

DRAFT

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

Section 1. The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are amended by adding sections 22-336-31 to 22-336-___, inclusive, as follows:

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

As used in this section and sections 22-336-32 to 22-336-43, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) “CFR” means the Code of Federal Regulations;
- (2) “Clean” means the thorough removal of organic material and debris;
- (3) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Agriculture;
- (4) “Department” means the Department of Agriculture;
- (5) “Disinfect” means a process that will eliminate pathogens, including Canine parvovirus, in a given area through the treatment of a clean surface with an approved chemical while following the manufacturer’s label directions, or by the application of hot water of not less than one-hundred-eighty (180) degrees Fahrenheit or eighty-two and two-tenths (82.2) degrees Celsius;
- (6) "Dog Pound" means a building operated by a city or town, other than towns participating in a regional dog pound, or designated by a city or town, other than towns participating in a regional dog pound, pursuant to section 22-336 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the detention and care of impounded animals;
- (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 any statute or municipal ordinance that authorizes the seizure or detention of an animal;
- (9) "Indoor Run" means an area inside a completely enclosed dog pound to be used for shelter and exercise by an impounded animal.
- (10) “Outdoor Run” means an incompletely enclosed area adjacent to a dog pound building to be used for exercise by an impounded animal;
- (11) “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, pen, cage, or compartment;

- (12) "Renovate" means to construct, add to, and change the size, construction or composition of pens, runs, fences, floors, heating system, water supply system, waste disposal system, or any other physical component of dog pound buildings; and
- (13) "Sanitary" means that which pertains to health, with especial reference to cleanliness and freedom from infective and deleterious influences.

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

Each city or town, other than towns participating in a regional dog pound, that designates a dog pound to impound a dog, cat or other domestic animal, shall require that the dog pound meets all statutory requirements under section 22-336 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the requirements of sections 22-336-32 to 22-336-43, inclusive, of these regulations. If a city or town, other than towns participating in a regional dog pound uses another facility authorized by statute as a dog pound, the facility shall meet the statutory requirements, and hold all necessary licenses and permits, for that designated type of facility, and comply with sections 22-336-32, 22-336-33, and 22-336-35 to 22-336-43, 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, other than towns participating in a regional dog pound, shall:
 - (1) Submit a copy of the locally approved floor plan to the commissioner, no later than 90 days prior to the planned construction date of a new dog pound, or when an existing dog pound is renovated, or added to. The information provided shall include the purpose and dimensions for each room, the dimensions for each run or primary enclosure, location of drains, a description of wall, floor and ceiling materials and finishes, location of entrances and exits, and a description of the heating and ventilation systems; and
 - (2) The floor plan shall be reviewed for conformance with the requirements for a dog pound under section 22-336 of the Connecticut General statutes, and sections 22-336-32 to 22-336-43, inclusive, of the regulations of state agencies. 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, Runs and Exercise Areas.

- (a) A primary enclosure shall be provided for each dog, cat, and other domestic animal, and shall be of sufficient size and design as to allow each dog, cat, and 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.
- (b) 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 over 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) Dogs shall not share a same primary enclosure, except dams or foster dams and their puppies;
 - (3) Walls shall be constructed up to a minimum height of six 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;
 - (4) All fencing shall not exceed a maximum 1 1/2 inch wire mesh by 11 minimum wire gauge to contain impounded dogs and installed in a manner to prevent injury; and
 - (5) Ceilings shall be kept clean and free of accumulated dust and debris.
- (c) An exercise area shall be provided for each dog, and shall meet the following minimum criteria:
 - (1) An indoor 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 two (2) times the required primary enclosure, if 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 run which shall extend the entire length of the run, and shall be constructed up to a minimum height of six feet, with solid partition dividers between each run, from the floor to a height of at least four (4) feet.
 - (3) The lower four (4) feet and floors of 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 roof structure to prevent the escape of impounded dogs.
 - (5) The doorways between a primary enclosure and an outdoor run shall be offset from center to provide adequate space for resting beds to be placed in the primary enclosure.
 - (6) Outdoor runs and outdoor exercise areas for dogs, if provided, shall: (1) have sufficient drainage that prevents the accumulation of stagnant water; (2) have fencing, with a minimum height of six (6) feet, to prevent escape of any dog, and (3) be kept in a safe and sanitary condition. The surface of outdoor runs and exercise areas shall be kept in a sanitary condition. The surface of outdoor runs and exercise areas shall be replaced, when necessary, in order to maintain a sanitary condition.

