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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.

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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.