

Care of Animals Legislation Passes to Governor

In an effort to protect pets and pet owners, the state will be authorized to inspect federally licensed commercial establishments which breed and care for cats and dogs. The inspection cannot take place unless a complaint has been filed with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

This was one of the recommendations from a ten member interim committee that met last fall. Livestock is exempt from these requirements.

Under House File 2280, establishments can be inspected by state inspectors concerning the welfare of the animals. These inspections can only take place if the state has received a complaint on that facility, and the person making the complaint must give their name, address, and telephone number. The complaints are to remain confidential, unless raised in a court case or unless the complaint was made by an organization and not an individual.

All types of commercial animal facilities, from pounds and shelters to kennels and breeders, will see increases in fees. These increased fees will be used to pay for the needed inspectors and support staff.

House File 2280 has passed both the House and Senate and is awaiting a signature from the Governor.