- (d) A primary enclosure shall be provided for each cat with space equal to or more than the space requirements for cats pursuant to 9 CFR 3.6(a) and 9 CFR 3.6(b), as amended from time to time.
- (e) Whenever dogs, cats or other domestic animals are kept in groups the following shall apply:
 - (1) Females in heat (estrus) shall not be kept with males;
 - (2) Any dog or cat exhibiting a vicious or aggressive disposition shall be kept separately; and
 - (3) Puppies or kittens four (4) months of age or less shall not be kept with adult dogs or cats other than their dams or foster dams.

(NEW) Sec. 22-336-35. Ventilation, Temperature.

A dog pound shall meet the following minimum standards with respect to indoor ventilation and temperature:

- (a) 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; and
- (b) A dog pound shall provide a mechanical heating and cooling system of appropriate design and capacity, to maintain an indoor ambient temperature of between fifty-five (55) and eighty (80) degrees Fahrenheit, unless other temperatures are medically required by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian.

(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 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, and 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 expert in the care of the animals concerned. In the case of sexually immature animals, they shall be fed at least two times per day. Feeding pans 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 expert 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 particular species 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, shall be kept clean and disinfected, 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 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 pound buildings, grounds, runs, primary enclosures, exercise areas and any place where a dog, cat, and other domestic animal is kept shall be maintained in a sanitary manner to minimize the harborage, breeding or attraction of insects or vermin. Trash and food containers shall be kept closed or covered when not in use.
- (b) Walls, floors and ceilings shall be kept clean and free debris. Primary enclosures, runs and all hard surfaces shall be clean and disinfected, and maintained in a sanitary manner.
- (c) Primary enclosures, runs and pens shall be cleaned and disinfected before use by another dog, cat or other domestic animal. Chemical disinfectants shall be used and stored according to the manufacturer's directions. Chemical disinfectants 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, runs, and exercise areas. 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 or disposal within four hours of death shall be preserved in a properly operating refrigerator at a temperature of not more than forty (40) degrees Fahrenheit or freezer at a temperature of not more than thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit 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 area

- (a) Any dog, cat, and other domestic animal that presents with symptoms of a contagious disease shall

be quarantined, and shall be examined, treated and handled as directed by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian. If the isolation area at a dog pound is insufficient to hold all quarantined animals, the dog pound shall follow the recommendations of their veterinarian to isolate the animals.

- (b) Dogs quarantined at a dog pound pursuant to section 22-359 of the Connecticut General Statutes shall be kept in an isolation area.
- (c) Isolation areas shall be constructed to prevent transmission of any disease between animals, and prevent public interaction with the isolated animals.
- (d) A dog pound shall have least one isolation area, and at least one additional isolation area for each ten primary enclosures. An isolation area for a dog shall consist of primary enclosure and an indoor run or an outdoor run. An isolation area for a cat shall consist of primary enclosure.

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

- (a) Dog pounds shall maintain records of each dog, cat, and 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, and the date of release, and the name, address, phone number and email address of the person who takes custody of the animal when it is released;
 - (2) Description and name of the animal including the breed, sex, age, color marking(s), identification device information such as radio frequency identification device information if available, dog tag information, and notes concerning any obvious injury or illness;
 - (3) 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;
 - (4) Proof that an unlicensed dog redeemed by its owner has obtained a dog license prior to redemption; and
 - (5) Proof that the new owner of an unlicensed dog has obtained a temporary license as required by section 22-339a of the Connecticut General Statutes, and has been notified, in writing, of the requirement to obtain a license for the dog.
- (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 their designated agent.
- (c) Each dog pound shall have on file a written emergency plan describing procedures for both natural and man-made disasters such as a fire, flood, extreme weather conditions, power failure or utility disruptions and chemical or toxic spills. The emergency plan shall include procedures for training staff about disaster preparedness, staff's specific responsibilities during a disaster, relocation process (if appropriate), and contacting appropriate emergency response agencies and owners of animals impounded by the dog pound if known.

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

Each dog, cat and other domestic animal transported by animal control officers 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) Sec. 22-336-43. Dog Pounds phase-in date for certain sections.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 22-336-32 to 22-336-42, inclusive, of these regulations, any renovations to the size, construction or composition of pens, runs, fences, floors, heating system, water supply system, waste disposal system, or any other physical component of dog pound buildings completely constructed prior to the effective date of these regulations must conform with the appropriate requirements of sections 22-336-33 to 22-336-43, inclusive, of these regulations.

(NEW) Sec. 22-336-44 --- 22-336-50. Reserved.

Section 2. 22-336-13(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is repealed, effective January 1, 2029.

Section 3. 22-336-14 to 22-336-18, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are repealed, effective January 1, 2029.

Section 4. 22-336-13(a), 22-336-13(b), 22-336-13(d), 22-336-13(e), 22-336-13(f), 22-336-13(g); and 22-336-19 to 22-336-30, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are repealed, effective upon promulgation.

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.