

**REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR A 3401 RESTRICTING SALES OF DOGS AND CATS:**

- 1. Existing statutory definitions**
- 2. Existing Regulations**
- 3. Pet Purchase Protection Act (1999) applicable to Pet Stores**

NEW JERSEY STATUTES

Title 56. TRADE NAMES, TRADE-MARKS AND UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES

Chapter 8. FRAUD, ETC., IN SALES OR ADVERTISEMENTS OF MERCHANDISE.

- 56:8-93. Definitions relative to sales of cats and dogs.

**56:8-93. Definitions relative to sales of cats and dogs.** As used in sections 1 through 5 of this act:

"Animal" means a cat or dog;

"Consumer" means a person purchasing a cat or dog;

"Director" means the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety;

"Division" means the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety;

"Pet dealer" means any person engaged in the ordinary course of business in the sale of cats or dogs to the public for profit or any person who sells or offers for sale more than five cats or dogs in one year;

"Pet shop" means a pet shop as defined in section 1 of P.L.1941, c.151 ([C.4:19-15.1](#));

"Quarantine" means to hold in segregation from the general population any cat or dog because of the presence or suspected presence of a contagious or infectious disease;

"Unfit for purchase" means any disease, deformity, injury, physical condition, illness or defect which is congenital or hereditary and severely affects the health of the animal, or which was manifest, capable of diagnosis or likely contracted on or before the sale and delivery of the animal to the consumer. The death of an animal within 14 days of its delivery to the consumer, except by death by accident or as a result of injuries sustained during that period, shall mean the animal was unfit for purchase; and

"Veterinarian" means a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey.

### **§ 13:45A-12.1 Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Animal" means a dog or cat.

"Consumer" means any natural person purchasing a dog or cat from a pet dealer.

"Division" means the Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Law and Public Safety.

"Kennel" means the business of boarding dogs or cats or breeding dogs or cats for sale.

"Person" means any person as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:8-1(d).

"Pet dealer" means any person engaged in the ordinary course of business in the sale of animals for profit to the public or any person who sells or offers for sale more than five animals per year.

"Pet shop" means the business of selling, offering for sale or exposing for sale dogs or cats.

"Quarantine" means to hold in segregation from the general animal population any dog or cat because of the presence or suspected presence of a contagious or infectious disease.

"Unfit for purchase" means any disease, deformity, injury, physical condition, illness or defect which is congenital or hereditary and severely affects the health of the animal, or which was manifest, capable of diagnosis or likely to have been contracted on or before the sale and delivery of the animal to the consumer. The death of an animal within 14 days of its delivery to the consumer, except death by accident or as a result of injuries sustained during that period shall mean such animal was unfit for purchase.

## **HISTORY:**

Amended by R.1995 d.618, effective December 4, 1995.

See: 27 New Jersey Register 3566(a), 27 New Jersey Register 4899(b).

### **§ 13:45A-12.2 General provisions**

(a) Without limiting the prosecution of any other practices which may be unlawful under N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., the following acts, practices or omissions shall be deceptive practices in the conduct of the business of a pet dealer:

1. To sell an animal within the State of New Jersey without an animal history and health certificate and without providing the consumer with a completed animal history and health certificate. The animal history and health certificate shall be signed by the pet dealer, his agent or employee, and shall contain the following information:

i. The animal's breed, sex, age, color, and birth date;

ii. The name and address of the person from whom the pet dealer purchased the

animal;

iii. The breeder's name and address, and the litter number of the animal;

iv. The name and registration number of the animal's sire and dam;

v. The date the pet dealer took possession of the animal;

vi. The date the animal was shipped to the pet dealer, where such date is known by the dealer;

vii. The date or dates on which the animal was examined by a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey, the name and address of such veterinarian, the findings made and the treatment, if any, taken or given to the animal;

viii. A statement of all vaccinations and inoculations administered to the animal, including the identity and quantity of the vaccine or inoculum administered, the name and address of the person or licensed veterinarian administering the same, and the date of administering the vaccinations and inoculations; and

ix. A 10-point bold-face type warning in the following form:

#### **WARNING**

The animal which you have purchased (check one)  has  has not been previously vaccinated or inoculated. Vaccination or inoculation neither guarantees good health nor assures absolute immunity against disease. Examination by a veterinarian is essential at the earliest possible date to enable your veterinarian to insure the good health of your pet.

2. To fail to maintain a copy of the animal history and health certificate signed by the consumer for a period of one year following the date of sale and/or to fail to permit inspection thereof by an authorized representative of the Division upon two days' notice (exclusive of Saturday and Sunday).

3. To include in the animal history and health certificate any false or misleading statement.

4. To directly or indirectly refer, promote, suggest, recommend or advise that a consumer consult with, use, seek or obtain the services of a licensed veterinarian unless the consumer is provided with the names of not less than three licensed veterinarians of whom only one may be the veterinarian retained by the pet dealer for its purposes.

