

**State of Connecticut  
Regulation of  
Department of Agriculture  
Concerning Dog Pounds**

**Section 1. Sec. 22-336-14 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 22-336-14. Impoundment requirements**

No dog may be impounded at a dog pound which does not meet the requirements of sections 22-336-13 to [22-336-29,] 22-336-18, inclusive, of these regulations, subject to the provisions of Section 22-336-30 of these regulations. The provisions of this section shall not apply on and after January 1, 2029.

**Section 2. Sec. 22-336-16 to 22-336-18, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 22-336-16. Physical requirements**

- (a) Any building to be used as a dog pound shall be constructed in compliance with sections 22-336-13 to [22-336-30] 22-336-18, inclusive, of these regulations and maintained in good repair.
- (b) The lower portion of interior and exterior walls of a building to be used as a dog pound shall be constructed of concrete or cement block material up to a minimum height of four (4) feet.
- (c) All fencing shall be a maximum 1½ inch wire mesh by 11 minimum wire gauge to contain impounded dogs and of a design to prevent injury.
- (d) A copy of blueprints detailing the construction of the dog pound facility or renovation of an existing facility shall be submitted to the commissioner at least ninety (90) days prior to the start of construction.
- (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply on and after January 1, 2029.

**Sec. 22-336-17. Pens and runs**

- (a) Dog pounds shall provide either an indoor run, or an outdoor run and an adjacent indoor pen for each adult dog.
- (b) Indoor runs shall measure not less than forty (40) square feet with a minimum width of four (4) feet and a minimum height of six (6) feet. Solid partition dividers shall be provided between each run extending from the floor to a height of at least four (4) feet and shall extend the full length of the run.
- (c) Outdoor runs shall measure not less than four (4) feet wide, eight (8) feet long and six (6) feet high with a gate at the end of each run. Solid partition dividers shall be provided between each run extending from the floor to a height of at least four (4) feet and shall extend the full length of the run.
- (d) Outdoor runs shall be covered by a permanent roof of suitable material to protect the runs from snow, rain and excessive sunlight and a barrier shall be provided between the top of the runs and the roof structure to prevent the escape of impounded dogs.
- (e) Indoor pens shall be adjacent to each outdoor run and shall measure not less than four (4) feet square and at least four (4) feet high. Any indoor run of less than six (6) feet in height must be covered with a maximum of 1 1/2 inch wire mesh by 11 minimum wire gauge chain link fence and shall be kept clear of obstruction to provide for air circulation.
- (f) Indoor pens shall be supplied with a solid partition divider extending from the floor to a height of at least four (4) feet.

- (g) Doorways between indoor pens and the outdoor runs shall be offset from center to provide adequate space for resting surfaces to be placed in the indoor pens.
- (h) The provisions of this section shall not apply on and after January 1, 2029.

**Sec. 22-336-18. Floors and base of runs**

- (a) All dog pounds shall have smooth concrete floors, runs and troughs with a minimum of one-quarter (1/4) inch pitch per foot.
- (b) Floors of outdoor runs shall be pitched away from the building in the direction of a trough installed at the end of the run, exterior to the run fencing.
- (c) Floors of indoor pens shall be pitched toward a trough installed at the end of the pen, exterior to the pen fencing.
- (d) Floors of indoor runs shall be pitched toward a trough which has been made inaccessible to dogs by either covering or placement exterior to the run fencing.
- (e) All troughs shall be pitched toward covered drains at least six (6) inches in diameter connected by pipe not less than six (6) inches in diameter to a disposal system approved by the official responsible for local sewage disposal.
- (f) The provisions of this section shall not apply on and after January 1, 2029.

**Section 2. The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are amended by adding sections 22-336-31 to 22-336-42, inclusive, as follows:**

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-31. Definitions.**

As used in this section and sections 22-336-32 to 22-336-42, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) "CFR" means the Code of Federal Regulations;
- (2) "Clean" means to be made free of organic material and debris;
- (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;
- (4) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;
- (5) "Disinfected" means treated with either a chemical used pursuant to the manufacturer's instructions or water heated to not less than one hundred-eighty (180) degrees Fahrenheit or eighty-two and two-tenths (82.2) degrees Celsius in order to eliminate pathogens such as canine parvovirus;
- (6) "Dog Pound" means a suitable building provided and maintained by a city or town for the detention and care of dogs and other domestic animals or through written agreement with a city or town, a suitable building provided for the detention and care of dogs and other impounded animals with a licensed veterinarian, or in a licensed veterinary hospital, licensed commercial kennel, a dog pound maintained by another city or town, or other suitable building approved by the Commissioner;
- (7) "Exercise Area" means an indoor run or outdoor run;
- (8) "Impounded Animal" means a dog, cat or other domestic animal detained or seized by any

animal control officer appointed pursuant to sections 22-328, 22-331, or 22-331a of the Connecticut General Statutes for the purpose of detaining an animal, quarantining an animal, or holding an animal pursuant to any statute or municipal ordinance that authorizes the detention or seizure of an animal;

