

ASSEMBLY, No. 3575
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 13, 2009

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman JOAN M. VOSS

District 38 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Rudder

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of local animal health and population control commissions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

AN ACT authorizing the creation of local animal health and population control commissions and supplementing Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. a. A municipality may establish an animal health and population control commission, and may designate a municipal representative to join with one or more representatives of neighboring municipalities in forming an intermunicipal commission, to coordinate the management and control of feral cat populations in that municipality or municipalities of the State, as the case may be, in order to protect the health and safety of the citizens of this State and their domesticated pets by preventing the spread of disease among feral animals.

b. The duties and responsibilities of a municipal or intermunicipal animal health and population control commission may include: making recommendations to the governing body of a municipality for the implementation of effective and coordinated trap, neuter, and release methods, including what methods, measures, and processes are to be used for purposes such as spay or neuter and vaccination, and the management of feral cat colonies; solicitation of funding, contributions, or donations; consideration and establishment of cost sharing programs; coordination of citizen initiated and funded efforts within or among neighborhoods in a municipality or, in the case of an intermunicipal commission, across contiguous municipalities; and such other duties and responsibilities as the governing body of the municipality or municipalities may deem useful and appropriate.

c. The Office of Animal Welfare in the Department of Health and Senior Services, in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs, shall create and maintain an internet website for municipal and intermunicipal animal health and population control commissions, with information on feral cat populations, trap, neuter, and release programs, and other related topics, and shall provide information and assistance, as appropriate, to support the commissions.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would authorize a municipality to create an animal health and population control commission, to coordinate the management and control of feral cat populations, in order to prevent the spread of disease among feral animals and protect the health and safety of the citizens of this State and their domesticated pets.

The bill would also authorize a municipality to designate a municipal representative to join with one or more representatives of neighboring municipalities in forming an intermunicipal commission.

The duties and responsibilities of a municipal or intermunicipal animal health and population control commission may include:

- (1) making recommendations to the governing body of a municipality for the implementation of effective and coordinated trap, neuter, and release methods, including what methods, measures, and processes are to be used for purposes such as spay or neuter and vaccination, and the management of feral cat colonies;
- (2) solicitation of funding, contributions, or donations;
- (3) consideration and establishment of cost sharing programs;
- (4) coordination of citizen initiated and funded efforts within or among neighborhoods in a municipality or across contiguous municipalities; and
- (5) other duties and responsibilities as the governing body of the municipality or municipalities may deem useful and appropriate.

The Office of Animal Welfare in the Department of Health and Senior Services, in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs, would create and maintain an internet website for municipal and intermunicipal animal health and population control commissions, with information on feral cat populations, trap, neuter, and release programs, and other related topics, and would provide information and assistance to support the commissions.