



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003
Committee Statement
LB 273

Hearing Date: February 4, 2003
Committee On: Agriculture

Introducer(s): (Chambers, Price)
Title: Provide cat and dog housing standards for commercial breeders

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
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Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Kremer, Erdman, Chambers, Cunningham, Mossey, Preister, Vrtiska
1	No	Senator Burling
0	Present, not voting	
0	Absent	

Proponents:

Senator Ernie Chambers
Robert A. Downey
Jim Weverka
Judy Varner
Carol Wheeler

Representing:

Introducer
Capital Humane Society
National Animal Control Assn.
Nebraska Humane Society
Hearts United for Animals

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Kirby Kloppenborg

Representing:

Nebraska Dog Breeders Assn.

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 273 adds a new section to the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act to state requirements for primary enclosures provided for animals and for the operation of facility by commercial breeders. Specifically, the bill would require commercial breeders to:

- maintain housing facilities and primary enclosures in sanitary condition
 - provide dogs and cats with adequate nutrition and potable water
 - provide adequate space appropriate to size, age and breed of housed animals and defines adequate space
 - provide dogs and cats with a resting surface that can be maintained in sanitary condition
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- provide for socialization with other animals and humans
- assure that handlers hands are washed after contact with infectious or contagious animals
- provide veterinary care without delay

The bill also prohibits commercial breeders from housing dogs or cats primarily on wire flooring.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The Committee amendments strike the original sections and become the bill. The amendment retains the original purpose of the bill to statutorily prescribe standards for facilities and primary enclosures maintained by commercial breeders. The amendment:

- removes a provision of the original bill requiring a resting board or other resting surface that would conflict with regulations of the USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service that many commercial breeders also must comply with.
- removes the prohibition from housing animals primarily on wire flooring and instead requires a primary enclosure to have floors that are constructed in a manner to protect enclosed animals' feet from injury, requires that wire flooring not sag between supports and if wire, and be of larger than nine-gauge wire or coated with insulating material.
- omits the requirement that adequate nutrition and potable water be provided but adds requirements pertaining to provision of shade and shelter.

Senator Bob Kremer, Chairperson