

June 8, 2026

Dear IACA Members,

I wanted to take a minute to share important updates on recent animal welfare legislation. I am pleased to say that this legislation was both monitored and supported by IACA with the incredible help of our lobbyist, Buzie Bertagnolli. Additionally, I want to thank everyone that advocated by reaching out to their representatives, submitting witness slips, or offering testimony. This all contributes to positive changes for companion animals in the State of Illinois.



With My Heartfelt Appreciation,

Quentin Johnson  
President, IACA

### **New Legislation in Illinois**

The State Legislature made changes to existing laws governing animals, animal control, and animal welfare during the 2026 Spring session. These bills have passed both Chambers and await the Governor's signature. If the Governor does not sign or veto the bills, they will become law automatically in August.

**SB 2891 – Animal Shelter Adoption Info** – This bill successfully passed both chambers and amends the Animal Welfare Act to:

- Require animal shelters and animal control facilities to microchip and register the microchip with a national database at the time of adoption with the adoptive owner's information.
- Require animal shelters and animal control facilities to release the owner information on the microchip to law enforcement, veterinarians, animal control, or another animal shelter.
- Eliminate the requirement to post disclosure information on or near the cage of the animal. The Act still requires that the disclosures be presented to the adopter prior to adoption.
- Require that animal shelters and animal control facilities disclose the following information in addition to what is already required:
  - Any behavior noted during interactions with the dog, including intake, walks, playgroups, socialization sessions, medical examinations, and other assessments.
  - Information describing whether the dog has killed a companion animal or livestock or has been deemed a dangerous dog under Section 15.1 of the Animal Control Act and any restrictions that may apply to the dog, if known.
  - Information describing whether the dog or cat has bitten any person at the facility or prior to admission.

- Prohibit an animal shelter or animal control facility from offering for adoption or transfer, giving away, rehoming or placing any dog determined to be a vicious dog under Section 15 of the Animal Control Act.

**SB 2892 – Humane Care-Animals-Penalties** – This bill passed both chambers unanimously and amends the Humane Care for Animals Act, Section 3.04 Arrests and seizures; penalties. The new language:

- Extends the period in which to file for forfeiture and security posting to 30 days (currently 14 days) after the seizure.
- Requires the hearing on the petition be conducted within 14 days after the petition has been filed or as soon as practicable, but no later than 45 days after the filing of the petition.

**HB 5411 – Rabies Vaccines in Shelters** – Amends the Veterinary Practice Act to allow certified veterinary technicians (CVT) to administer a rabies vaccination to an animal under direct supervision by a veterinarian after the veterinarian has performed a physical examination of the animal. This bill initially only affected animal shelters and animal control facilities, but an amendment lifted that limitation, so it applies at veterinary clinics as well. This language has passed both chambers and is effective January 1, 2027.

**HB 4255 – Criminal Code – Traveling Animal Acts** – The Criminal Code now includes several animals that are not allowed to be a part of traveling animal act. Those animals are:

- Cougar
- Elephant
- Jaguar
- Leopard
- Lion
- Non-human primate
- Tiger
- Bear

We expect these bills to become effective January 1, 2027.

### **Animal Shelter/Animal Control Representation on the Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners**

With the passage of the omnibus bill in November 2025, the Illinois Civil Code was amended to add two seats to the Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners: one to represent Animal Shelters and one to represent Animal Control Agencies. Since the 1970s, the Advisory Board has had authority over the rule-making process of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, which governs Illinois' licensed animal shelters and animal controls. Only now are animal control agencies and nonprofit animal shelters represented on this Commission. This achievement is thanks to the joint efforts of IAWF and IACA.