

Oregon Bill Regulates Dog Breeders, Pet Stores

Legislation places limits on owning intact dogs and provides puppy “warranty” provisions.

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Oregon’s governor has signed into law a measure that would prohibit any person from having more than 50 adult intact dogs. The legislation also provides disclosure requirements for pet stores and warranty provisions for pet dealers.

House Bill 2470, which becomes effective Jan. 1, 2010, prohibits any person from possessing, controlling or having charge of 50 intact dogs over the age of 2. Any person in possession or control of at least 10 sexually intact dogs at least 8 months old are subject to specific care requirements, including: Providing sufficient space for dogs; Providing enclosures meeting certain standards, including solid flooring; Providing at least one hour of exercise; Maintaining detailed records of each dog.

A retail pet store that offers a dog for sale must provide the following information: If known, the dog’s breed, age and date of birth; Sex and color of the dog; A list and proof of inoculations; A list of all medical treatment provided to the dog; The name and business address of the breeder; The retail price of the dog; Any congenital disorder or heredity diseases in the parents; Pedigree information, if applicable; Reason stated for a previous buyer returning the pet, if applicable; Information on the number of litters born during the one-year period before the day the dog was born.

In addition, HB 2470 provides warranty provisions for those purchasing a dog from a pet dealer. A “pet dealer” is defined as anyone selling five or more litters of dogs during any one-year period.

A pet dealer would be responsible for providing a full refund of the purchase price if, within 15 days of the sale of the animal, a veterinarian certifies that the dog is diseased. The warranty would also apply to congenital conditions that are certified by a veterinarian within a year after the dog is purchased. Instead of a full refund, compensation can be an exchange or reimbursements for veterinary fees up to the cost of the dog.