- (9) "Indoor Pen" means a completely enclosed area inside a dog pound building to be used for shelter by an impounded dog. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply on and after January 1, 2029.
- (10) "Indoor Run" means an area inside a completely enclosed dog pound to be used for shelter and exercise by an impounded animal;
- (11) "Outdoor Run" means an incompletely enclosed area adjacent to a dog pound to be used for exercise by an impounded animal;
- (12) "Primary Enclosure" means any indoor structure or device used to restrict an animal or animals to a limited amount of space, such as a room, cage, or compartment;
- (13) "Renovate" means to construct, add to, or change the size, construction or composition of indoor pens, indoor runs and outdoor runs, primary enclosures, fences, floors, heating system, water supply system, waste disposal system, or any other physical component of a dog pound;
- (14) "Renovation" means the construction of, addition to, or change in the size, construction or composition of indoor pens, indoor runs and outdoor runs, primary enclosures, fences, floors, heating system, water supply system, waste disposal system, or any other physical component of a dog pound; and
- (15) "Sanitary" means healthy, clean and free from infective and deleterious influences.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-32. Dog Pound Facility Requirements.**

Each city or town that provides and maintains a dog pound shall meet all statutory requirements under section 22-336 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the requirements of this section and sections 22-336-33 to 22-336-42, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Each city or town that provides for a dog pound in a building with a licensed veterinarian, or in a licensed veterinary hospital, licensed commercial kennel, a dog pound maintained by another city or town, or in a suitable building approved by the Commissioner, shall meet the statutory requirements, and hold all necessary licenses, and permits for that designated type of facility, and comply with this section and sections 22-336-33 to 22-336-42, inclusive, of these regulations.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-33. Dog Pound Structure Requirements.**

- (a) A dog pound shall be structurally sound, comply with all applicable building code requirements, and shall be maintained in good repair to prevent injury to dogs, cats, and other domestic animals, to contain the dogs, cats, and other domestic animals, and to restrict the entrance of other animals.
- (b) Whenever a new dog pound is to be constructed or whenever an existing dog pound is renovated, the city or town shall submit a copy of the floor plan, containing all necessary local and state

approvals, to the commissioner, not later than ninety (90) days prior to the anticipated date upon which construction or renovation will commence. Such floor plan shall include the purpose and dimensions for each room, the dimensions for each indoor run, outdoor run, and primary enclosure, the location of drains, a description of wall, floor and ceiling materials and finishes, the location of entrances and exits, and a description of the heating and ventilation systems. The floor plan shall be reviewed by the commissioner for conformance with the requirements for a dog pound under section 22-336 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and sections 22-336-32 to 22-336-42, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies within forty-five (45) days with written notification of approval or disapproval provided to the applicant. Nothing in this section shall supersede or substitute for approvals required by any local, state or federal law.

- (c) Dog pound walls and floors shall be constructed of impervious surfaces, including, but not limited to, tile, sealed cement or concrete block treated with epoxy paint, that can be cleaned and disinfected.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-34. Primary Enclosures and Exercise Areas.**

- (a) The provisions of this section shall apply to all dog pounds on and after January 1, 2029, provided any new construction or renovation of a dog pound shall conform with the requirements of sections 22-336-33 to 22-336-42, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies at the time of the new construction or renovation occurring before January 1, 2029.
- (b) A primary enclosure shall be provided for each dog or other domestic animal, excluding any cats, and shall be of sufficient size and design as to allow each dog or other domestic animal to stand, sit, lie down, turn around, and make other normal postural adjustments without obstruction, interference, or impediment by the presence of food, water bowls, equipment, or other animals, unless different space requirements are medically required by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.
- (c) A primary enclosure for each dog shall meet the following minimum criteria:
  - (1) For dogs weighing not more than twenty-five (25) pounds, five (5) square feet per dog; for dogs weighing more than twenty-five (25) pounds but not more than forty-five (45) pounds, nine (9) square feet per dog; and for dogs weighing more than forty-five (45) pounds, sixteen (16) square feet per dog; or provide space equal to or more than the space requirements for dogs pursuant to 9 CFR 3.6(a)(2)(xi) and 9 CFR 3.6(c)(1), as amended from time to time;
  - (2) Walls shall be constructed up to a minimum height of six (6) feet, with the lower four (4) feet and floors being constructed of impervious surfaces, such as tile, sealed cement or concrete block treated with epoxy paint, that can be cleaned and disinfected;
  - (3) All fencing shall not exceed a maximum one and one-half (1.5) inch wire mesh by eleven (11) minimum wire gauge to contain dogs and installed in a manner to prevent injury; and
  - (4) Ceilings shall be cleaned and kept free of accumulated dust and debris.
- (d) An exercise area shall be provided for each dog, and shall meet the following minimum criteria:
  - (1) An indoor run or outdoor run shall be provided, and shall be not less than thirty-six (36)

