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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for the humane treatment of dogs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FITZPATRICK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for the humane treatment of dogs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puppy Protection Act
5 of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEALERS.**

7 (a) HUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS BY DEALERS.—

8 Section 13(a) of The Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.

1 2143(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following
2 new paragraph:

3 “(9) In addition to the requirements under paragraph
4 (2), the standards described in paragraph (1) shall, with
5 respect to dealers, include requirements—

6 “(A) that such dealer provide adequate housing
7 for dogs that includes—

8 “(i) completely solid flooring;

9 “(ii) indoor space sufficient to allow the
10 tallest dog in an enclosure to stand on his or
11 her hind legs without touching the roof of the
12 enclosure;

13 “(iii) with respect to dogs over 8 weeks in
14 age, primary enclosures that, with the length of
15 the dog measured from the tip of the nose to
16 the base of the tail, provide at least—

17 “(I) 12 square feet of indoor floor
18 space per each dog up to 25 inches long;

19 “(II) 20 square feet of indoor floor
20 space per each dog between 25 and 35
21 inches long; and

22 “(III) 30 square feet of indoor floor
23 space per each dog 35 inches and longer;

1 “(iv) enclosures that are not stacked or
2 otherwise placed on top of or below another en-
3 closure; and

4 “(v) temperature control that—

5 “(I) is appropriate for the age, breed,
6 and condition of the dogs in the enclosure;
7 and

8 “(II) is between 45 and 85 degrees
9 Fahrenheit, when dogs are present in the
10 enclosure;

11 “(B) that appropriate and nutritious food be
12 provided to each dog at least twice per day, in an
13 amount sufficient to maintain the good health and
14 physical condition of each such dog;

15 “(C) that each dog has continuous access to po-
16 table water that is not frozen and is free of feces,
17 algae, and other contaminants;

18 “(D) that each dog has adequate exercise, in-
19 cluding—

20 “(i) for dogs over the age of 12 weeks, un-
21 restricted access from their primary enclosures
22 during daylight hours to an outdoor exercise
23 area that is—

24 “(I) at ground-level;

25 “(II) a solid surface;

1 “(III) enclosed (by a fence or other
2 structure);

3 “(IV) properly controlled for the safe-
4 ty of the dogs; and

5 “(V) allows the dog to extend to full
6 stride, play, and engage in other types of
7 mentally stimulating and social behaviors;
8 or

9 “(ii) if the dealer obtains a certification
10 from the attending veterinarian stating that the
11 dog should not have unfettered access to an
12 outdoor exercise area for a specific medical rea-
13 son, an alternative exercise plan prescribed by
14 the veterinarian for the dog that meets the re-
15 quirements under section 3.8a of title 9, Code
16 of Federal Regulations;

17 “(E) that each dog has meaningful socialization
18 with humans and compatible dogs for at least 30
19 minutes each day that—

20 “(i) includes positive interaction with a
21 human such as petting, stroking, grooming,
22 feeding, playing with, exercising, or other
23 touching of the dog that is beneficial to the
24 well-being of the dog; and

1 “(ii) does not include time spent in veteri-
2 nary care;

3 “(F) that each dog receives adequate veterinary
4 care, including—

5 “(i) prompt treatment of any disease, ill-
6 ness or injury by a licensed veterinarian;

7 “(ii) a thorough hands-on examination by
8 a licensed veterinarian at least once each year,
9 which shall include a dental exam;

10 “(iii) core vaccinations recommended by
11 the current version of the American Animal
12 Hospital Association Canine Vaccination Guide-
13 lines; and

14 “(iv) medications to prevent intestinal
15 parasites, heartworm disease, fleas, and ticks
16 that are approved by a licensed veterinarian for
17 canine use;

18 “(G) with respect to safe breeding practices for
19 dogs, including—

20 “(i) a screening program for known preva-
21 lent inheritable diseases that may be disabling
22 or likely to significantly affect the lifespan or
23 quality of life of the mother or her offspring;

24 “(ii) prohibiting breeding, unless each dog
25 bred has been screened by a veterinarian prior

1 to each attempt to breed and is found to be free
2 from health conditions that may be disabling to,
3 or likely to significantly affect the lifespan or
4 quality of life of, the mother or her offspring
5 (as documented by a licensed veterinarian upon
6 examination);

7 “(iii) prohibiting the breeding of a female
8 dog—

9 “(I) to produce more than two litters
10 in any 18-month period; or

11 “(II) more than 6 litters in that dog’s
12 lifetime;

13 “(iv) that female dogs of small breeds
14 (having a maximum weight range at maturity
15 that is below 40 pounds) not be bred—

16 “(I) before reaching the age of 18
17 months; or

18 “(II) after reaching the age of 9
19 years;

20 “(v) that female dogs of large breeds (hav-
21 ing expected weight ranges at maturity that in-
22 clude 40 or more pounds) not be bred—

23 “(I) before reaching the age of 2
24 years; or

1 “(II) after reaching the age of 7
2 years; and

3 “(vi) that any canine caesarian section be
4 performed by a licensed veterinarian;

5 “(H) that dogs be housed with other dogs, un-
6 less health or behavioral issues make group housing
7 unsafe; and

8 “(I) to make all reasonable efforts to find hu-
9 mane placement for retired breeding dogs (such as
10 with an adoptive family, rescue organization, or
11 other appropriate owner for that dog, and not in-
12 cluding selling at auction or otherwise placing a re-
13 tired breeding dog with another breeder for breeding
14 purposes).”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
16 13(a)(2)(B) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
17 2143(a)(2)(B)) is amended by inserting “subject to para-
18 graph (9),” before “for exercise of dogs”.

19 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.**

20 Not later than 18 months after the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final regulations
22 establishing the standards for the care of dogs by dealers,
23 as required by this Act.