

**PET SHOPS, DOG POUNDS, AND ANIMAL SHELTERS**  
**Act 287 of 1969**

AN ACT to regulate pet shops, animal control shelters, and animal protection shelters; to establish uniform procedures and minimum requirements for adoption of dogs, cats, and ferrets; and to prescribe penalties and civil fines and to provide remedies.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

**287.331 Definitions.**

Sec. 1. As used in this act:

(a) “Adoption” means a transfer of ownership, with or without remuneration, of a dog, cat, or ferret from an animal control shelter or animal protection shelter to an individual for the purpose of being a companion animal for that individual. As used in this subdivision, a companion animal includes but is not limited to a dog that is used for hunting or as a guard dog.

(b) “Alteration” means a professional sterilization procedure performed by a veterinarian that renders a dog, cat, or ferret incapable of reproducing.

(c) “Altered”, in reference to a dog, cat, or ferret, means having undergone alteration.

(d) “Animal” means a mammal except livestock as defined in 1937 PA 284, MCL 287.121 to 287.131, and rodents.

(e) “Animal control shelter” means a facility operated by a municipality for the impoundment and care of animals that are found in the streets or at large, animals that are otherwise held due to the violation of a municipal ordinance or state law, or animals that are surrendered to the animal control shelter.

(f) “Animal protection shelter” means a facility operated by a person, humane society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or any other nonprofit organization for the care of homeless animals.

(g) “Cat” means a domestic cat of any age of the species *felis catus*.

(h) “Department” means the state department of agriculture.

(i) “Director” means the director of the department or his or her authorized representative.

(j) “Dog” means a domestic dog of any age of the species *canis familiaris*.

(k) “Ferret” means an animal of any age of the species *mustela furo*.

(l) “Health certificate” means a certificate in a form prescribed by the department in which a veterinarian attests to the age, sex, breed, and description of an animal, and to the fact that at the time of preparation of the certificate, the veterinarian examined the animal and found the animal free from visual evidence of communicable disease.

(m) “Municipality” means a county, city, village, or township.

(n) “Person” means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other legal entity.

(o) “Pet shop” means a place where animals are sold or offered for sale, exchange, or transfer.

(p) “Veterinarian” means a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine under article 15 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16101 to 333.18838.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1980, Act 214, Imd. Eff. July 18, 1980;—Am. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

**287.332 Rules; promulgation.**

Sec. 2. The agriculture department shall issue rules to accomplish the purposes of this act and to establish minimum standards for housing, care and handling of animals to insure the humane care and handling of animals. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 88 of the Public Acts of 1943, as amended, being sections 24.71 to 24.80 of the Compiled Laws of 1948, and subject to Act No. 197 of the Public Acts of 1952, as amended, being sections 24.101 to 24.110 of the Compiled Laws of 1948.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

**Administrative rules:** R 285.151.1 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

**287.333 License required.**

Sec. 3. No person shall operate a pet shop unless he has first received a license from the department of agriculture under the provisions of this act.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

**287.334 Application for pet shop licenses; fee; deposit; filing of completed license**

**application; report; “completed application” defined.**

Sec. 4. (1) Applications for pet shop licenses shall be on a form as provided or made available by the director. Beginning October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2012, the director shall issue pet shop licenses for a term of 1 year beginning January 1 of each year. After September 30, 2012, the director shall issue a pet shop license upon application and payment of a license fee of \$150.00.

(2) Subject to subsection (6) and until September 30, 2012, the department shall charge a fee of \$200.00 for an initial application for a pet shop license and a fee of \$100.00 for renewal of a pet shop license.

(3) Until September 30, 2012 and except as otherwise provided for in this section, a pet shop license is renewable by submission of a completed renewal application provided or made available by the department and payment of the renewal fee described in subsection (2).

(4) The department shall deposit all license fees, inspection fees, other noncriminal fines or fees, and administrative fines received pursuant to this act into the agriculture licensing and inspection fees fund created in section 9 of the insect pest and plant disease act, 1931 PA 189, MCL 286.209, to be used, pursuant to appropriation, by the director in administering and carrying out those duties required by law under this act.

