
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1333 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, KILLION, SANTARSIERO, ARNOLD, PHILLIPS-
HILL, BREWSTER, COLLETT, COSTA, STEFANO AND MUTH,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Good Canine Care Program;
2 providing for duties of the Department of Agriculture.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short Title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Pennsylvania
7 Good Canine Care Program Act."

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless context
11 clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Association of Shelter Veterinarians" or "ASV." A
13 professional organization for shelter veterinarians.

14 "Bureau." The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement under the
15 Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth.

16 "Department." The Department of Agriculture of the
17 Commonwealth.

1 "Offer for sale." To sell, offer for sale or adoption,
2 barter, auction, give away or otherwise transfer.

3 "Program." The Pennsylvania Good Canine Care Program.

4 "Seller." A person that offers for sale dogs.

5 Section 3. Program.

6 The "Pennsylvania Good Canine Care Program" is established in
7 the department to provide for registration of sellers. The
8 program shall be administered by the bureau.

9 Section 4. Canine health and welfare standards.

10 The department, in consultation with the Association of
11 Shelter Veterinarians, shall develop standards and benchmarks
12 for self-assessment and improvement aimed at optimizing the
13 health and welfare of dogs based on the minimum standards
14 contained in the ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care and the
15 associated Shelter Care Checklist, for the program. The
16 standards and benchmarks for the program shall be revised, as
17 determined by the department, to reflect any future revisions of
18 the ASV Guidelines.

19 Section 5. Registration.

20 (a) General rule.--A seller who meets the applicable
21 standards established under section 4 may apply to the bureau
22 for registration under this act. The department shall develop an
23 application form for registration. A seller shall complete the
24 application form in writing or electronically if permitted by
25 the bureau.

26 (b) Contents of application form.--The application form
27 shall include all of the following:

28 (1) For an individual:

29 (i) Name.

30 (ii) Date of birth.

- 1 (iii) Home address and telephone number.
- 2 (iv) Driver's license number, a copy of an
3 identification card issued by the state in which the
4 individual resides or other form of identification as
5 permitted by the bureau.
- 6 (v) Business name, address and telephone number.
- 7 (vi) Federal employer identification number, if
8 applicable.
- 9 (vii) Social Security number.
- 10 (viii) All prior business names and addresses of
11 offering for sale dogs by the individual.
- 12 (2) For a general partnership:
- 13 (i) Name of each partner.
- 14 (ii) Date of birth of each partner.
- 15 (iii) Home address and telephone number of each
16 partner.
- 17 (iv) Driver's license number, a copy of an
18 identification card issued by the state in which the
19 partner resides for each partner or other form of
20 identification as permitted by the bureau.
- 21 (v) Partnership name, address and telephone number.
- 22 (vi) Federal employer identification number, if
23 applicable.
- 24 (vii) Social Security number of each partner.
- 25 (viii) All prior business names and addresses of
26 offering for sale dogs by the applicant and each partner.
- 27 (3) For a corporation, limited liability company or
28 limited partnership:
- 29 (i) Name of each officer, manager and general
30 partner.

1 (ii) Date of birth of each officer, manager and
2 general partner.

3 (iii) Home address and home telephone number of each
4 officer, manager and general partner.

5 (iv) Driver's license number or a copy of an
6 identification card issued by the state in which the
7 individual resides, of each officer, manager and general
8 partner or other form of identification as permitted by
9 the bureau.

10 (v) Entity's name, address and telephone number.

11 (vi) Federal employer identification number, if
12 applicable.

13 (vii) Social Security number of each officer,
14 manager and general partner.

15 (viii) Name of each director or each individual
16 holding greater than a 5% equity interest in the entity.

17 (ix) All prior business names and addresses of
18 businesses offering for sale dogs operated by each
19 officer, manager and general partner.

20 (4) For an out-of-State corporation, limited liability
21 company or limited partnership:

22 (i) Name and address of the entity's resident agent
23 or registered office provider within this Commonwealth.

24 (ii) Registration number or license number, if any,
25 issued to the entity by its home state or political
26 subdivision of such other state.

27 (5) For a joint venture:

28 (i) Name, address and telephone number of the joint
29 venture.

30 (ii) Name, address and telephone number of each

1 party to the joint venture.

