

Senate Bill 303

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to dogs generally, so as to provide for standards for commercial breeders; to provide
3 for facilities; to provide for care of dogs; to provide for breeding of dogs; to provide for
4 keeping and maintenance of records; to provide for violations, judicial notice, and restitution;
5 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to dogs
9 generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "4-8-8.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Commercial breeder' means any person or business entity possessing more than two
13 dogs who breeds such dogs in order to sell or barter their progeny.

14 (2) 'Veterinarian' means a veterinarian licensed by this state.

15 (b) The facility at which a commercial breeder houses and breeds dogs shall:

16 (1) House no more than 20 dogs;

- 17 (2) Have in effect a current and valid certificate of occupancy;
18 (3) Have concrete floors with drain infrastructure sufficient to allow cleansing with water
19 and sanitizing products and drainage of such substances into a sewer or onsite septic
20 system;
21 (4) Consist only of surface areas capable of being sanitized;
22 (5) Be equipped with electrical lighting throughout, which shall be illuminated at least
23 12 hours each day, and provide natural light to the extent reasonably possible; and
24 (6) Be maintained free of filth and vermin.
25 (c)(1) Commercial breeders shall house and care for dogs in accordance with this
26 subsection.
27 (2) All dogs shall be housed in durable structures. Wood and plastic housing and
28 stacking of housing are prohibited.
29 (3) Bedding shall be accessible to the dogs and shall not be located on the ground level.
30 (4) Dogs shall be provided daily access to a grassy outdoor area that shall be kept clean
31 and maintained.
32 (5) Dogs shall annually undergo a checkup by a veterinarian, be up to date on all
33 vaccinations required by law and local ordinance, and be given heart worm medication
34 at such regular intervals as are required for prevention.
35 (6) Any dog that is injured or becomes ill shall immediately be provided veterinary care,
36 shall be monitored hourly, and shall be kept separate from other dogs.
37 (7) Dogs shall be regularly bathed and groomed, with such grooming to include clipping
38 of claws and trimming of the coat as appropriate for the health and welfare of the dog.
39 (8) Euthanasia shall conform to Code Section 4-11-5.1.
40 (9) Deceased dogs shall be disposed of in compliance with Chapter 5 of this title in an
41 area open to inspection.
42 (d)(1) Commercial breeders shall breed dogs in accordance with the requirements of this
43 subsection.

44 (2) Female dogs shall only be bred once per calendar year.

45 (3) No dog shall be bred until approved for breeding by a veterinarian licensed in this
46 state.

47 (4) All dogs shall be genetically tested annually.

48 (5) Dogs shall be sterilized at or before 5 years of age. Dogs deemed inappropriate to
49 breed by a veterinarian due to the results of genetic testing shall be sterilized
50 immediately.

51 (e)(1) Commercial breeders shall maintain records onsite regarding each dog in
52 accordance with this subsection, and such records shall be available for inspection at all
53 times.

54 (2) Records for each dog shall include its name, breed, gender, the identities of all dogs
55 with which it is bred, the date of its purchase and sale, the identity of the buyer or seller,
56 and all medications given to the dog, including dosages, dates, and times.

57 (3) For any dog euthanized, its records shall include the date and time of euthanization
58 and a photo of the dog.

59 (f)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to comply with any requirement of this
60 Code section.

61 (2) Any court in any proceeding involving a commercial breeder shall take judicial
62 notice of photographs and other documentation procured or compiled by any veterinarian,
63 law enforcement officer, or animal control officer.

64 (3) Individuals who adopt dogs impounded from commercial breeders shall have a cause
65 of action for restitution for costs incurred for caring for such dogs from the commercial
66 breeder from which the impounded dog was taken."

67 **SECTION 2.**

68 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.