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THIRD READING

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Bill No: AB 506  
Author: Bennett (D), et al.  
Amended: 7/10/25 in Senate  
Vote: 21

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SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 6/23/25  
AYES: Ashby, Archuleta, Arreguín, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas,  
Strickland, Umberg, Weber Pierson  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi, Menjivar

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 7/8/25  
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern,  
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25  
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-2, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Pets: sales of dogs, cats, and rabbits

**SOURCE:** American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
San Diego Humane Society

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**DIGEST:** This bill requires a person, pet dealer, or business, as defined, that sells a dog, cat, or rabbit (animal) to provide a written notice to the purchaser containing specified information about the animal, and prohibits a person, pet dealer, or business from requiring a nonrefundable deposit for the purchase of an animal.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Prohibits a pet store operator from selling a live dog, cat, or rabbit in a pet store unless the animal was obtained from a public animal control agency or shelter,

society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group that is in a cooperative agreement with at least one private or public shelter, as specified. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 122354.5)

- 2) Prohibits a public animal control agency or shelter, an animal rescue group displaying animals at a pet store, or an animal rescue group operating a retail establishment from offering dogs, cats, or rabbits for adoption unless the animals are sterilized, and the adoption fees from being more than \$500. (HSC § 122354.5(c))
- 3) Requires every breeder of dogs to deliver each purchaser of a dog a written disclosure, as specified. (HSC § 122050(a))
- 4) Requires a breeder to maintain a written record on the health, status, and disposition of each dog for a period of not less than one year after the disposition of the dog. (HSC § 122055)
- 5) Prohibits an online pet retailer, as defined, from offering, brokering or making a referral for a loan or other financing for the adoption or sale of a dog, cat, or rabbit. (HSC § 122191).

This bill:

- 1) Requires a person, business, or pet dealer that sells a dog, cat, or rabbit to a purchaser located in California, to provide a written notice to the buyer or recipient of the dog, cat, or rabbit that states all of the following:
  - a) The original source of the dog, cat, or rabbit, including, but not limited to the breeder; if applicable, the breeder's USDA license number; and the state the dog, cat, or rabbit was born in.
  - b) A record of inoculations and worming treatments administered, if any, to the dog, cat or rabbit as of the time of sale, including dates of administration and the type of vaccine or worming treatment.
  - c) A record of any veterinarian treatment or medication received by the dog, cat, or rabbit while in the possession of the person, pet dealer, or business and a statement signed by the person, pet dealer, or business at the time of sale containing specified medical information.

- 3) Makes a contract that is entered into on or after January 1, 2026, to transfer ownership of a dog, cat, or rabbit to a purchaser that is offered, negotiated, brokered, or otherwise arranged by a person, pet dealer, or business while the purchaser is located in California is void against public policy if the contract includes or requires a nonrefundable deposit. Requires a seller to refund money within 30 days if it is exchanged pursuant to a contract that is voided pursuant to this requirement.
- 4) Prohibits a person, pet dealer, or business from offering a contract that contains a term that violates the provisions above. Authorizes a person, pet dealer, or business who offers a contract that contains a term that violates the provisions of this bill to be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction for the recovery of money exchanged pursuant to that contract, injunctive relief, and other remedies the court deems appropriate.
- 7) Permits a purchaser affected by a violation of the prohibitions of this bill, to bring a civil action against the person, pet dealer, or business as specified. Makes a prevailing plaintiff in an action brought pursuant to the provisions of this bill entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
- 8) States that the Attorney General, a county counsel, a district attorney, or a city prosecutor has the authority to enforce the provisions of this bill in an action brought in the name of this state in any court of competent jurisdiction, and the authority provided to a public prosecutor is not an exclusive remedy and does not affect any other relief or remedy provided by law.
- 9) States that the provisions of this bill do not limit a contract for the transfer of ownership of an animal to or by a governmental agency or the transfer of ownership of a guide, signal, or service dog, as defined.
- 10) States that the provisions of this bill do not apply to a public animal control agency or shelter.
- 11) Clarifies that the provisions of this bill do not amend the requirements of current provisions related to the sale of dogs and cats, as specified.