(5) Beginning July 23, 2004, the department shall issue an initial or renewal pet shop license not later than 90 days after the applicant files a completed application. Receipt of the application is considered the date the application is received by any agency or department of the state of Michigan. If the application is considered incomplete by the department, the department shall notify the applicant in writing, or make the information electronically available, within 30 days after receipt of the incomplete application, describing the deficiency and requesting the additional information. The 90-day period is tolled upon notification by the department of a deficiency until the date the requested information is received by the department. The determination of the completeness of an application does not operate as an approval of the application for the license and does not confer eligibility of an applicant determined otherwise ineligible for issuance of a license.

(6) If the department fails to issue or deny a license within the time required by this section, the department shall return the license fee and shall reduce the license fee for the applicant's next renewal application, if any, by 15%. The failure to issue a license within the time required under this subsection does not allow the department to otherwise delay the processing of the application, and that application, upon completion, shall be placed in sequence with other completed applications received at that same time. The department shall not discriminate against an applicant in the processing of the application based upon the fact that the license fee was refunded or discounted under this subsection.

(7) Beginning October 1, 2005, the director of the department shall submit a report by December 1 of each year to the standing committees and appropriations subcommittees of the senate and house of representatives concerned with agriculture issues. The director shall include all of the following information in the report concerning the preceding fiscal year:

(a) The number of initial and renewal applications the department received and completed within the 90-day time period described in subsection (5).

(b) The number of applications denied.

(c) The number of applicants not issued a license within the 90-day time period and the amount of money returned to licensees and registrants under subsection (6).

(8) As used in this section, "completed application" means an application complete on its face and submitted with any applicable licensing fees as well as any other information, records, approval, security, or similar item required by law or rule from a local unit of government, a federal agency, or a private entity but not from another department or agency of the state of Michigan. In the case of an initial application, completed application includes the completion of construction or renovation of any facility and the passing of a satisfactory inspection.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 2003, Act 83, Imd. Eff. July 23, 2003;—Am. 2004, Act 280, Imd. Eff. July 23, 2004;—Am. 2007, Act 79, Imd. Eff. Sept. 30, 2007.

**287.335 Inspection of pet shop premises.**

Sec. 5. The director of agriculture shall not issue a license to operate a pet shop until he has inspected the premises to assure that it complies with the provisions of this act and the rules of the department of agriculture.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

**287.335a Prohibited conduct.**

Sec. 5a. A person who operates a pet shop shall not do any of the following:

(a) Import or cause to be imported into this state, or offer for sale or resale, a dog or cat less than 8 weeks old.

(b) Import or cause to be imported into this state, or offer for sale or resale, a dog or cat unless the dog or cat has deciduous (baby) teeth visibly present.

(c) Sell or offer for sale a dog, unless the dog has been inoculated against distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis, para influenza and, if indicated, has been treated for external and internal parasites, not less than 7 days before the dog's entry into this state. The dog shall be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian, including records of the dog's medication and immunization.

(d) Sell or offer for sale a cat, unless the cat has been inoculated against feline panleukopenia (cat distemper), rinotracheitis and calici viruses and, if indicated, has been treated for external and internal parasites, not less than 7 days prior to the cat's entry into this state. The cat shall be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian, including records of the cat's medication and immunization.

(e) Sell or deliver a dog or cat without providing to the purchaser a health certificate signed by a veterinarian licensed by this state, for the dog or cat. The certificate shall include a health record indicating the date and type of vaccinations which have been given to the dog or cat.

