



OPPOSE SB1155 – An Act Relative to Protecting Puppies & Kittens [Sen. Karen Spilka (D)]

Referred to Joint Committee on Municipalities & Regional Government

HISTORY: This bill's original purpose was to create a consumer protection law to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth in the purchase of a pet for their families. Consumer protection laws are only effective if they protect ALL the citizens and have fair and equal responsibilities placed on the seller AND the buyer.

WHY YOU SHOULD OPPOSE THIS BILL: This bill, in its current form, accomplishes none of the requirements of consumer protection. It places an undue burden on the hobby breeder and completely exempts shelters, pounds and rescues from any liability concerning the pets they place in the homes of Massachusetts citizens. With well over 18,000 animals brought into Massachusetts shelters, pounds and rescues they are by far the biggest source of available pets. With no regulations in place for shelters, pounds and rescues they are by far the greatest risk to Massachusetts citizens.

Requiring pet stores to sell only shelter or rescue dogs limits the freedom of choice for the consumer. Retail pet shops are already regulated as to consumer protection. To ask them to take only animals that no history can be provided for and no requirement to temperament test they could be placing their businesses in jeopardy.

This bill also wants to place the requirements that the AVMA has for commercial breeding facilities on to hobby breeders that raise their animals in a home environment. AVMA as well as the AKC has standards for hobby breeders and yet these were not used. The added restriction of not allowing stacking of crates serves no purpose in the health and wellbeing of the animals. Many shelters use a stacking system, especially with cats, so it makes no sense that in a responsible breeder's home this should be forbidden. Previous legislation has defined the hobby and commercial kennel yet this bill insists on altering those definitions by blurring the lines.

To acquire, or renew, a kennel license in Massachusetts you are required to have a kennel inspection. To further burden resources by requiring another inspection if someone keeps 5 intact females is unmanageable and unnecessary. Simply because a female is intact does not also mean she is used for breeding. Numerous studies have shown that an intact animal enjoys a longer lifespan than one who is not and some choose to leave their animals intact but have no intention of breeding. Yet if they have 5 intact females they are now classified as a breeding kennel?

Because of vague wording concerning prohibiting the display of dogs or cats in parks it could be interpreted as prohibiting dog shows in some venues. County fairs and 4-H are the only listed exemptions. Also it would seem not to prohibit shelters, pounds and rescues from retailing out of those venues.

This bill clearly has very little to do with consumer protection and everything to do with limiting the hobby breeder and the citizens of the Commonwealth from their right to choose a family companion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

Virginia Rowland, blackslate@aol.com, 978-424-1044

Darci Brown, dbhappyhr@hotmail.com, 413-498-5006

08/25/17

SENATE No. 1155**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

Karen E. Spilka

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to protecting puppies and kittens.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Karen E. Spilka</i>	<i>Second Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>1/25/2017</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>1/27/2017</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Dylan Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Angelo J. Pappolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>

<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Brian Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/10/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/15/2017</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>5/30/2017</i>

SENATE No. 1155

By Ms. Spilka, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1155) of Karen E. Spilka, Jack Lewis, John H. Rogers, John W. Scibak and other members of the General Court for legislation to protect animals during pet sales. Municipalities and Regional Government.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1103 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

An Act relative to protecting puppies and kittens.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
2 137C, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following
3 section:-

4 Section 137C. The mayor of a city, the selectmen of a town, the police commissioner in
5 the city of Boston, a chief of police or an animal control officer shall inspect a kennel or cattery
6 or cause the inspection of a kennel or cattery at least 1 time per year. If a person holding a
7 license or applying for a license to operate a kennel or cattery refuses to allow an inspector to
8 enter and inspect a kennel or cattery, that shall be grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of
9 a person's license to operate a kennel or cattery. Inspections of kennels or catteries under section
10 174F may be done by the commissioner or an authorized inspector and shall take place between

