the current warden service, Mr Andrews said that there is "obviously an ongoing problem relating to the control of dogs.

## **ISRAEL**

[Petah Tikva](#) - (9/15/08) - Petah Tikva, a suburb of Tel Aviv, has just launched a six-month trial program that will have local dogs DNA tested so their droppings can be identified after being scraped off the bottom of your shoe. The system will work both as a way to punish poop-leavers as well as reward those who do their civic duty by cleaning up after their pooches. If you scoop up after your dog and leave it in specially marked bins along the streets, you'll be eligible for pet food coupons and dog toys. If it's found on the street, you'll be eligible for fines. How much are you going to have to pay the poor bastard whose job it is to go around analyzing dog crap from the sidewalks? Yikes.

## **SWITZERLAND**

[Geneva](#) - (9/15/08) - Bullmastiffs, Thai ridgebacks and French mastiffs also known as Bordeaux bulldogs have been banned in Geneva because they are potentially vicious. Regional authorities on Monday added the three breeds to a list of dogs considered too dangerous to keep as pets. Fifteen breeds are now banned in the canton. The new law is not retroactive for pets already in the canton, but those who own the breeds must report them to local veterinary affairs offices. The move comes after Geneva residents in February voted overwhelmingly in favour of banning vicious dogs following highly publicised attacks on children. Other cantons have also banned breeds of vicious dogs, including Fribourg and Valais. Other banned breeds include Rottweilers, pitbull terriers and American Staffordshire terriers.