



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 318

February Session, 2026



AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of
2 Agriculture, in consultation with the Office of Victim Services, shall
3 study the impact of the need for placement of companion animals on
4 victims of domestic violence. Such study shall include, but not be
5 limited to, the: (1) Existing resources available for victims of domestic
6 violence to find temporary or permanent placements for a companion
7 animal, (2) identification of one or more persons who may serve as a
8 contact person for victims of domestic violence in the state who need to
9 place their companion animal in the care of another person due to such
10 circumstance, and (3) feasibility of establishing a phone number or other
11 electronic communication line that is accessible twenty-four hours a day
12 for victims of domestic violence in the state who need to place their
13 companion animal in the care of another person due to such
14 circumstance. Not later than January 1, 2027, the commissioner shall
15 submit the findings and any associated recommendations concerning
16 such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
17 having cognizance of matters related to the environment, in accordance
18 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

19 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 22-26f of the 2026 supplement to the

20 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
21 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

22 (d) The State Veterinarian may issue orders to prevent the spread of
23 [contagious and infectious diseases] disease among animals and poultry
24 and may protect the public from such diseases as may be transmissible
25 to human beings, either directly or through the products of such
26 animals.

27 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2026, the
28 Commissioner of Agriculture shall convene a working group within the
29 Department of Agriculture to study the animal population control
30 program, established pursuant to section 22-380g of the general statutes,
31 and develop recommendations concerning such program, including,
32 but not limited to, ways to augment and stabilize the funding of such
33 program. Such working group shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of
34 Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee, (2) the executive director
35 of the Connecticut Humane Society, or the executive director's designee,
36 (3) a representative from an animal welfare organization, as appointed
37 by the commissioner, (4) a representative from the Connecticut
38 Veterinary Medical Association, (5) a representative of an organization
39 that represents animal control officers, and (6) any additional members,
40 as deemed necessary by the commissioner. The commissioner, on or
41 before January 1, 2027, shall submit the recommendations of such
42 working group to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
43 having cognizance of matters related to the environment, in accordance
44 with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	22-26f(d)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.