

TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2000

PUBLIC LAW NO. 12-29

H. B. NO. 12-220

AN ACT

To amend Title 2 section 5326 of the Commonwealth Code, to modify quarantine requirements; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

Section 1. Purpose. The Legislature finds that controlling the spread of infectious diseases among animals imported into the Commonwealth is of critical importance to our island ecosystem. The Legislature further finds that the current system of quarantining animals for 120 days needs to be revisited. With the advances being made in veterinary medicine, we feel that the Commonwealth Veterinarian should be allowed greater flexibility in determining the appropriate type and duration of quarantine.

Section 2. Amendment. Title 2 section 5326 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Commonwealth Veterinarian may quarantine any animal known to be affected with or to have been exposed to any contagious, infectious or communicable disease, and destroy the same when in his opinion the measure is necessary to prevent the spread of disease. At the owners expense, the Commonwealth Veterinarian or his designee may provide for the proper disposition of its hide, carcass or feathers, and disinfect premises where the disease may have existed.

(a) All dogs and cats, except as otherwise provided for under this statute, from areas other than those declared to be rabies free by either the State of Hawaii, the World Health Organization, or the U.S. Office of International Epizootics may be confined at the As Perdido Animal Quarantine Facility for up to 120 days, or longer if in the opinion it is necessary to prevent the introduction of rabies or other infectious,

contagious or communicable disease of cats and dogs. The Commonwealth Veterinarian may approve a period of home quarantine if in his discretion it will not create unnecessary risk to the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Veterinarian will maintain and publish a listing of rabies-free areas in the regulations as changes occur.

(b) Dogs and cats from rabies-free areas may be exempted from the quarantine requirements provided that their areas remain free, at the time of importation, of rabies and maintained, at the time of importation, to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Veterinarian, stringent entry requirements to prevent the introduction of disease into their areas; and that they have been vaccinated for the following:

Dogs: Distemper, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Rabies, Leptospira, and Coronavirus
Kennel cough:

Cats: Panleukopenia virus, Calicivirus, Rhinotracheitis, Pneumonitis, Rabies, and Leukemia and provided that, in addition to meeting the requirements applicable to dogs and cats, they are imported in compliance with the entry conditions and requirements stipulated in the regulations and on their entry permits.

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
BENIGNO R. FITIAL
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

/s/ Evelyn C. Fleming
EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

Approved this 31st day of October, 2000

/s/ Pedro P. Tenorio
PEDRO P. TENORIO
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS