



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**  
235 Promenade Street, Room 425  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

June 10, 2025

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

**RE: H 6383 An Act Relating to Animals and Animal Husbandry – Animal Care**

Dear Chairman Solomon,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 6383, which would amend the definition of the term “hobby breeder” for purposes of state regulation. DEM supports this legislation.

Rhode Island state law requires that any person engaged in the propagation of purebred or crossbred dogs and cats for purposes including sale at wholesale or retail be licensed by DEM. The law also provides an exemption for “hobby breeders” whose regular occupation is not the breeding and raising of dogs and cats and who only sell these animals at retail. H 6383 proposes to modify the definition of “hobby breeder” from allowing individuals to sell fewer than twenty (20) dogs or three (3) litters, whichever is greater, within a calendar year to no more than two litters of dogs or cats within any 365-day period. This proposed definition will bring greater clarity to what distinguishes hobby breeders from breeders required to obtain a license from DEM and will also cover cats, which are currently excluded entirely from the existing definition of “hobby breeder.”

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Scott Marshall, DVM (RI State Veterinarian) at [scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov](mailto:scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov) should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.  
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Corporations  
The Honorable Jenni Furtado  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director