inches wide for a dog weighing not more than forty-five (45) pounds, and forty-eight (48) inches wide for a dog weighing more than forty-five (45) pounds, or twice the number of square feet of the required primary enclosure area pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of this section, if a dog is individually housed; or an area equal to the number of dogs multiplied by the required primary enclosure area, if housed as a group. The minimum length of a run shall be eight (8) feet.

- (2) Walls between each indoor run or outdoor run shall extend the entire length of the run, and shall be constructed up to a minimum height of six (6) feet, with the wall being constructed of solid partition dividers between each run, from the floor to a height of at least four (4) feet.
- (3) The solid partition dividers and floors of indoor runs and outdoor runs shall be constructed of impervious surfaces, such as tile, sealed cement or concrete block treated with epoxy paint, that can be cleaned and disinfected.
- (4) Outdoor runs shall be covered by a permanent roof of suitable material to protect the runs from snow, rain and excessive sunlight and a barrier shall be provided between the top of the runs and the permanent roof to prevent the escape of dogs.
- (5) The doorways between a primary enclosure and an outdoor run shall be offset from center to provide adequate space for resting surfaces to be placed in the primary enclosure.
- (6) Outdoor runs for dogs, if provided, shall: (A) have sufficient drainage that prevents the accumulation of stagnant water, (B) be surrounded by fencing, with a minimum height of six (6) feet, to prevent escape of any dog, and (C) be kept in a safe and sanitary condition. The surface of outdoor runs shall be replaced, when necessary, in order to maintain a sanitary condition.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-35. Ventilation.**

A dog pound shall provide mechanical ventilation sufficient to minimize odor, ammonia levels, disease transmission risk, and stress on each dog, cat, and other domestic animal.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-36. Lighting.**

In all areas where animals are housed, a dog pound shall have ample well-distributed light by natural or artificial means, or both, providing for a minimum of eight (8) hours of light in each twenty-four (24) hour period, except where contraindicated for health reasons. Primary enclosures shall be so placed as to protect animals from excessive illumination except for those species which require it.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-37. Animal Health.**

- (a) Each dog, cat, or other domestic animal shall be provided with food that is wholesome, palatable, free from contamination, and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain animals in good health. Each dog, cat, and other domestic animal shall be fed at least once a day, including weekends and holidays, except as dictated by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other commonly accepted practices recognized by professionals who are experts in the care of the animals concerned. Sexually immature animals shall be fed at least two times per day. Food receptacles shall be cleaned and disinfected. If disposable food receptacles are used, they shall be discarded after each feeding. Food shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect food and supplies against deterioration, molding or contamination by vermin or insects.

- (b) Potable water shall be provided at all times to each dog, cat, and other domestic animal in accordance with its needs, except as directed by hibernation, veterinary treatment, or other commonly accepted practices recognized by professionals who are experts in the care of the animals concerned. Water containers shall be designed and of sufficient number to provide and dispense adequate quantities of water for the animal or animals intended to use such container, and shall be placed in such a way as to prevent spillage. Water containers shall be cleaned and disinfected at least once each day, except that sipper-tube type water bottles, if used, and shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to an animal being placed in an enclosure.
- (c) Each dog pound shall have on file the name, email address and phone number of a Connecticut licensed veterinarian retained to provide veterinary care for each dog, cat, and other domestic animal, when necessary. Each dog pound shall follow the advice of the Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-38. Sanitation.**