11 the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. unless an alternate time is mutually agreed upon by the
12 inspector and the licensee. The licensee or their authorized agent shall be present during the
13 inspection and the licensee shall be given a reasonable notice prior to the inspection; provided,
14 however, that, if deemed necessary to adequately perform the inspection, the commissioner or
15 other authorized inspector may determine it is appropriate to not provide advance notice to the
16 licensee before arriving at the facility. If a kennel or cattery regulated under said section 174F is
17 located at a private residence, only the areas of the residence that are used for kennel or cattery
18 purposes or for the maintenance of kennel or cattery records shall be required to be available for
19 inspection. If, in the judgment of the authorized inspector, a kennel or cattery is not being
20 maintained in a sanitary and humane manner or if records are not properly kept as required by
21 law and in compliance with rules and regulations established by the department under said
22 section 174F, the inspector shall, by order, issue the licensee a written citation or notice
23 explaining the noncompliant issue and requiring the licensee to come into compliance within a
24 reasonable, specified time frame or summarily revoke or suspend the license for the kennel or
25 cattery, depending on the severity of the offense. If the licensee fails to come into compliance
26 within the time period specified by the inspector, the inspector shall, by order, revoke the license
27 for the kennel or cattery. Upon the petition of 25 citizens, filed with the mayor of a city, the
28 selectmen of a town or the police commissioner in the city of Boston setting forth a statement
29 that those citizens are aggrieved or annoyed to an unreasonable extent constituting a nuisance by
30 a dog or cat maintained in the city or town due to excessive barking or other conditions
31 connected with a kennel or cattery, the mayor, selectmen or police commissioner, as the case
32 may be, shall give notice, within 7 days after the filing of the petition, to all interested parties of
33 a public hearing to be held within 14 days after the date of the notice. The mayor, selectmen or

34 police commissioner shall, within 7 days after the public hearing, investigate or cause to be
35 investigated the subject matter of the petition and shall, by order, either suspend or revoke the
36 kennel or cattery license, otherwise regulate the kennel or cattery or dismiss the petition. A
37 written notice of an order revoking or suspending the license, regulating the kennel or cattery or
38 dismissing the petition shall be mailed immediately to the officer issuing the license and to the
39 holder of the license. Within 10 days of the written notice of the order, the holder of the license
40 may file a petition in the district court in the judicial district in which the kennel or cattery is
41 maintained seeking review of the order. The decision of the court shall be final and conclusive
42 upon the parties. A person maintaining a kennel or cattery after the license to maintain a kennel
43 or cattery has been so revoked or suspended shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$250
44 for a first offense, a fine of not less than \$500 for a second offense and a fine of not more than
45 \$1,500 for a third or subsequent offense.

46 SECTION 2. Said chapter 140 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 141B
47 the following 4 sections:-

48 Section 141C. For the purposes of sections 141D through 141F, the following words shall
49 have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

50 “Animal”, a dog or cat under 1 year of age.

51 “Buyer”, a person who purchases an animal from a seller without the intent to resell the
52 animal.

53 “Cat”, a member of the Felis catus family.

54 “Direct violation”, a violation of the Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. 2131, et seq. or the
55 regulations issued under the Animal Welfare Act, that has a high potential for adversely affecting
56 the health of an animal as provided for by the Animal Welfare Inspection Guide, Appendix B,
57 issued by the United States Department of Agriculture or a successor document published by the
58 United States Department of Agriculture for the same purpose.

59 “Dog”, a member of the *Canis familiaris* family or a resultant hybrid.

60 “Offer for sale”, to sell, offer for sale or adoption, barter, auction, give away or otherwise
61 or otherwise find a permanent physical placement for a dog or cat.

62 “Pet shop”, a business licensed under section 39A of chapter 129.

63 “Rescue organization”, an organization whose primary mission and practice is the
64 placement of abandoned, unwanted, neglected or abused animals and that does not obtain dogs or
65 cats from a breeder or broker for payment or compensation and that is also a tax exempt
66 organization under paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of section 501 of the federal Internal Revenue
67 Code, 26 U.S.C. 501, or any subsequent corresponding sections of the federal Internal Revenue
68 Code, as from time to time amended.

69 “Seller”, an individual, partnership, association, corporation or an officer or employee of
70 an individual, partnership, association or corporation that sells animals to the public.

71 “Unfit for purchase”, a defect which is congenital or hereditary and which has a
72 significant adverse effect on the health of the animal or a disease, deformity, injury, physical
73 condition or illness which has a significant adverse effect on the health of the animal and which

74 was manifest, capable of diagnosis or likely to have been contracted prior to or at the time of the
75 sale and delivery of the animal to the buyer.