5. To describe or promote the operation of the business as a "kennel" unless the business operation falls within the definition contained in N.J.A.C. [13:45A-12.1](#) or the operation of the business as a "kennel" has been authorized by the issuance of a license pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.8. In the absence of meeting such criteria, a pet dealer shall be considered to be engaged in the operation of a "pet shop" and shall, where the name for the business operation includes the word "kennel," indicate the following disclaimer in proximate location to the name for the business operation in all promotional or advertising activities:

"This business only engages in the operation of a pet shop."

6. To use or employ a name for the business operation which suggests or implies that such business operation is engaged in or is associated with any organization which registers or certifies the pedigree or lineage of animals and/or to represent, expressly or by implication, approval by or affiliation with such organization, unless the following disclaimer, as appropriate, appears in proximate location to the name for the business operation:

"This business only engages in the operation of a pet shop."

"This business only engages in the operation of a kennel."

7. To state, promise or represent, directly or indirectly, that an animal is registered with an animal pedigree registry organization if such registration has not already been accomplished or that an animal is capable of being so registered, followed by a failure either to effect such registration or provide the consumer with the documents necessary therefor 120 days following the date of sale of such animal, if the animal has not already been returned to the pet dealer. In the event that a pet dealer fails to effect registration or to provide the necessary documents within 120 days following the date of sale, the consumer shall, upon written notice to the pet dealer, be entitled to choose one of the following options:

- i. To return the animal and to receive a refund of the purchase price plus sales tax; or
- ii. To retain the animal and to receive a partial refund of 75 percent of the purchase price plus sales tax.

8. A pet dealer's failure to comply with the consumer's election pursuant to (a)7 above within 10 days of written notice thereof shall be deemed a separate deceptive practice for purposes of this section.

9. To fail to display conspicuously on the business premises a sign not smaller than 22 inches by 18 inches which clearly states to the public in letters no less than one inch high the following:

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The sale of dogs and cats is subject to a regulation of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. Read your animal history and health certificate, the Statement of New Jersey Law Governing the Sale of Dogs and Cats and your Contract. In the event of a complaint you may contact: Division of Consumer Affairs, Post Office Box 45025, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101. (201) 504-6200.

(b) It shall be a deceptive practice within the meaning of this section for a pet dealer to secure or attempt to secure a waiver of any of the provisions contained in (a) above.

## **HISTORY:**

Administrative change to (a)9.

See: 25 New Jersey Register 1516(b).

Amended by R.1995 d.618, effective December 4, 1995.

See: 27 New Jersey Register 3566(a), 27 New Jersey Register 4899(b).

## **§ 13:45A-12.3 Required practices related to the health of animals and fitness for sale and purchase**

(a) Without limiting the prosecution of any other practices which may be unlawful under N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., it shall be a deceptive practice for a pet dealer to sell animals within the State of New Jersey without complying with the following minimum standards relating to the health of animals and fitness for sale and purchase:

1. A pet dealer shall have each animal examined by a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey prior to the sale of the animal. The name and address of the examining veterinarian, together with the findings made and treatment (if any) ordered as a result of the examination, shall be noted on each animal's history and health

certificate as required by N.J.A.C. [13:45A-12.2](#)(a)1vii.

2. A pet dealer shall label and identify each cage as to the:

i. Sex and breed of animal;

ii. Date and place of birth of each animal; and

iii. Name and address of the attending licensed New Jersey veterinarian and the date of initial examination.

3. A pet dealer shall be required to quarantine any animal diagnosed as suffering from a contagious or infectious disease, illness or condition until such time as a licensed New Jersey veterinarian determines that such animal is free from contagion or infection. All animals requiring quarantining shall be placed in a quarantine area separated from the general animal population.

4. A pet dealer shall be permitted to inoculate and vaccinate animals prior to purchase only on the order of a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey. A pet dealer, however, shall be prohibited from representing, directly or indirectly, that he is qualified to engage in or is engaging in, directly or indirectly, the following activities: diagnosing, prognosing, treating, administering, prescribing, operating on, manipulating or applying any apparatus or appliance for disease, pain, deformity, defect, injury, wound or physical condition of animals after purchase for the prevention of, or to test for, the presence of any disease in such animals. These prohibitions include but are not limited to the giving of inoculations or vaccinations after purchase, the diagnosing, prescribing and dispensing of medication to animals and the prescribing of any diet or dietary supplement as treatment for any disease, pain, deformity, defect, injury, wound or physical condition.

5. A pet dealer shall have any animal which has been examined more than 14 days prior to purchase reexamined by a licensed New Jersey veterinarian for the purpose of disclosing its condition at the time of purchase. Such examination shall take place within 72 hours of delivery of the animal to the consumer unless the consumer waives

this right to reexamination in writing. The written waiver shall be in the following form and a copy shall be given to the consumer prior to the signing of any contract or agreement to purchase the animal:

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

To ensure that healthy animals are sold in this State, New Jersey law requires that a dog or cat be examined by a licensed New Jersey veterinarian prior to its sale by a pet dealer and within 72 hours of the delivery of the dog or cat to a consumer who has purchased the animal where the initial examination took place more than 14 days prior to the date of purchase. A pet dealer need not have the animal reexamined if you, the consumer, decide that you do not want such a reexamination performed.