**History:** Add. 1980, Act 214, Imd. Eff. July 18, 1980.

### **287.336 Animal control shelter; registration.**

Sec. 6. A municipality shall not operate an animal control shelter unless the animal control shelter is registered with the department. A society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or any other person, shall not operate an animal protection shelter unless the shelter is registered with the department.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

### **287.337 Animal control shelter or animal protection shelter; registration application; forms.**

Sec. 7. Application for registration of an animal control shelter or animal protection shelter shall be on forms approved by the department.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

### **287.338 Animal control shelter or animal protection shelter; inspection; compliance.**

Sec. 8. The department shall not register an animal control shelter or animal protection shelter unless the department first inspects it to ensure that it complies with this act and the rules promulgated under this act.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

### **287.338a Animal control shelter or animal protection shelter; alteration of dog, cat, or ferret.**

Sec. 8a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an animal control shelter or animal protection shelter shall not permit a person to adopt a dog, cat, or ferret that has not been altered, unless that person has entered into a contract for the alteration of the dog, cat, or ferret with the animal control shelter or animal protection shelter. The contract shall state that the adopting person agrees to have an alteration performed on the dog, cat, or ferret and shall otherwise comply with this section.

(2) A contract with an animal control shelter or animal protection shelter entered into pursuant to subsection (1) shall require the adopting person to have an alteration performed on the dog, cat, or ferret within 4 weeks after the adoption date if at the time of adoption the dog, cat, or ferret is 6 months of age or older. If the dog, cat, or ferret to be adopted is under 6 months of age at the time of adoption, the contract shall contain the date upon which the dog, cat, or ferret will be 6 months of age, and shall require the person adopting the dog, cat, or ferret to have an alteration performed on the dog, cat, or ferret within 4 weeks after that date. This section does not prevent a veterinarian from performing an alteration on a dog, cat, or ferret that is under 6 months of age.

(3) Upon certification by a veterinarian in writing that a dog, cat, or ferret has a serious, permanent medical or health problem that prevents an alteration, the dog, cat, or ferret adopted is not required to be altered. Upon certification by a veterinarian in writing that an alteration poses a serious, temporary medical or health problem, the alteration may be postponed. The person adopting the dog, cat, or ferret shall have it reevaluated by a veterinarian at intervals not to exceed 14 days and shall have the alteration performed no later than 7 days after a veterinarian determines that the temporary problem is resolved.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), a contract entered into pursuant to subsection (1) shall require the adopting person to leave with the animal control shelter or animal protection shelter, or a designee of the animal control shelter or animal protection shelter, a good faith deposit of at least \$25.00 that indicates the person's intention to have the adopted dog, cat, or ferret altered within the time provided pursuant to subsection (2). If the person fails to comply with the terms of the contract, the deposit is forfeited. The good faith deposit shall be returned to the adopting person if the adopting person submits written certification from a veterinarian of either of the following:

(a) The dog, cat, or ferret died within the time period in which the alteration was required under subsection (2).

(b) The dog, cat, or ferret has a serious, permanent medical or health problem that prevents an alteration.

(5) Money forfeited under subsection (4) shall be used by the animal control shelter or animal protection shelter to finance alterations, for public education regarding the value of having dogs, cats, and ferrets altered, or to otherwise ensure compliance with this section.

(6) If the adopting person complies with the terms of a contract entered into under subsection (1), the good faith deposit of at least \$25.00 shall be refunded by the animal control shelter, animal protection shelter, or a designee of the animal control shelter or animal protection shelter, upon submission by the adopting person of written certification by a veterinarian that the adopted dog, cat, or ferret was altered. The certificate shall include the date of alteration, the name of the owner of the dog, cat, or ferret, the description of the dog, cat, or ferret, and the signature of the veterinarian who performed the alteration.

(7) The good faith deposit under subsection (4) is not required if 1 or more of the following apply:

(a) A dog is transferred to a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency.

(b) A dog is transferred to an organization or trainer that trains guide or leader dogs for blind persons, hearing dogs for deaf or audibly impaired persons, or service dogs for physically limited persons.

