

## CHAPTER 164

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**AGRICULTURE**

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**HOUSE BILL 21-1160**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Duran and Soper, Bennett, Bird, Hooton, Jodeh, McCormick, Valdez A., Amabile, Cutter, Kennedy, Lontine, Mullica, Ricks, Woodrow;  
also SENATOR(S) Ginal and Coram.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING THE CARE OF PET ANIMALS IN THE CUSTODY OF CERTAIN PET ANIMAL FACILITIES.**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly finds and determines that:

(a) The citizens of Colorado value pet animals and have an expectation that pet animals will be treated with respect and consideration at all times;

(b) A dog's or cat's quality of life and health includes mental and emotional well-being as well as physical health; and

(c) Colorado's goal is to create the best outcomes for homeless dogs and cats.

(2) The general assembly declares that it is necessary and appropriate to protect animals by establishing socially conscious sheltering practices in Colorado.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 35-80-106.6 as follows:

**35-80-106.6. Care of dogs and cats in animal shelters and pet animal rescues - legislative declaration - requirements.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT HOMELESS DOGS AND CATS, OTHER THAN CATS THAT WERE NOT SOCIALIZED TO PEOPLE DURING THEIR BEHAVIORAL DEVELOPMENT AND THEREFORE DO NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE HANDLED, DESERVE APPROPRIATE SHELTER, CARE, AND ENRICHMENT BY ANIMAL SHELTERS AND PET ANIMAL RESCUES.

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

(2) EACH ANIMAL SHELTER AND PET ANIMAL RESCUE SHALL PROVIDE EACH DOG AND CAT HELD IN ITS CUSTODY WITH TIMELY VETERINARY CARE TO ADDRESS AND PREVENT UNNECESSARY OR UNJUSTIFIABLE PAIN AND SUFFERING.

(3) EACH ANIMAL SHELTER AND PET ANIMAL RESCUE SHALL ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL NEEDS OF EACH DOG AND CAT HELD IN ITS CUSTODY TO ENSURE THAT THE DOG OR CAT IS NOT HOUSED OR KEPT IN A MANNER THAT FOSTERS STEREOTYPIC OR SELF-MUTILATING BEHAVIOR.

(4) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION LIMITS OTHER AVAILABLE POTENTIAL LIVE OUTCOMES FOR DOGS OR CATS IN THE CUSTODY OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR PET ANIMAL RESCUE.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-80-108, **amend** (1) introductory portion, (1)(l), and (1)(m); and **add** (1)(n) as follows:

**35-80-108. Unlawful acts.** (1) Unless otherwise authorized by law, it is unlawful and a violation of this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 80 for any person or entity:

(l) To sell, transfer, or adopt guinea pigs, hamsters, or rabbits under the age of four weeks, and such other pet animal species as may be specified by the commissioner; ~~and~~

(m) To alter or falsify any certificate of veterinary inspection or any other certificate of veterinary health; AND

(n) TO IMPORT OR CAUSE TO BE IMPORTED ANY DOG OR CAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SALE BY A PET ANIMAL FACILITY, UNLESS THE DOG OR CAT HAS A CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY HEALTH AND, IF THE DOG OR CAT IS OVER SIX MONTHS OLD, PROOF OF A RABIES VACCINATION.

**SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 21, 2021