

Animal Welfare Local Law Summary

As per some feedback on the Animal Welfare Local Law, I wanted to summarize the 16 Page document sent to you. This initiative stated in January 10, 2014 when Gov. Andrew Cuomo enacted a measure to regulate Animal Owners, Breeders and Brokers in New York State. The new law authorizes local governments to crack down on cruel and unscrupulous Animal Owners, Breeders and Brokers throughout the state of New York and to enhance the standard of care required for Animal Owners, Breeders and Brokers. This new law Cuomo signed repeals the provisions of both the Agriculture and Markets Law and General Business Law, which prevented local governments from exercising their home rule powers to regulate Animal Owners, Breeders and Brokers throughout the state. It does not replace or compromise the state's existing authority over Animal Owners, Breeders and Brokers, but rather allows municipalities the option for greater local control and management if desired in their communities.

I want to Thank Legislator Kelly for his extensive efforts to compile what has turned out to be this document.

What has been removed from the original (Kelly) Document:

Section on Animal Welfare investigation and Cruelty Prevention oversight committee-appointment, terms compensation: officers; meetings.

Section on the Department of Animal Welfare investigation.

Section on Pet sellers and or breeders permit required.

Section on Pet Sellers/Breeders Applications and Fees

Section on Permit refusal, suspension and Revocation and penalties.

Section on Inspections.

What has been removed from the Documents submitted in October 2015:

Section on Dog owner - County License fee Requirement

Section on Removal of and Protection from animal Excrement ("Horse Law")

Section on Establishing an Animal Abuse Registry.

Section on Consumer Protection Requirements

Section on records of Purchase and Sale

Section on Notice to Customers

What has been added to the original (Kelly) document includes but is not limited to:

Sanitation has to be done weekly. (Page 5)

Dogs housed in the state's commercial breeding operations typically spend their lives in tiny, cramped, wire-floored cages that are stacked on top of each other, often outdoors, with no protection from the elements. The New Local Law defines what the floors are made of. (Page 6)

Exercise areas for dogs over twelve weeks of age has been defined. An example is small up to 10 lbs. are required to have 6'X10' area, medium dogs up to 30 lbs. area is 6'X15' and large dogs over 30 lbs. exercise area is 20'X15'. (Page 7)

This new law allows forward-thinking local governments to regulate Animal Owners, Breeders and Brokers, to ensure that unscrupulous Animal Owners, Breeders and Brokers do not evade oversight. Anyone who is mistreating animals, such as puppy mill operators, Dog owners, breeders and brokers will no longer be able to hide behind weak state laws.