If you do not want a reexamination performed, please indicate your decision below.

**WAIVER OF REEXAMINATION RIGHT**

I understand that I have the right to have my animal reexamined within 72 hours of its delivery to me. I do not want to have such a reexamination performed.

.....  
Consumer's Name  
(Print)

.....  
Consumer's Signature

.....  
Date

.....  
Pet Dealer's or Agent's  
Name (Indicate Title or  
Position)  
(Print)

.....  
Pet Dealer's or Agent's  
Signature

.....

Date

6. If at any time within 14 days following the sale and delivery of an animal to a consumer, a licensed veterinarian certifies such animal to be unfit for purchase due to a non-congenital cause or condition or within six months certifies an animal to be unfit for purchase due to a congenital or hereditary cause or condition, a consumer shall have the right to elect one of the following options:

i. The right to return the animal and receive a refund of the purchase price, including sales tax, plus reimbursement of the veterinary fees incurred prior to the consumer's receipt of the veterinary certification. The pet dealer's liability for veterinary fees under this option shall not exceed a dollar amount equal to the purchase price, including sales tax, of the animal;

ii. The right to retain the animal and to receive reimbursement for veterinary fees incurred prior to the consumer's receipt of the veterinary certification, plus the future cost of veterinary fees to be incurred in curing or attempting to cure the animal. The pet dealer's liability under this option shall not exceed a dollar amount equal to the purchase price, including sales tax, of the animal;

iii. The right to return the animal and to receive in exchange an animal of the consumer's choice, of equivalent value, plus reimbursement of veterinary fees incurred prior to the consumer's receipt of the veterinary certification. The pet dealer's liability for veterinary fees under this option shall not exceed a dollar amount equal to the purchase price, including sales tax, of the animal;

iv. In the event of the animal's death within 14 days of its delivery to the consumer, except where death occurs by accident or injury sustained during that period, the right to receive a full refund of the purchase price plus sales tax for the animal, or in exchange an animal of the consumer's choice of equivalent value, plus reimbursement of veterinary fees incurred prior to the death of the animal. The pet dealer's liability for veterinary fees under this option shall not exceed a dollar amount equal to the purchase price, including sales tax, of the animal.

7. The pet dealer shall accept receipt of a veterinary certification of unfitness which

has been delivered by the consumer within five days following the consumer's receipt thereof, such certification to contain the following information:

- i. The name of the owner;
- ii. The date or dates of examination;
- iii. The breed, color, sex and age of the animal;
- iv. A statement of the veterinarian's findings;
- v. A statement that the veterinarian certifies the animal to be "unfit for purchase";
- vi. An itemized statement of veterinary fees incurred as of the date of the certification;
- vii. Where the animal is curable, the estimated fee to cure the animal;
- viii. Where the animal has died, a statement setting forth the probable cause of death;  
and
- ix. The name and address of the certifying veterinarian and the date of the certification.

8. When a consumer presents a veterinary certification of unfitness to the pet dealer, the pet dealer shall confirm the consumer's election in writing. The election shall be in the following form and a copy shall be given to the consumer upon signing:

UNFITNESS OF ANIMAL--ELECTION OF OPTION

I understand that, upon delivery of my veterinarian's certification of unfitness, I have the right to elect one of the following options. I am aware of those options and I understand each of them. I have chosen the following option:

1. Return of my animal and receipt of a refund of the purchase price, including sales tax for the animal, plus reimbursement of the veterinary fees incurred prior to the date I received my veterinarian's certification of unfitness. The reimbursement for veterinarian's fees shall not exceed a dollar amount equal to the purchase price including sales tax of my animal.

2. Retention of my animal and reimbursement for the veterinary fees incurred prior to the date I received my veterinarian's certification of unfitness, plus the future cost to be incurred in curing or attempting to cure my animal. The total reimbursement for veterinarian's fees shall not exceed a dollar amount equal to the purchase price including sales tax for my animal.

3. Return of my animal and receipt of an animal of my choice of equivalent value in exchange plus reimbursement of veterinary fees incurred prior to the date I received my veterinarian's certification of unfitness. The reimbursement for veterinarian's fees shall not exceed a dollar amount equal to the purchase price including sales tax of my animal.

4. DEATH OF ANIMAL ONLY. (check one)  Receipt of a full refund of the purchase price, including sales tax for the animal, or in exchange an animal of my choice of equivalent value plus reimbursement of the veterinary fees incurred prior to the death of the animal. The reimbursement for veterinarian's fees shall not exceed a dollar amount equal to the purchase price including sales tax of my animal.

.....  
Consumer's Name  
(Print)

.....  
Consumer's Signature

.....  
Date

.....  
Pet Dealer's or Agent's  
Name (Indicate Title or  
Position)  
(Print)

.....  
Pet Dealer's or Agent's  
Signature

.....  
Date

9. A pet dealer shall comply with the consumer's election as required by (a)7i through iv above not later than 10 days following receipt of a veterinary certification. In the event that a pet dealer wishes to contest a consumer's election, he shall notify the consumer and the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in writing within five days following the receipt of the veterinarian's certification, and he may require the consumer to produce the animal for examination by a veterinarian of the dealer's choice at a mutually convenient time and place. The Director shall, upon receipt of such notice, provide a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. [1:1](#), to determine why the option elected by the consumer should not be allowed.