(c) A dog, cat, or ferret is transferred to another animal control shelter or animal protection shelter or is transferred to a person who will transfer the animal to another animal control shelter or animal protection shelter. Before the first animal control shelter or animal protection shelter releases the animal, it shall obtain from the person to whom the animal is to be released a written statement by the second animal control shelter or animal protection shelter that it is willing to accept the animal for purposes of adoption or humane euthanasia. Promptly after receipt of the animal by the second animal control shelter or animal protection shelter, the person to whom the animal was released shall provide the first animal control shelter or animal protection shelter with a written statement by the second animal control shelter or animal protection shelter containing a description of the dog, cat, or ferret and acknowledging its receipt on a date specified in the statement.

(8) A contract entered into pursuant to subsection (1) shall include a statement that if the terms of the contract are breached because a person adopting a dog, cat, or ferret fails to have the animal altered as required in the contract, then the person agrees to pay liquidated damages of the greater of \$100.00 or actual reasonable costs incurred by the animal control shelter or animal protection shelter to enforce the contract. Immediately before a person signs the contract, a representative of the animal control shelter or animal protection shelter shall verbally direct the person's attention to the liquidated damages agreement in the contract.

**History:** Add. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

### **287.339 Animal breeders and animal researchers; applicability of act.**

Sec. 9. (1) The licensing and registration requirements of this act do not apply to a person who breeds his or her own animals or to a person subject to 1969 PA 224, MCL 287.381 to 287.395.

(2) Subsection (1) does not create an exemption from vaccination and licensing requirements under the dog law of 1919, 1919 PA 339, MCL 287.261 to 287.290, or from vaccination and handling requirements under 1994 PA 358, MCL 287.891 to 287.901.

(3) This act does not require the alteration of a dog, cat, or ferret being reclaimed from an animal control shelter or animal protection shelter by its owner unless a local governmental ordinance requires the alteration.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

### **287.339a Animal control shelter or animal protection shelter; maintenance of records.**

Sec. 9a. An animal control shelter or animal protection shelter shall maintain written records on the total number of dogs, cats, and ferrets under 6 months of age, the total number of dogs, cats, and ferrets 6 months of age and older, and all other animals received, returned to owners, adopted to new owners, sold, or transferred with or without remuneration to any person, the number of adopted dogs, cats, and ferrets that were altered, the number of adopted dogs, cats, and ferrets that were not altered, and the number of dogs, cats, and ferrets euthanized annually, and shall annually provide a copy of these statistics to the department, by March 31 of the year following the year for which the statistics were compiled.

**History:** Add. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

### **287.339b Violation of act or rule; sanctions; court action or order.**

Sec. 9b. (1) If a person violates this act or a rule promulgated under this act, the director, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306,

MCL 24.201 to 24.328, may do either or both of the following:

- (a) Suspend or revoke a license or registration issued to the person under this act.
- (b) Impose an administrative fine of not more than \$1,000.00 for each violation. The director shall advise the attorney general of the failure of a person to pay an administrative fine under this section. The attorney general shall bring a civil action to recover the administrative fine and costs and fees. The administrative fine shall be deposited in the agriculture licensing and inspection fees fund created in section 9 of the insect pest and plant disease act, 1931 PA 189, MCL 286.209.

(2) In addition to any other action authorized by this act, the director may bring an action to do 1 or more of the following:

- (a) Obtain a declaratory judgment that a method, act, or practice is in violation of this act.
- (b) Obtain an injunction against a person who is engaging, or about to engage, in a method, act, or practice that violates this act.

(3) If a person fails to comply with a contract for the alteration of a dog, cat, or ferret as required under section 8a, a court with appropriate jurisdiction may order transfer of ownership of the adopted animal only to 1 of the following:

- (a) The facility from which the animal was adopted.
- (b) A veterinarian, animal control shelter, or animal protection shelter willing to accept the animal and either humanely euthanize the animal or adopt the animal to an owner who agrees to have the animal altered.

**History:** Add. 1997, Act 7, Eff. Jan. 1, 1998;—Am. 2007, Act 79, Imd. Eff. Sept. 30, 2007.

#### **287.340 Violations; penalty.**

Sec. 10. Any person who violates the provisions of this act or any rule of the department of agriculture promulgated under the provisions of this act is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1969, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

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