

Synopsis of House Bill 1468 for IVMA Members

HB 1468 was signed by Governor Daniels on May 7, 2009. The law will do the following:

Commercial Dog Breeder Regulation - The new law will require the following

- All commercial dog breeders with at least 20 unaltered female dogs to register with the state and to pay annual registration fees.
- Registration fees are set in the statute.
- A “hobby breeder” is defined as a person who maintains fewer than 20 unaltered female dogs that are at least 12 months of age.
- These fees will be maintained by the Board of Animal Health, and will be used to enforce the safety standards contained in the bill once sufficient funds have been raised for that purpose.
- The bill adopts the promulgated standards of the United States Department of Agriculture as Indiana’s standards for the treatment of dogs in such facilities.
- In addition the bill contains limitations on the use of wire floor cages and mandates specific daily exercise requirements.
- The bill grandfathers in local ordinances that are more strict than the new law, but only for ordinances in effect by January 1, 2010. After that date no new ordinances may be stricter than the state law.
- This becomes effective January 1, 2010.

Changes in Definitions:

Before its passage persons could only be prosecuted for failing to provide food or water to an animal. Now the definition of “neglect” has been changed to include the following;

- Restraining an animal for more than a brief period in a manner that endangers the animal’s life or health
- Restraining an animal in a manner that seriously endangers the life or health of the dog or cat
- Failing to provide reasonable care for or seek veterinary care for an injury or illness to a dog or cat that seriously endangers the life or health of the dog or cat
- Leaving a dog or cat outside and exposed to excessive heat or cold without proper shelter

Penalties: It establishes the penalty for violation of the animal cruelty law as a Class A misdemeanor, and elevates it to a Class D felony if the person has a prior unrelated conviction for animal cruelty.

This part of the law becomes effective on July 1, 2009.