2 (iii) When the parties to a joint venture include
3 business entities, the information required from the
4 entities pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) shall also be
5 provided, if applicable.

6 (6) A complete description of the nature of the
7 applicant's business offering for sale dogs.

8 (7) A statement whether:

9 (i) The applicant adheres to the standards
10 established under section 4.

11 (ii) The individual making the application, even if
12 doing so as part of a business entity application, has
13 ever:

14 (A) been convicted of a criminal offense related
15 to neglect, abuse, mismanagement, cruelty or other
16 criminal offenses related to the care, ownership,
17 sale or broker of a dog;

18 (B) been convicted of a criminal offense related
19 to offer of sale of a dog transaction, fraud, theft,
20 a crime of deception or a crime involving fraud; or

21 (C) filed a petition in bankruptcy or, within
22 the last ten years, received a final civil judgment
23 entered against the applicant or businesses in which
24 the applicant held an interest that was related to
25 offering for sale of a dog transaction.

26 (iii) The applicant's certificate or license issued
27 by any other state or political subdivision thereof has
28 ever been revoked or suspended pursuant to an order
29 issued by a court, and, if so, the current status of the
30 certificate or license. The statement required by this

1 clause shall include the same information with respect to
2 any other business in which the person making application
3 has or has ever had an interest.

4 (iv) Whether within the last ten years the applicant
5 has ever been suspended or debarred from participating in
6 any Federal, State, local or not-for-profit program
7 through which public funding or other assistance is
8 provided to owners for offering for sale a dog.

9 (c) Affidavit of compliance.--No applicant may knowingly and
10 with the intent to defraud, file an application for registration
11 containing any materially false information or conceal for the
12 purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material
13 to the application. The application shall include a notarized
14 statement of the applicant verifying that:

15 (1) the applicant has read and signed the form for
16 application after its completion; and

17 (2) the applicant swears or affirms that the statements
18 made in the completed form for application are true and
19 correct, and that any statement made on or pursuant to the
20 form is subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. section
21 4903(a)(2) (relating to false swearing), which shall include
22 punishment of a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or a term of
23 imprisonment of not more than two years, or both.

24 (d) Fees.--An application shall be accompanied by a fee of
25 \$75. The bureau shall use the fees for the administration of the
26 program or any other general purpose the bureau deems
27 appropriate.

28 (e) Renewal of registration.--A registration may be renewed
29 on a triennial basis.

30 (f) Privacy policy.--The department shall create a policy

1 regarding the disclosure of a seller's personal information to
2 the public. The bureau may not disclose to the public a seller's
3 Social Security number, driver's license number or any
4 confidential information prohibited by law from being disclosed,
5 provided that a seller's home address and home telephone number
6 may be disclosed only if it is also used as the seller's
7 business address and business telephone number.

8 Section 6. Internet website.

9 (a) Duties of the bureau.--The bureau shall compile the
10 information from the forms received by the bureau under section
11 5 and shall publish the information as soon as possible on the
12 bureau's publicly accessible Internet website. The information
13 shall be segregated and searchable by county and by seller name.

14 (b) Internet website.--The Internet website containing the
15 published information under subsection (a) shall include
16 statements that:

17 (1) The information was provided by the seller on the
18 registration form pursuant to the requirements of the
19 program.

20 (2) Registration under the program is not an
21 endorsement, recommendation or approval by the bureau or the
22 department of the seller's care and competency with handling
23 dogs.

24 (3) The program permits sellers in compliance with the
25 standards under this act to register with the bureau. The
26 bureau and the department are not responsible for enforcement
27 of compliance with the standards.

28 (c) Removal of information.--The bureau shall remove the
29 information published if the seller requests cancellation of its
30 registration, fails to renew its registration or fails to meet

1 the standards of the program. The bureau shall be deemed to know
2 of a seller's failure to meet the standards of the program if:

3 (1) the seller submits rescission of its registration
4 based on its failure to comply with the standards of the act;
5 or

6 (2) a seller has been convicted of a crime against a dog
7 in a court of law in any state and notice of the conviction
8 was provided to the bureau; or

9 (3) a seller has been convicted of falsifying its
10 affidavit of compliance under section 5(c) and notice of the
11 conviction was provided to the bureau.

12 Section 7. Effective date.

13 This act shall take effect in 60 days.