10. A pet dealer shall give the following written notice to a consumer prior to the delivery of the animal. Such notice, signed by both the pet dealer and the consumer, shall be embodied in a separate document and shall state the following in 10 point boldface type:

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS--A STATEMENT OF NEW JERSEY LAW GOVERNING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS**

The sale of dogs and cats is subject to a regulation of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. In the event that a licensed veterinarian certifies your animal to be unfit for purchase within 14 days following receipt of your animal or within six months in the case of a congenital or hereditary cause or condition, you may:

i. Return your animal and receive a refund of the purchase price including sales tax;  
or

ii. Keep your animal and attempt to cure it; or

iii. Return your animal and receive an animal of your choice of equivalent value.

Veterinary fees limited to the purchase price of the animal, including sales tax, which were related to the condition rendering the animal unfit for sale, must be paid by the dealer in the event that you choose to keep the animal. If you choose to return the animal, veterinary fees incurred prior to receipt of the veterinary certification, limited to the purchase price of the animal, including sales tax, which were related to the condition rendering the animal unfit for sale, must be paid by the dealer.

Further, in the event of your animal's death within this 14-day period, except when death occurs by accident or as a result of injuries sustained after delivery, you may choose to receive either a full refund of the purchase price, plus sales tax, or an animal of equivalent value. In addition, veterinary fees, limited to the purchase price, including sales tax must be paid by the pet dealer.

In order to exercise these rights, you must present to the pet dealer a written veterinary certification that the animal is unfit for purchase and an itemized bill of all veterinary fees incurred prior to your receipt of the certification. Both of these items must be presented no later than five days after you have received the certification of unfitness. In the event that the pet dealer wishes to contest the certification or the bill, he may request a hearing at the Division of Consumer Affairs. If the pet dealer does not contest the matter, he must make the refund or reimbursement not later than ten days after receiving the veterinary certification. Although your dog or cat is required to be examined by a licensed veterinarian prior to sale, symptoms of certain conditions may not appear until after sale. If your dog or cat appears ill, you should have it examined by a licensed veterinarian of your choice at the earliest possible time.

If the pet dealer has promised to register your animal or to provide the necessary papers and fails to do so within the 120 days following the date of sale, you are entitled

to return the animal and receive a full refund of the purchase price plus sales tax or to keep the animal and receive a refund of 75 percent of the purchase price plus sales tax. In the event you elect to keep the animal and the dealer provides the 75 percent refund, the dealer is no longer obligated to register the animal or to provide the necessary papers to do so.

11. A pet dealer shall maintain copies of all notices required pursuant to (a)10 above, signed by both the pet dealer and the consumer, for at least one year from the date the notice was signed and shall ensure that such notices are readily available for inspection, upon request, by an authorized representative of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

12. It shall be a deceptive practice within the meaning of this section for a pet dealer to secure or attempt to secure a waiver of any of the provisions of this section except as specifically authorized under (a)5 above.

#### **HISTORY:**

Administrative correction.

See: 25 New Jersey Register 4600(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.618, effective December 4, 1995.

See: 27 New Jersey Register 3566(a), 27 New Jersey Register 4899(b).

### **N.J.S. 56:8-93**

**Bill**

**Section Type    App. Date    Eff. Date**

[L. 1999 C. 336](#) §2 Adopted 01/10/2000 04/09/2000

**Head Note:** Definitions relative to sales of cats and dogs.

**BILL NUMBER: L. 1999 C. 336**

**NOTE:**

Any information ~~Struck~~ means **DELETED**.

Any information Underlined means **NEW**.

~~1-5,7 -

C.56:8-92

to 56:8-97

~8 - Note to

~~1-7

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 336, approved January 10, 2000

Assembly Committee Substitute (First Reprint) for

Assembly, No. 960

An Act concerning the sale of cats and dogs, supplementing P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.) and amending P.L.1941, c. 151.

Be It Enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

^1. (New section) |This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Pet Purchase Protection Act."

^2. (New section) |As used in sections 1 through 5 of this act:

"Animal" means a cat or dog;

"Consumer" means a person purchasing a cat or dog;

"Director" means the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety;

"Division" means the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety;

"Pet dealer" means any person engaged in the ordinary course of business in the sale of cats or dogs to the public for profit or any person who sells or offers for sale more than five cats or dogs in one year;

"Pet shop" means a pet shop as defined in section 1 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.1);

"Quarantine" means to hold in segregation from the general population any cat or dog because of the presence or suspected presence of a contagious or infectious disease;

"Unfit for purchase" means any disease, deformity, injury, physical condition, illness or defect which is congenital or hereditary and severely affects the health of the animal, or which was manifest, capable of diagnosis or likely contracted on or before the sale and delivery of the animal to the consumer. The death of an animal within 14 days of its delivery to the consumer, except by death by accident or as a result of injuries sustained during that period, shall mean the animal was unfit for purchase; and

"Veterinarian" means a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey.

