

Expanding Oversight for Breeders of Companion Animals

In a move to prevent the mistreatment of pets at breeding facilities, the Legislature will consider recommendations from a special bi-partisan legislative committee that met last fall.

The Legislature's Care of Animals in Commercial Enterprises Study Committee (CACE) agreed on a list of recommendations after hearing concerns from Iowans that breeders of companion animals, not livestock, are not being inspected as often as they should. Iowa's Department of Agricultural and Land Stewardship can only inspect breeders that hold a state license.

Some of the recommendations from the committee include:

- Developing a continuing education requirement for commercial breeders who violate the Animal Welfare Act.
- Requiring that licensed veterinarians be mandatory reporters of animal abuse, when seen in their clinics.
- Allow the state to inspect federally-licensed pet breeding facilities on a complaint basis.

A full list of recommendations can be found online at:

www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=486.