

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 294**

H. P. 238

House of Representatives, January 22, 1975

Referred to Committee on Agriculture. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. McKernan of Bangor.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT** Relating to the Shipment of Dogs and Cats and Prohibiting the  
Use of Dogs or Cats in Commercial Promotions.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

7 MRSA, Pt. 7 is enacted to read:

**PART 9**

**PETS**

**CHAPTER 721**

**TRANSPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS**

§ 4011. Shipment of dogs and cats under 8 weeks of age prohibited

No person, firm or corporation shall bring or have shipped into the State or acquire within the State for the purpose of resale any dog or cat under the age of 8 weeks.

§ 4012. Inoculations

1. Inoculations required. All dogs and cats of any age, brought or shipped into the State or acquired within the State for resale, shall have been inoculated against distemper and hepatitis not more than 30 nor less than 14 days before entry or acquisition.

2. Certificate of inoculation required. These dogs and cats must be accompanied by a health certificate issued and signed by an accredited licensed

state veterinarian and a U. S. Department of Agriculture veterinary medical officer or his designee, stating type of vaccine used and date administered, with a copy of the certificate to be promptly forwarded to the Commissioner of Agriculture. The certificate shall show age, sex, breed and description of each dog and cat and that the dogs and cats are free from visual evidence of communicable disease and that they originated in an area not under quarantine because of rabies.

§ 4013. Health certificate required

All dogs and cats brought or shipped into the State or acquired within the State for resale and sold to the public shall be accompanied by a health record issued by a licensed veterinarian outlining a medical history, inoculations and date of most recent examination.

§ 4014. Shipping containers

Dogs and cats of any age, brought or shipped into the State for resale must be transported in crates of durable material with solid tops and bottoms. Animals must have adequate ventilation and protection from heat, cold and the elements. Crates, food and water containers shall be sanitized before each trip. In all cases, the container shall be large enough for each dog or cat contained therein to separately and together stand up, turn around and lie down in a natural position.

§ 4015. Dogs and cats kept in cages or pens

1. Temperature. Wherever dogs and cats are kept in cages or pens, a relative state of thermal neutrality shall be maintained.
2. Bottoms of pens. There shall be no mesh or wire bottoms in pens which would permit the animal's feet to go through.
3. Exercise. All dogs and cats confined in cages, except in transit, shall be removed at least once every 12 hours and placed in a larger exercise area in order to maintain their physical comfort.
4. Sanitation. Cages must be maintained in a sanitary condition.
5. Food and water. Provisions shall be made for clean food at proper intervals depending on age, and for water at all times, including such time as when premises are closed to the public.

§ 4016. Penalty

Any person who violates any section of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished for each offense by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both.

## CHAPTER 723

### PROMOTIONAL USE OF PETS

§ 4051. Promotional use of pets prohibited

1. Prohibition. No person, firm or corporation shall use any pet, animal or bird as a prize or award in the operation of any game, contest or sales promotion.

2. **Penalty.** Any person who violates this section shall be punished for each offense by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide for a more humane method of shipping and caging dogs and cats and to prohibit the use of pets in commercial promotion. In addition, this bill will guard against the sale of unhealthy dogs and cats to the public by requiring that health records be made available to the purchaser at the time of sale.