<sup>3</sup>. (New section) |No provision of this act shall be construed in any way to alter, diminish, replace, or revoke the requirements for pet dealers that are not pet shops or the rights of a consumer purchasing an animal from a pet dealer that is not a pet shop, as may be provided elsewhere in law or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto. Except as provided in section 4 and section 5 of P.L. , c. )(now before the Legislature as this bill), any provision of law pertaining to pet shops, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, shall continue to apply to pet shops. No provision of this act shall be construed in any way to alter, diminish, replace, or revoke any recourse or remedy that is otherwise available to a consumer purchasing a cat or a dog from a pet shop under any other law.

<sup>4</sup>. (New section) |a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to Title 56 of the Revised Statutes as such provisions are applied to pet shops, and without limiting the prosecution of any other practices which may be unlawful pursuant to Title 56 of the Revised Statutes, it shall be a deceptive practice for any owner or operator of a pet shop, or employee thereof, to sell animals within the State without complying with the ~~minimum standards provided in this section relating to the health of animals and fitness for sale and purchase~~ provisions and requirements of this section.

b. ~~Prior~~ Within five days prior to the offering for sale of any animal, the owner or operator of a pet shop, or employee thereof, shall have the animal examined by a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State. The name and address of the examining veterinarian, together with the findings made and treatment, if any, ordered as a result of the examination, shall be noted on the animal history and health certificate for each animal as required by regulations adopted pursuant to Title 56 of the Revised Statutes. If fourteen days have passed since the last veterinarian examination of the animal, the owner or operator of the pet shop, or employee thereof, shall have the animal reexamined by a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State as provided for in subsection g. of this section, except as otherwise provided in that subsection.

c. Each cage in a pet shop shall have a label identifying the sex and breed of each animal kept in the cage, the date and place of birth of each animal, and the name and address of the veterinarian attending to the animal and the date of the initial examination of the animal.

d. The owner or operator of a pet shop, or employee thereof, shall quarantine any animal diagnosed as suffering from a contagious or infectious disease, illness, or condition and may not sell such an animal until such time as a veterinarian licensed to practice in the State treats the animal and determines that such animal is free of clinical signs of infectious disease or that the animal is fit for sale. All animals required to be quarantined pursuant to this subsection shall be placed in a quarantine area, separated from the general animal population of the pet shop.

e. The owner or operator of a pet shop, or designated employee thereof, may inoculate and vaccinate animals prior to purchase only upon the order of a veterinarian. No owner or operator of a pet shop, or employee thereof, may represent, directly or indirectly, that the owner or operator of the pet shop, or any employee thereof, other than a veterinarian, is qualified to, directly or indirectly, diagnose, prognose, treat, or administer for, prescribe any treatment for, operate concerning, manipulate or apply any apparatus or appliance for addressing, any disease, pain, deformity, defect, injury, wound or physical condition of any animal after purchase of the animal, for the prevention of, or to test for, the presence of any disease, pain, deformity, defect, injury, wound or physical condition in an animal after its purchase. These prohibitions include, but are not limited to, the giving of inoculations or vaccinations after purchase, the diagnosing, prescribing and dispensing of medication to animals and the prescribing of any diet or dietary supplement as treatment for any disease, pain, deformity, defect, injury, wound or physical condition.

f. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety shall provide each owner or operator of a pet shop with notification forms, to be signed by the owner or operator of the pet shop, or employee thereof, and the consumer at the time of purchase of an animal. The notification form shall provide the following:

- (1) The full text of the rights and responsibilities provided for in subsection h. of this section;
- (2) The full text and description of the recourse to which the consumer is entitled pursuant to subsection i. of this section;
- (3) The statement that it is the responsibility of the consumer to obtain such certification within the required amount of time provided by subsection h. of this section;
- (4) The full text of the rights and responsibilities of the owner or operator of the pet shop, and the employees thereof, and the consumer provided in subsection l. of this section; and
- (5) The notification ~~requirements, reporting~~ and enforcement provisions provided in section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. )(now pending before the Legislature as this bill), including the name and address of the local health authority with jurisdiction over the pet shop.

The owner or operator of the pet shop, or an employee thereof, shall obtain the signature of the consumer on the form and shall also sign the form at the time of purchase of an animal, and shall provide the consumer with a signed copy of the form and retain a copy of the form on the pet shop premises. Copies of all such notices shall be readily available for inspection by an authorized representative of the Division of Consumer Affairs, upon request. No pet shop owner or operator, or employee thereof, may construe or use the signed notification form required pursuant to this subsection as an abdication of the right to recourse provided for in subsection i., or as a selection of recourse pursuant to subsection k. of this section.