76 Section 141D. (a) No dog or cat less than 8 weeks of age shall be transferred by a
77 person. A violation of this subsection shall result in a \$100 fine for each animal transferred.

78 (b) A veterinarian licensed in the commonwealth may declare an animal unfit for
79 purchase in advance of or after the purchase by providing a written statement that includes:

80 (i) the buyer's name and address;

81 (ii) the date the animal was examined;

82 (iii) the breed, sex and age of the animal;

83 (iv) that the veterinarian examined the animal;

84 (v) a diagnosis that either: (1) the animal previously had, currently has or has died
85 from a contagious or infectious disease or severe parasitism, that the veterinarian found the
86 presence of symptoms of the disease or severe parasitism and that the disease or severe
87 parasitism is likely to have been contracted prior to or at the time of the sale and delivery of the
88 animal to the buyer; or (2) the animal has a congenital or hereditary condition that significantly
89 and adversely impacts the health of the animal, requires hospitalization or a non-elective surgical
90 procedure or caused the death of the animal;

91 (vi) the precise findings of the examination, diagnostic tests or necropsy;

92 (vii) the treatment recommended, if any, and an estimate or the actual cost of the
93 treatment;

(viii) that the examination occurred either: (1) within 14 days of the transfer of the animal if the animal was declared unfit for purchase based on an illness that existed in the animal prior to or at the time of the sale and transfer of the animal; (2) within 1 year after the sale and transfer of the animal if the animal was declared unfit for purchase based on a hereditary or congenital condition that has a significant adverse effect on the health of the animal; or (3) within 1 year after the sale and transfer of the animal if the breed, sex or health of the animal was misrepresented at the time of the transfer; and

101 (ix) the veterinarian's name and signature and the address and telephone number
102 of the veterinarian's primary place of veterinary practice.

103 (c) An animal shall not be found unfit for purchase based upon:

104 (i) injuries sustained or illnesses likely to have been contracted subsequent to the
105 date of sale and transfer;

114 (iv) veterinary findings of internal or external parasites unless the animal is
115 clinically ill or dies due to the condition.

116 (d) (1) If an animal is declared unfit for purchase under subsection (b), the seller shall
117 provide the buyer with 1 of the following remedies chosen by the buyer:

130 (iv) return the animal to the seller for treatment by a veterinarian of the
131 seller's choice at no cost to the buyer; provided, however, that the animal shall be returned to the
132 buyer when the animal's health is cleared by the veterinarian

135 veterinary fees for diagnosing, treating and disposing of the animal in an amount not to exceed
136 the original purchase price of the animal, plus the sales tax and any additional point of sale fees
137 and either: (i) a refund for the purchase price of the animal, plus the sales tax and any additional
138 point of sale fees; or (ii) a replacement animal of equivalent value of the buyer's choice.

139 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall require a seller to provide a buyer with a
140 replacement animal if a replacement animal is not available.

141 (e) If a seller wishes to contest a demand made by a buyer for veterinary expenses, a
142 refund or an exchange under this section, the seller may require the buyer to produce the animal
143 for examination by a second licensed veterinarian designated by the seller within 10 days and at
144 the seller's expense. If the animal is deceased, the seller may choose to have the second
145 veterinarian review records provided by the buyer's veterinarian, including the necropsy report.
146 If the buyer and the seller are unable to reach an agreement as set forth in subsection (d) within
147 10 business days following receipt of the animal for the examination, the buyer may initiate an
148 action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover or obtain a reimbursement of veterinary
149 expenses, a refund or an exchange.

150 (f) Unless the seller contests the remedy chosen by the buyer under subsection (d), the
151 remedy shall be made to the buyer not later than 30 days after the seller receives the
152 veterinarian's statement that the animal was unfit for purchase.

153 (g) Nothing in this section shall limit the rights or remedies otherwise available to a buyer
154 under another law.

155 (h) This section shall not apply to: (i) shelters or non-profit organizations that house or
156 adopt animals to protect the animals from cruelty, neglect, abuse or homelessness; (ii) municipal

157 animal control facilities; or (iii) facilities that contract with a municipality to assist in the
158 adoption of stray animals as part of the municipality's animal control services.

