

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2022 SESSION

CHAPTER 94

An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-6511.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to dealers; sale of dogs or cats for experimental purposes.

[H 1350]

Approved April 5, 2022

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 3.2-6511.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 3.2-6511.2. Dealers; importation and sale of dogs and cats; penalty.

A. No dealer ~~or~~, commercial dog breeder, *or cat breeder* shall import for sale, sell, or offer for sale, *including sale for experimental purposes*, any dog *or cat* bred by a person who has received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pursuant to enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) or regulations adopted thereunder, (i) a citation for a direct or critical violation or citations for three or more indirect or noncritical violations for at least two years prior to the procurement of the dog *or cat* or (ii) two consecutive citations for no access to the facility prior to the procurement of the dog *or cat*.

B. No person shall serve as an owner, director, officer, manager, operator, member of staff, or animal caregiver for a dealer ~~or~~, commercial dog breeder, *or cat breeder* if such person has been convicted of a violation of § 3.2-6570.

C. Any person violating any provision of this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor for each dog *or cat* imported, sold, or offered for sale.

D. *As used in this section, "dealer," "commercial dog breeder," or "cat breeder" includes any person or entity that breeds dogs or cats regulated under federal law as research animals.*

2. That, in the case of a dealer, commercial dog breeder, or cat breeder that breeds dogs or cats regulated under federal law as research animals, the provisions of subsection A of § 3.2-6511.2 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall apply only to violations under clause (i) or (ii) that occur on or after July 1, 2023.