g. The owner or operator of a pet shop, or an employee thereof, shall have any animal that has been examined more than 14 days prior to the date of purchase, reexamined by a veterinarian for the purpose of disclosing its condition, within 72 hours of the delivery of the animal to the consumer, unless the consumer has waived the right to the reexamination in writing. The owner or operator of a pet shop, or an employee thereof, shall provide a copy of the written waiver to the consumer prior to the signing of any contact or agreement to purchase the animal and the written waiver shall be in the form established by the director by regulation.

h. If at any time within ~~the 14 days~~ after the sale and delivery of an animal to a consumer, the animal becomes sick or dies ~~the consumer is entitled to the recourse described in subsection i. of this section, if and a veterinarian certifies, within 21 the 14 days~~ after the date of purchase of the animal by the consumer, that the animal is unfit for purchase due to a non-congenital cause or condition, or that the animal died from causes other than an accident. Within the 14 days after the sale and delivery of the animal, the consumer is required to notify the owner or operator of the pet shop where the animal was purchased, or an employee thereof, and consult a veterinarian, but the veterinarian shall have up to seven days to complete the veterinarian certification and send it to the consumer. The consumer is required to deliver the veterinarian certification to the owner or operator of the pet shop where the animal was purchased, or an employee thereof, within the five days after receipt of the veterinarian certification, the consumer is entitled to the recourse described in subsection i. of this section.

If the animal becomes sick or dies within 180 days after the date of purchase, ~~the consumer shall be entitled to the recourse provided in subsection i. of this section, if and a veterinarian certifies, within 187 the 180 days~~ after the date of purchase of the animal by the consumer, that the animal is unfit for sale due to a congenital or hereditary cause or condition, or a sickness brought on by a congenital or hereditary cause or condition, or died from ~~either~~ such a cause or condition or sickness. ~~Within the 180 days after the sale and delivery of the animal, the consumer is required to notify the owner or operator of the pet shop where the animal was purchased, or an employee thereof, and consult a veterinarian, but the veterinarian shall have up to seven days to complete the veterinarian certification and send it to the consumer. The consumer is~~

~~required to deliver the veterinarian certification to the owner or operator of the pet shop where the animal was purchased, or an employee thereof, within the five days after receipt of the veterinarian certification, the consumer shall be entitled to the recourse provided in subsection i. of this section.~~

It shall be the responsibility of the consumer to obtain such certification within the required amount of time provided by this subsection, unless the owner or operator of the pet shop, or the employee thereof selling the animal to the consumer, fails to provide the notice required pursuant to subsection f. of this section. If the owner or operator of the pet shop, or the employee thereof, fails to provide the required notice, the consumer shall be entitled to the recourse provided for in subsection i. of this section.

i. Only the consumer shall have the sole authority to determine the recourse the consumer wishes to select and accept, provided that the recourse selected is one of the following:

(1) The right to return the animal and receive a full refund of the purchase price, including sales tax, plus the reimbursement of the veterinary fees, including the cost of the veterinarian certification, incurred prior to the receipt by the consumer of the veterinarian certification;

(2) The right to retain the animal and to receive reimbursement for veterinary fees incurred prior to the consumer's receipt of the veterinarian certification, plus the future cost of veterinary fees to be incurred in curing or attempting to cure the animal, including the cost of the veterinarian certification;

(3) The right to return the animal and to receive in exchange an animal of the consumer's choice, of equivalent value, plus reimbursement of veterinary fees, including the cost of the veterinarian certification, incurred prior to the consumer's receipt of the veterinarian certification; or

(4) In the event of the death of the animal from causes other than an accident, the right to a full refund of the purchase price of the animal, including sales tax, or another animal of the consumer's choice of equivalent value, plus reimbursement of veterinary fees, including the cost of the veterinarian certification, incurred prior to the death of the animal.

The consumer shall be entitled to be reimbursed an amount for veterinary fees up to and including two times the purchase price, including sales tax, of the sick or dead animal. No reimbursement of veterinary fees shall exceed two times the purchase price, including sales tax, of the sick or dead animal.

j. The veterinarian shall provide to the consumer in writing and within the seven days after the consumer consults with the veterinarian any certification that is appropriate pursuant to this section upon the determination that such certification is appropriate. The certification shall include:

(1) The name of the owner;

(2) The date or dates of examination;

(3) The breed, color, sex and age of the animal;

(4) A statement of the findings of the veterinarian;

(5) A statement that the veterinarian certifies the animal to be "unfit for purchase";

(6) An itemized statement of veterinary fees incurred as of the date of certification;

(7) If the animal may be curable, ~~the estimated fee~~ an estimate of the possible cost to cure, or attempt to cure, the animal;

(8) If the animal has died, a statement establishing the probable cause of death; and

(9) The name and address of the certifying veterinarian and the date of the certification.

k. Upon the presentation of the veterinarian certification required in subsection j. of this section to the pet shop, the consumer shall select the recourse to be provided and the owner or operator of the pet shop, or the employee thereof, shall confirm the selection of recourse in writing. The confirmation of the selection shall be signed by the owner or operator of the pet shop, or an employee thereof, and the consumer and a copy of the signed confirmation shall be given to the consumer and retained by the owner or operator of the pet shop, or employee thereof, on the pet shop premises. The confirmation of the selection shall be in the form established by the director by regulation.

