

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 967

H.P. 677

House of Representatives, February 24, 2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Dogs at Large

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRYANT of Windham. (BY REQUEST)

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

4 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3947, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 690,
5 §28, is further amended to read:

6 Each municipality shall appoint one or more animal control
7 officers whose duties are enforcement of sections 3911, 3912,
8 3916, 3921, 3924, 3943, 3948, 3950, 3950-A, 3952 and 4041 and
9 Title 17, section 1023 responding to reports of animals suspected
10 of having rabies in accordance with Title 22, sections 1311-A,
11 1313 and 1313-A and such other duties to control animals as the
12 municipality may require.

13 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1311-A** is enacted to read:

14 **§1311-A. Mandatory quarantine for certain dogs**

15 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the
16 context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
17 following meanings.

18 **A. "Animal control officer"** means a person appointed by a
19 municipality in accordance with Title 7, section 3947.

20 **B. "Valid certificate of rabies vaccination"** means a
21 certificate signed and dated by a veterinarian upon
22 administering a rabies vaccination and verifying that the
23 dog was vaccinated at least 30 days prior to a bite or an
24 assault and that the recommended duration for the vaccine
25 received had not been exceeded at the time of the bite or
26 assault.

27 **2. Quarantine for dogs without proof of rabies vaccination.**
28 An animal control officer shall ascertain the status of a dog's
29 vaccination against rabies upon receiving:

30 **A. A report that the dog has bitten a person or a**
31 **domesticated animal; or**

32 **B. A complaint in accordance with Title 7, section 3952,**
33 **subsection 1 that the dog is a dangerous dog.**

34 **When an owner or keeper does not provide a valid certificate of**
35 **rabies vaccination for a dog within 24 hours of a request for**
36 **such certification by an animal control officer, the animal**
37 **control officer shall place the dog in a licensed boarding kennel**
38 **or veterinary clinic for observation during a quarantine period**
39 **established in rules adopted pursuant to section 1313. The owner**
40 **of the dog is responsible for all expenses incurred while the**
41 **animal is under quarantine.**

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SUMMARY

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6 This bill requires a dog to be quarantined at a boarding
8 kennel or a veterinary clinic if the dog has bitten a person or a
10 domesticated animal or the dog is the subject of a complaint
 under Maine laws regarding dangerous dogs and the dog's owner or
 keeper does not provide an animal control officer with a valid
 certificate of rabies vaccination for the dog.