

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 26-0116.01 Clare Haffner x6137

**HOUSE BILL 26-1011**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Duran and McCormick,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Rodriguez,**

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**House Committees**

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PET ANIMALS IN COLORADO.**

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Under current law, a pet store in Colorado is permitted to sell or offer for sale dogs or cats if the pet store abides by certain requirements. The bill removes the existing permission so that, beginning January 1, 2027, a pet store is no longer permitted to sell, lease, offer to sell or lease, barter, auction, or otherwise transfer ownership of a dog or cat. Nothing prohibits a pet store from providing space for the display of dogs or cats available for adoption if the pet store does not collect a fee from the display and if certain requirements are met.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

The bill defines "broker" as a person that, for profit, sells, leases, offers to sell or lease, barter, auctions, or otherwise transfers ownership of, in person or online, a pet animal bred by another person. The bill states that a broker is not permitted to sell, lease, offer to sell or lease, barter, auction, or otherwise transfer ownership of a dog or cat. The bill clarifies that the following are still permitted:

- The sale, transfer, or adoption of an animal, including a law enforcement animal, to a governmental agency;
- The sale, transfer, or adoption of a guide, signal, or service dog;
- The sale, transfer, or adoption of a dog or cat by an animal shelter or pet animal rescue;
- The sale or transfer of a dog or cat by the original breeder of the dog or cat;
- The sale or transfer of a dog or cat by, or on behalf of, the bona fide owner that is not the original breeder of the dog or cat to a new owner, so long as the bona fide owner does not sell or transfer a dog or cat more than three instances per each calendar year; and
- The sale, transfer, or adoption of a dog or cat by a health-related research facility.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4           (a) Dogs in commercial breeding facilities, known as puppy mills,  
5 spend most of their lives in cramped cages, where they are forced to  
6 produce litter after litter and suffer from inadequate care, which  
7 frequently results in disease, behavioral issues, and even death;

8           (b) While there are federal regulations intended to provide  
9 oversight of commercial breeding facilities, these federal regulations do  
10 not suffice in preventing cruelty to dogs in these facilities;

11           (c) Retail stores and brokers selling dogs to the public engage in  
12 deceptive business practices, harming consumers across the state who are  
13 falsely made to believe that they are purchasing healthy puppies; and

1 (d) Therefore, it is the policy of the state to end the sales and other  
2 transfers of dogs in retail stores and by brokers in order to:

3 (I) Shut down the puppy mill pipeline and end the cruelty to dogs  
4 in these facilities;

5 (II) Protect consumers from deceptive business practices; and

6 (III) Support responsible breeders, animal shelters, and pet animal  
7 rescues.

8 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that nothing  
9 in this act impacts agricultural operations in the state.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-80-102, **add** (1.7)  
11 and (8.5) as follows:

12 **35-80-102. Definitions.**

13 As used in this article 80, unless the context otherwise requires:

14 (1.7) (a) "BROKER" MEANS A PERSON THAT, FOR PROFIT, SELLS,  
15 LEASES, OFFERS TO SELL OR LEASE, BARTERS, AUCTIONS, OR OTHERWISE  
16 TRANSFERS OWNERSHIP OF, IN PERSON OR ONLINE, A PET ANIMAL BRED BY  
17 ANOTHER PERSON.

18 (b) "BROKER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PERSON THAT TRANSFERS NO  
19 MORE THAN THREE SINGLE PET ANIMALS PER EACH CALENDAR YEAR IF THE  
20 PERSON TRANSFERS EACH SINGLE PET ANIMAL NO MORE THAN ONCE.

21 (8.5) "GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY" MEANS A STATE AGENCY OR AN  
22 OFFICE, DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, BOARD, BUREAU, COMMISSION,  
23 INSTITUTION, OR AGENCY OF A COUNTY, CITY, OR CITY AND COUNTY IN  
24 THE STATE.

25 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 35-80-108.5  
26 as follows:

27 **35-80-108.5. Pet stores - brokers - exceptions - short title.**

1 (1) The short title of this section is the "~~Pet Store Consumer~~  
2 ~~Protection Act~~" "PISTOL THE POMERANIAN PROTECTION ACT".

3 (2) ~~A pet store that sells or offers for sale dogs or cats shall:~~

4 (2) (a) ~~Include on all advertisements, including website postings,~~  
5 ~~the purchase price of the dog or cat and any applicable federal or state~~  
6 ~~license numbers for the breeder of the dog or cat;~~ ON AND AFTER  
7 JANUARY 1, 2027, A PET STORE SHALL NOT SELL, LEASE, OFFER TO SELL OR  
8 LEASE, BARTER, AUCTION, OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF A DOG  
9 OR CAT.

10 (b) ~~Post on the enclosure of each dog or cat the purchase price of~~  
11 ~~the dog or cat and the following information on the dog's or cat's breeder:~~  
12 ~~Full name; kennel name, if applicable; city; state; and any applicable state~~  
13 ~~or federal license numbers; and~~ NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS A  
14 PET STORE FROM PROVIDING SPACE FOR THE DISPLAY OF DOGS OR CATS  
15 AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION IF:

16 (I) THE DOGS OR CATS ARE DISPLAYED BY A LICENSED ANIMAL  
17 SHELTER OR PET ANIMAL RESCUE;

18 (II) THE PET STORE DOES NOT RECEIVE A FEE IN CONNECTION WITH  
19 THE DISPLAY OF THE DOGS OR CATS; AND

20 (III) ANY DOG OR CAT DISPLAYED FOR ADOPTION IS STERILIZED IN  
21 ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS.

22 (c) ~~Disclose to a prospective consumer in writing, prior to the sale~~  
23 ~~of a dog or cat, the following information about the dog or cat:~~

24 (I) ~~The purchase price of the dog or cat;~~

25 (II) ~~The interest rate or range associated with any financing or~~  
26 ~~credit card offered to the prospective purchaser; and~~

27 (III) ~~Any applicable federal or state license numbers and an~~

1 ~~unredacted list of all violations of any federal or state law the dog or cat~~  
2 ~~breeder, broker, or transporter received in the previous two years on a~~  
3 ~~federal or state inspection report.~~

4 (3) Nothing in this section precludes a statutory or home rule  
5 town, city, county, or city and county from enacting laws more stringent  
6 than the requirements of this section. ~~including a prohibition on the sale~~  
7 ~~or offer for sale of dogs and cats.~~

8 (4) (a) A BROKER SHALL NOT SELL, LEASE, OFFER TO SELL OR  
9 LEASE, BARTER, AUCTION, OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF A DOG  
10 OR CAT.

11 (b) SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

12 (I) THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ADOPTION OF AN ANIMAL, INCLUDING  
13 A LAW ENFORCEMENT ANIMAL, TO A GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY;

14 (II) THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ADOPTION OF A GUIDE, SIGNAL, OR  
15 SERVICE DOG;

16 (III) THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ADOPTION OF A DOG OR CAT BY AN  
17 ANIMAL SHELTER OR PET ANIMAL RESCUE;

18 (IV) THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ADOPTION OF A DOG BRED OR  
19 TRAINED FOR LAWFUL HUNTING TO OR BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO POSSESSES  
20 A CURRENT HUNTING LICENSE IN GOOD STANDING ISSUED BY THE DIVISION  
21 OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 33;

22 (V) THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF A DOG OR CAT BY THE ORIGINAL  
23 BREEDER OF THE DOG OR CAT; OR

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25 (VI) THE SALE, TRANSFER, OR ADOPTION OF A DOG OR CAT BY A  
26 HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 35-82-102.

27 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,

1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
3 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
4 institutions.