l. The owner or operator of the pet shop, or an employee thereof, shall comply with the selection of recourse by the consumer no later than 10 days after the receipt of the veterinarian certification and the signed confirmation of selection of recourse form. In the event the owner or operator of the pet shop, or an employee thereof, wishes to contest the selection of recourse of the consumer, the owner or operator of the pet shop, or an employee thereof, shall notify the consumer and the director in writing within the five days after the receipt of the veterinarian certification and the signed confirmation of selection of recourse form. After notification to the consumer and the director of the division, the owner or operator of the pet shop, or an employee thereof, may require the consumer to produce the animal for examination by a veterinarian chosen by the owner or operator of the pet shop, or employee thereof, at a mutually convenient time and place, except if the animal has died and was required to be cremated for public health reasons. The director shall set, upon receipt of such notice of contest on the part of the owner or operator of the pet shop, or an employee thereof, a hearing date and hold a hearing, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules adopted pursuant thereto, to determine whether the recourse selected by the consumer should be allowed. The consumer and the owner or operator of the pet shop, or employee thereof, shall be entitled to any appeal of the decision resulting from the hearing as may be provided for under the law, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, but upon the exhaustion of such remedies and recourse, the consumer and the owner or operator of the pet shop shall comply with the final decision rendered.

m. Any owner or operator of a pet shop, or employee thereof, shall be guilty of a deceptive practice if the owner or operator, or employee thereof, secures or attempts to secure a waiver of any of the provisions of this section except as specifically authorized under subsection g. of this section.

n. The owner of a pet shop shall be responsible and liable for any recourse or reimbursement due to a consumer because of violations of any provisions of this section by the owner or operator of the pet shop, or any employee thereof, or because of any document signed pursuant to this section by the owner or operator of the pet shop, or any employee thereof.

<sup>5</sup>. (New section) |a. Any consumer who purchases from a pet shop an animal that becomes sick or dies after the date of purchase may take the sick or dead animal to a veterinarian within the period of time required pursuant to the notification form provided upon the date of purchase, receive certification from the veterinarian of the health and condition of the animal, and pursue the recourse provided for under the circumstances indicated by the veterinarian certification, as required and provided for pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C. )(now before the Legislature as this bill). ~~The veterinarian shall have seven days after the consumer delivers the animal for examination to provide the certification to the consumer.~~

b. Upon receipt of the certification from the veterinarian, the consumer may report the sickness or death of the animal and the pet shop where the animal was purchased to the local health authority with jurisdiction over the municipality in which the pet shop where the animal was purchased is located, and to the ~~director~~ Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety. The consumer shall provide a copy of the veterinarian certificate with any such report. The director shall forward to the appropriate local health authority a copy of any such report the division receives. The local health authority shall record and retain the records of any such report and documentation submitted by a consumer.

c. ~~The local health authority shall record and retain the records of any such report and documentation submitted by a consumer.~~ By the May 1 immediately following the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, the local health authority with jurisdiction over pet shops shall review any files it has concerning

~~veterinarian~~ reports filed pursuant to subsection b. of this section and shall recommend to the municipality in which the pet shop is located the revocation of the license of any pet shop ~~that within one year has been named in:~~

~~(1) 30 or more reports of animals returned because of sickness from non-congenital causes;~~

~~(2) 10 or more reports of deaths of animals from non-congenital causes;~~

~~(3) 10 or more reports of animals returned because of sickness from congenital disease, defect or condition, or a sickness brought on by a congenital disease, defect or condition; or~~

~~(4) 5 or more reports of deaths of animals from congenital disease, defect or condition, or a sickness brought on by a congenital disease, defect or condition. with reports filed as follows:~~

(1) 15% of the total number of animals sold in a year by the pet shop were certified by a veterinarian to be unfit for purchase due to congenital or hereditary cause or condition, or a sickness brought on by a congenital or hereditary cause or condition;

(2) 25% of the total number of animals sold in a year by the pet shop were certified by a veterinarian to be unfit for purchase due to a non-congenital cause or condition;

(3) 10% of the total number of animals sold in a year by the pet shop died and were certified by a veterinarian to have died from a non-congenital cause or condition; or

(4) 5% of the total number of animals sold in a year by the pet shop died and were certified by a veterinarian to have died from a congenital or hereditary cause or condition, or a sickness brought on by a congenital or hereditary cause or condition.

d. By the May 1 immediately following the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, the local health authority with jurisdiction over pet shops shall review any files it has concerning reports filed pursuant to subsection b. of this section and shall recommend to the municipality in which the pet shop is located a 90-day suspension of the license of any pet shop with reports filed as follows:

(1) 10% of the total number of animals sold in a year by the pet shop were certified by a veterinarian to be unfit for purchase due to congenital or hereditary cause or condition, or a sickness brought on by a congenital or hereditary cause or condition;

(2) 15% of the total number of animals sold in a year by the pet shop were certified by a veterinarian to be unfit for purchase due to a non-congenital cause or condition;

