



2022 State Legislative Wrap Up – Committee on Animals and the Law

The 2022 state legislative session has ended, and several actions were taken by the legislature that may be of interest to your committee. Any memoranda drafted by the committee in support or opposition to legislation was shared by the Government Relations team to the key relevant legislators and the team will continue its advocacy on these matters in the off-session.

I. Committee legislative engagement in 2022 Session:

Passed one or both houses

- **Eliminating Dog Breed Based Insurance Exclusions** (S8315A/A9284A) Amends the insurance law to make it unlawful to restrict or reduce coverage under any insurance policy based on the ownership of any specific dog breed (or mixture of breeds). The committee issued [memorandum in support](#) of this legislation. The legislation has passed both houses and awaits delivery to the governor. If signed into law, it will take effect on the 90th day after it becomes law.
- **Selling of Animal Tested Cosmetics** (S4839B/A5653B) This legislation prohibits the sale in New York State of cosmetic products tested on animals, and outlines penalties to be imposed on manufacturers that sell or import products known to have been tested on animals. The committee issued [memorandum in support](#) of this legislation. The legislation passed both houses and awaits delivery to the governor. If signed by the governor, this legislation would take effect on January 1, 2023.
- **Regulation of Animal Shelters:** (S6870B/A6246C) Provides a comprehensive standard of care for municipal animal shelters, not for profit human societies, SPCA and animal shelters. The committee issued a [memorandum in support](#) of the legislation. The legislation passed both houses and awaits delivery to the governor. If signed into law, it will take effect three years from the date it becomes law.
- **Aggravated Cruelty to Animals** (S960/A2152) Eliminates the word “serious” from the term “serious physical injury” in the felony animal cruelty statute, which makes it more likely for charges to be sustained regardless of an animal’s recovery from the act of cruelty. The committee issued [memorandum in support](#) of this legislation. This legislation passed the Senate, remains in its original committee (Agriculture) in the Assembly.
- **First Aid for Cats and Dogs** (S2783/A715) Authorizes emergency medical personnel to provide basic first aid for cats or dogs in an emergency situation before transferring them to the care of a veterinarian. The committee issued [memorandum in support](#) of this legislation. The legislation passed the Assembly and has been committed to Rules in the Senate.
- **Prohibit Use of Lead Ammunition** (S5058/A5728) Prohibits the use of lead ammunition in the hunting or management of wildlife on state-owned land. The committee issued [memorandum in support of](#) this

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legislation. The legislation passed the Assembly and remains in the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.

- **Inspection of Vacated Property for Abandoned Animals** (S4081) Requires certain vacated properties be inspected for abandoned animals. The committee issued [memorandum in support](#) of this legislation. The bill passed the Senate but does not have a same-as, or matching companion bill, in the Assembly at this time.

Other Notable Legislative Action:

- **Stronger Animal Fighting Laws** (S90A/A696A) Provides stronger penalties for anyone hosting or promoting animal fights, creates three levels of offenses that apply to animal fighting crimes, and adds a new crime of Promoting Enterprise Animal Fighting. The committee issued [memorandum in support](#) of this legislation. The legislation was amended and reintroduced to the Senate after dying in Assembly in early 2022. The amended Senate version remains in the Senate Agriculture committee, the amended Assembly bill advanced to a 3rd reading in late April but did not move again before session ended.
- **Judge Ordered Euthanasia** (S6484/A341) Expands the definition of circumstances under which it is deemed lawful for a Judge to order a dangerous dog be euthanized or permanently confined. The committee issued [memorandum in opposition](#) to this legislation. Due to opposition to the legislation, it did not see any movement in this legislative session.

II. Other notable legislation passed by both houses:

- **Human Food Grade Pet Food Designation** (A4570A/S3212A) Establishes the designation of human grade food for pet food that meet the standards set forth and prohibits the advertisement of any pet foods as “human food grade” if they do not meet the standards put forward in the legislation. This legislation has passed both houses and awaits delivery to the governor. If signed into law, it will take effect on the 180th day after becoming law.
- **Return of a Dog to Owner or Custodian** (A9296/S8973) Enables local authorities to return a dog with a current license directly to the owner at the address provided on the license. This legislation has passed both houses and awaits delivery to the governor. If signed into law, it will take effect immediately.
- **Prohibiting Sale of Cats, Dogs, and Rabbits** (S1130/A4283) Prohibits the retail sale of cats, dogs, and rabbits. This legislation has passed both houses and awaits delivery to the governor. If signed into law, it will take effect one year after becoming law.

Thank you for the feedback you continue to provide to our Government Relations team and elected officials. As experts in the field, the legislature grants great deference to the opinions of the committee and your feedback has the power to influence the policy of the state. Please feel free to reach out to the NYSBA Government Relations team with any questions about policy proposals, pending legislation or the legislative process generally.

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