159 Section 141E. (a) A pet shop shall not purchase a dog or cat for resale or offer for sale a
160 dog or cat that originated at or was purchased from a breeder, person, firm or corporation that:

161 (i) is not in possession of a current license issued by the United States Department
162 of Agriculture pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. 2131, et seq, and any license that
163 may be required by an applicable state agency;

164 (ii) has had its federal or state license suspended in the last 5 years; or

165 (iii) has been cited on 1 or more United States Department of Agriculture
166 inspection reports for 3 or more violations of the Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. 2131, et seq,
167 during the 3-year period prior to the purchase.

168 (b) A pet shop shall not purchase a dog or cat for resale or offer for sale a dog or cat that
169 originated at or was purchased from a breeder, person, firm or corporation that is not in
170 compliance with the requirements for commercial breeder kennels or catteries or personal
171 kennels or catteries under section 174F at the time of purchase of the animal by the pet shop.

172 (c) A pet shop offering a dog or cat for sale shall maintain records verifying compliance
173 with this section and documenting the source of each dog or cat the pet shop acquires, including
174 a description of the dog or cat and the name, address and United States Department of
175 Agriculture license number of the breeder for a minimum of 2 years following the date of
176 acquisition of the dog or cat. The records shall be made available immediately upon the request

177 of the department, the mayor of a city, the selectmen of a town, the police commissioner in the
178 city of Boston, a chief of police or an animal control officer.

179 (d) A pet shop offering a dog or cat for sale shall post, in a conspicuous location on the
180 cage or enclosure for each dog or cat in the cage or enclosure, a sign declaring:

181 (i) the date and place of birth of each dog or cat and the actual age or, if not
182 known, the approximate age of the dog or cat;

183 (ii) the sex, color markings and other identifying information of each dog or cat,
184 including any tag, tattoo, collar number or microchip information; and

185 (iii) the first and last name of the breeder of the dog or cat, the full street address
186 of where the breeder is doing business, an email address, if available, by which to contact the
187 breeder, the breeder's United States Department of Agriculture license number and, if the breeder
188 is required to be licensed in the state in which the breeder is located, the breeder's state license
189 number.

190 (e) Nothing in this section shall prevent a pet shop from acquiring a dog or cat for resale
191 or from selling or offering for sale a dog or cat obtained from a shelter, as defined in section
192 136A, or a rescue organization.

193 (f) A pet shop that violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50
194 for a first offense, a fine of not more than \$100 for a second offense and a fine of not more than
195 \$300 for a third or subsequent offense. Each dog or cat sold in violation of this section shall
196 constitute a separate offense.

197 (g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a city or town from adopting an ordinance that is
198 more stringent than this section.

199 Section 141F. (a) No person shall sell, exchange, trade, barter, lease or display for
200 commercial purposes any dog or cat on any roadside, public right-of-way, parkway, median,
201 park or other recreation area, flea market or other outdoor market , or commercial or retail
202 parking lot.

203 (b) This section shall not apply to: (1) the transfer of a dog or cat by, or to, a shelter,
204 pound or animal rescue organization, regardless of payment or compensation; or (2) the display
205 of a dog or cat as part of a state or county fair exhibition, a 4-H program or similar exhibition or
206 educational program.

207 (c) A pet shop that violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50
208 for a first offense, a fine of not more than \$100 for a second offense and a fine of not more than
209 \$300 for a third or subsequent offense. Each dog or cat sold in violation of this section shall
210 constitute a separate offense.

211 SECTION 3. Said chapter 140 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 174F
212 the following section:-

213 Section 174G. The department shall make rules and regulations for commercial breeder
214 kennels or catteries and personal kennels or catteries where at least 5 sexually intact female dogs
215 or cats are kept to breed the dogs or cats and sell the offspring as household pets. The rules and
216 regulations shall ensure that the animals have proper housing, including requirements for
217 adequate space, temperature, solid flooring and a prohibition on the stacking of cages, nutrition,
218 hydration, behavioral requirements, grooming, staffing, handling, health and veterinary care,

219 waste disposal, exercise, socialization and other general standards of care, and are bred in
220 accordance with responsible breeding practices. In developing rules and regulations under this
221 section, the department shall consider the recommended standards of the American Veterinary
222 Medical Association.

223 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2018.