(3) 5% of the total number of animals sold in a year by the pet shop died and were certified by a veterinarian to have died from a non-congenital cause or condition; or

(4) 3% of the total number of animals sold in a year by the pet shop died and were certified by a veterinarian to have died from a congenital or hereditary cause or condition, or a sickness brought on by a congenital or hereditary cause or condition.

e. Pursuant to the authority and requirements provided in section 8 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.8), the owner of the pet shop shall be afforded a hearing and ~~the~~, upon the recommendation by the local health authority pursuant to subsection c. or d. of this section, the local health authority, in consultation with the State Department of Health and Senior Services, shall set a date for the hearing to be held by the local health authority or the State Department of Health and Senior Services and shall notify the pet shop involved. The municipality may suspend or revoke the license, or part thereof, that authorizes the pet shop to sell cats or dogs after such hearing has been held: and as provided in section 8 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.8). At the hearing, the local health authority or the State Department of Health and Senior Services, whichever entity is holding the hearing, shall receive testimony from the pet shop and shall

determine if the pet shop: (1) failed to maintain proper hygiene and exercise reasonable care in safeguarding the health of animals in its custody, or (2) sold a substantial number of animals that the pet shop knew, or reasonably should have known, to be unfit for purchase.

f. No provision of subsection c. shall be construed to restrict the local health authority or the State Department of Health and Senior Services from holding a hearing concerning any pet shop in the State irrespective of the criteria for recommendation of license suspension or revocation named in subsection c. or d., or from recommending to a municipality the suspension or revocation of the license of a pet shop within its jurisdiction for other violations under other sections of law, or rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

g. No action taken by the local health authority or municipality pursuant to this section or section 8 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.8) shall be construed to limit or replace any action, hearing or review of complaints concerning the pet shop by the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety to enforce consumer fraud laws or other protections to which the consumer is entitled.

~~h.~~ The requirements of this section shall be posted in a prominent place in each pet shop in the State along with the name, address and telephone number of the local health authority that has jurisdiction over the pet shop, and this information shall be provided in writing at the time of purchase to each consumer and to each licensed veterinarian contracted for services by the pet shop upon contracting the veterinarian.

ei. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs may investigate and pursue enforcement against any pet shop reported by a consumer pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

^6. Section 8 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.8) is amended to read as follows:

8. a. Any person who keeps or operates or proposes to establish a kennel, a pet shop, a shelter or a pound shall apply to the clerk or other official designated to license dogs in the municipality where such establishment is located, for a license entitling him to keep or operate such establishment.

The application shall describe the premises where the establishment is located or is proposed to be located, the purpose or purposes for which it is to be maintained, and shall be accompanied by the written approval of the local municipal and health authorities showing compliance with the local and States rules and regulations governing location of and sanitation at such establishments.

~~Prior to issuing a license, the clerk or other official designated shall determine if the local health authority has records on the applicant pursuant to section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. )(now pending before the Legislature as this bill) and may deny the applicant the authority to sell dogs or cats based on these local health authority records.~~

b. All licenses issued for kennel, pet shop, shelter or pound shall state the purpose for which the establishment is maintained, and all such licenses shall expire on the last day of June of each year, and be subject to revocation by the municipality on recommendation of the State Department of Health and Senior Services or the local board of health for failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the State department or local board governing the same, after the owner has been afforded a hearing by either the State department or local board, except as provided in subsection c. of this section.

Any person holding such license shall not be required to secure individual licenses for dogs owned by such licensee and kept at such establishments; such licenses shall not be transferable to another owner or different premises.

c. The license for a pet shop shall be subject to review by the municipality, upon recommendation by the State Department of Health and Senior Services or the local health authority for failure by the pet shop to comply with the rules and regulations of the State department or local health authority governing pet shops or if the pet shop meets the criteria for recommended suspension or revocation provided under subsections c. or d. of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. )(now pending before the Legislature as this bill), after the owner of the

pet shop has been afforded a hearing pursuant to subsection e. of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. )(now pending before the Legislature as this bill).

The municipality, based on the criteria for the recommendation of the local health authority provided under subsections c. and d. of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. )(now pending before the Legislature as this bill), may suspend the license for 90 days or may revoke the license if it is determined at the hearing that the pet shop: (1) failed to maintain proper hygiene and exercise reasonable care in safeguarding the health of animals in its custody or (2) sold a substantial number of animals that the pet shop knew, or reasonably should have known, to be unfit for purchase.

d. The municipality may issue a license for a pet shop that permits the pet shop to sell pet supplies for all types of animals, including cats and dogs, and sell animals other than cats and dogs but restricts the pet shop from selling cats or dogs, or both.

e. Every pet shop licensed in the State shall submit annually and no later than May 1 of each year records of the total number of cats and dogs, respectively, sold by the pet shop each year to the municipality in which it is located, and the municipality shall provide this information to the local health authority.

`(cf: P.L.1982, c.203, s.3)

^7. (New section) |The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety may adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c. 410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), any rules or regulations as the director deems necessary for the implementation of this act.

^8. This act shall take effect on the 90th day following enactment.

The "Pet Purchase Protection Act."