- (a) All dog pounds, grounds, indoor runs and outdoor runs, primary enclosures, and any place where a dog, cat, or other domestic animal is kept shall be maintained in a sanitary manner to minimize the harborage, breeding and attraction of insects and vermin. Trash and food containers shall be kept closed or covered when not in use.
- (b) Walls, floors and ceilings shall be kept clean. Primary enclosures, indoor runs and outdoor runs and all hard surfaces shall be cleaned and disinfected, and maintained in a sanitary manner.
- (c) Primary enclosures, and runs shall be cleaned and disinfected before use by another dog, cat or other domestic animal. Chemical disinfectants shall be stored according to the manufacturer's directions. Chemical disinfectants which are used shall be labeled as effective in eliminating viruses and bacteria detrimental to canines such as Canine Parvovirus.
- (d) All dog pounds shall be supplied with a sufficient amount of hot running water for the purpose of maintaining proper sanitary conditions.
- (e) All removable resting surfaces, furniture-type fixtures, equipment, or objects within the dog pound shall be constructed in a manner or made of materials that allow them to be cleaned and disinfected, or removed or replaced when worn or soiled.
- (f) Excreta and all food waste shall be removed as often as necessary, but at a minimum, at least once daily, from all primary enclosures, indoor runs and outdoor runs. Excreta and all food waste shall be disposed of in a sanitary manner.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-39. Removal of Mortalities.**

Animal mortalities shall be immediately removed from the enclosure and isolated from all other animals. Mortalities with an unknown cause of death associated with an investigation concerning animal neglect, animal abuse or a suspected disease incident shall be necropsied at the Connecticut Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory or by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian to determine the manner and cause of death. Mortalities that cannot be transported for necropsy, diagnostic testing or disposal by cremation or burial within four (4) hours of death shall be preserved in a properly operating

refrigerator at a temperature of not more than forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or four and forty-four one-hundredths (4.44) degrees Celsius or freezer at a temperature of not more than thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit or zero (0) degrees Celsius until such time as the animal is transferred for purposes of necropsy, diagnostic testing or disposal by cremation or burial.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-40. Quarantined Animals; Isolation Areas.**

- (a) A dog pound shall have at least one isolation area, and at least one additional isolation area for every ten (10) primary enclosures. An isolation area for a dog shall consist of a primary enclosure and an indoor run or an outdoor run. An isolation area for a cat shall consist of primary enclosure. If the isolation area at a dog pound is insufficient to hold all quarantined animals, the dog pound shall follow the recommendations of the veterinarian it has retained to isolate the animals.
- (b) Isolation areas shall be constructed to prevent transmission of any disease between animals, and prevent public interaction with the isolated animals.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-41. Dog Pound Records, Health Requirements, Emergency Plan.**

- (a) Dog pounds shall maintain records of each dog, cat, or other domestic animal impounded for two (2) years from the date it was released with at least the following minimum information:
  - (1) Name and address of the owner or person responsible for the animal, if known, the date of entry, the date of release, and the name, address, phone number and email address of the person who took custody of the animal when it was released;
  - (2) Description and name of the animal, including the breed, sex, age, color marking or markings, identification device information, such as radio frequency identification device information, if available, tag information, and notes concerning any obvious injury or illness;
  - (3) Description of veterinary care, if provided, which shall include the date, time, name of and dosage of any medication provided, and name of the person administering any product or procedure; and
  - (4) If such animal is a dog, documentation confirming that the person who redeemed such dog presented a license and tag for such dog pursuant to section 22-333 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or obtained a temporary license for such dog pursuant to section 22-339a of the Connecticut General Statutes. If such person obtained a temporary license, documentation shall be included confirming that such person was notified in writing of the requirement that such person obtain a license for such dog pursuant to section 22-333 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (b) The records required by subsection (a) of this section shall be maintained at the dog pound, and shall be readily available for inspection by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designated agent.
- (c) Each dog pound shall have on file a written emergency plan describing procedures for responding to both natural and man-made disasters, such as fires, floods, extreme weather conditions, power failures and utility disruptions and chemical and toxic spills. The emergency plan shall include procedures for training staff about disaster preparedness, staff's specific responsibilities during a disaster, relocation procedures (if appropriate), and procedures for contacting appropriate emergency response agencies and owners of animals impounded by the dog pound, if such

owners are known.

**(NEW) Sec. 22-336-42. Transportation.**

Each dog, cat or other domestic animal transported by an animal control officer shall be transported in an enclosed vehicle. Vehicles used to transport a dog, cat and other domestic animal shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to prevent injury to each dog, cat and other domestic animal carried therein.

**(NEW)Secs. 22-336-43 --- 22-336-50. Reserved.**

**Section 4.** Sections 22-336-13, 22-336-15, 22-336-19 to 22-336-30, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are repealed.

**Statement of Purpose**

To update existing regulations for dog pounds. The regulations are required by C.G.S. § 22-336 and provide standards and facility requirements for dog pounds, including standards for buildings and premises; ventilation and temperature; animal care requirements which include requirements concerning size and design requirements for facilities and enclosures, cleaning, access and temperature standards, and requirements concerning quarantines, feeding and access to clean water.

The structural requirements for dog pounds will have a 5-year phase in period for existing structures to allow towns additional time to fund required improvements to their facilities.