## **Background**

*Retail Pet Sales in California.* Generally, California regulates the sale of animals through the Polanco-Lockyer Pet Breeder Warranty Act (Warranty Act) and the

Lockyer-Polanco-Farr Pet Protection Act (Protection Act). The Warranty Act is applicable to California breeders and the Protection Act applies to retail sales in stores. California's breeder and pet retail sales laws are intended to ensure the consumer has recourse should any problems arise with respect to the health of the animal after the animal is purchased. The Protection Act also includes specific requirements to ensure consumers have information about the pet's origins and the health and safety of the animals prior to purchase and while in the care of the pet retailer.

California does not license dog breeders in this state. Instead, dog breeders are authorized to operate if they meet the definition of breeder and comply with the requirements specified in the Warranty Act. Under the provisions of the Warranty Act, consumers may receive a refund or reimbursement should they purchase a sick dog, or a dog found to have a hereditary or congenital condition requiring surgery or hospitalization. Pursuant to provisions within the Warranty Act, dog breeders must provide specific written disclosures, including the breeder's name, address, information on the dog, and signed statements that the dog has no known diseases or illnesses, as well as a notice of the purchaser's rights to obtain a refund or reimbursement. The provisions of the Warranty Act are specific to dog "breeders" which are defined as "a person, firm, partnership, corporation or other association that has sold, transferred or given away all or part of three or more litters during the preceding 12 months that were bred and reared on the premises of that person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other association.

Current law prohibits a pet store operator in California from selling a live dog, cat, or rabbit in California unless that animal originates from a public animal control agency or shelter, specified nonprofit, or animal rescue or adoption organization, as defined. This bill seeks to place additional standards on retail pet sales that are conducted both online and in person and the provisions of this bill are intended to be applicable to a person or business that sells a dog, cat or rabbit to an individual located in California who purchases the animal. This bill does not differentiate between out-of-state persons or businesses that sell to a purchaser in California and is likely intended to include both in state and out-of-state sellers.

This bill does not limit a consumer's ability to purchase dogs, cats, or rabbits from online markets, but will require the person, pet dealer, or business engaged in the sale of the dog, cat, or rabbit to provide detailed information to the purchaser about the origin of the animal. As currently drafted, this bill seeks to ensure that consumers are not subject to nonrefundable deposits when purchasing an animal,

in the event a consumer determines the purchase is no longer appropriate, or the animal is not what was promised to the consumer.

This bill seeks to strengthen a consumer's ability to obtain information about the origin of an animal. This bill will require a consumer to receive a notice with specified information about the origin of the dog, including the breeder and USDA license number, if available. Consumers will be able to search USDA/APHIS licensing records for the breeder information and identify any violations. This information aids consumers in recognizing misleading sellers or mass breeders. This bill provides consumers with greater flexibility to cancel a pet purchase if they find the seller to be questionable or other issues arise, as this bill prohibits a non-refundable deposit for a pet purchase.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, this bill will result in unknown, potentially significant workload cost pressures to the state funded trial court system to adjudicate any civil cases filed as a result of this bill. The Department of Justice does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact.

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/29/25)

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (co-source)  
San Diego Humane Society (co-source)  
The Honorable Rob Bonta, California Attorney General  
American Kennel Club, INC.  
Best Friends Animal Society  
CalAnimals  
Michelson Center for Public Policy  
San Francisco SPCA  
Social Compassion in Legislation  
Valley Humane Society

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/29/25)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** Supporters note generally that this bill will provide greater transparency and information in conducting retail pet transactions.

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 71-2, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio, Jeff Gonzalez

NO VOTE RECORDED: Ellis, Gallagher, Hadwick, Lackey, Macedo, Ta

Prepared by: Elissa Silva / B., P. & E.D. /  
8/29/25 20:38:59

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