



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

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June 10, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair
House Committee on Corporations
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: CONCERNS WITH H. 6383 ANIMAL CARE, REQUESTING AMENDMENT

Dear Chair Solomon, Vice-Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes to you today expressing concerns on behalf of the many responsible dog owners who are members of AKC's 12 affiliated Rhode Island kennel clubs.

Founded in 1884, AKC is a recognized and trusted expert in canine health, breeding, and training, and in promoting responsible dog ownership. We represent over 5,000 dog clubs nationally that are dedicated to ensuring the health and wellbeing of all dogs and to preserving each unique breed. AKC and its affiliates are committed to ensuring that all dogs are kept in safe, humane environments, and offer many programs regarding humane care and treatment of dogs. We have raised over \$75 million for canine health research projects and offer lost dog recovery services that have reunited over 500,000 dogs with their families. Moreover, we inspect thousands of kennels every year to ensure the safety and welfare of AKC-registered dogs.

In addition to hosting [99 dog events in 2024](#) as volunteers, many members of Rhode Island kennel clubs also own a collection of dogs for private personal use that may be bred for the purpose of improving, exhibiting, or showing the breed, or for use in legal sporting activity or other personal reasons. Under state law at [§ 4-19-2. Definitions](#), such individuals are considered a "hobby breeder", which "means those persons whose regular occupation is not the breeding and raising of dogs and cats and whose method of sale is at retail only." The numerical limits for hobby breeders are not set in this definition but at [§ 4-25-1\(4\)](#), which provides that, "persons selling fewer than twenty (20) dogs or three (3) litters, whichever is greater, in a single calendar year" are not considered commercial sellers.

H. 6383 would change the statutory definition and reduce this limit by defining a "hobby breeder" as only those breeders who sell, or offer to sell, no more than two (2) litters of dogs or cats, or a combination thereof, in a three hundred and sixty-five (365) day period. All others would be considered commercial sellers.

At first glance, H. 6383 may not appear to result in significant change resulting in unacceptable restrictions. However, consider the hobby breeder with a small dog breed that regularly produces

small litters or “singletons”. Under current law, that breeder could produce more than two (2) litters a year and stay well under the 20 dogs per calendar year sales threshold, therefore remaining a “hobby breeder”. However, if H. 6383 became law, the same breeder producing the same number of litters in a rolling, 365-day cycle would be considered a commercial seller even if only selling one puppy from three (3) separate litters. By contrast, a hobbyist with a breed known to produce litters up to 15 puppies could produce two (2) litters of many more than 20 puppies and still be treated as a hobby breeder under H. 6383.

In addition, changing the timeframe from one calendar year to a rolling 365-day cycle could hamstring any hobby breeder’s effort toward improving their breed. For instance, assume the rolling 365-day cycle would start if one of a hobby breeder’s dogs produced a litter in May and then another dog produced a litter before December. Would that breeder have to skip breeding a female coming into season the following spring if that litter would whelp before May and the 365-day rolling deadline hasn’t lapsed? If so, then going forward the breeder would be over the two (2) litter threshold every 365 days and classify them as a commercial seller.

AKC is grateful to have worked this year with the Senate, the Senate President, and the state veterinarian, on S. 325, which presented the same concerns when introduced. An acceptable amendment to all parties was adopted by the Senate on June 5 and S. 325, as amended, has been forwarded to the House. We respectfully request this committee adopt that same amendment before taking a vote.

If I can be of assistance to the committee, kindly contact me. I can be reached at (919) 816-3348 or Stacey.Ober@akc.org.

Sincerely,



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AKC Government Relations

CC: Members of the Rhode Island AKC Affiliated Kennel Clubs