



**Responsibilities of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and Municipal Governments to distribute animal cruelty materials to each person licensing a dog**

**Date:** October 12, 2018

**Public Health Message Type:**  Alert  Advisory  Update  Information

**Intended Audience:**  All public health partners  Healthcare providers  Infection preventionists  
 Local health departments  Schools/child care centers  ACOs  
 Animal health professionals  Other: Municipal Dog Licensing Clerks

**Key Points or Updates:**

Pursuant to the provisions of P.L. 2017, CHAPTER 189 b. The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) shall post the following information on its website:

- The full text of R.S. 4:22-17 and 4:22-26 and a plain language description of the provisions and requirements of R.S. 4:22-17 and 4:22-26

These materials shall be distributed by the municipality to each person obtaining an annual dog license and be posted on New Jersey municipality websites.

The full text of the statutes and the plain language description of the provisions and requirements are posted here:

- [4:22-17 Cruelty; certain acts, crime; degrees](#)
- [4:22-26 Penalties for various acts constituting cruelty](#)
- [Guide to Prevention of Animal Cruelty Laws 2018](#)

Note: The NJDOH does not have the authority to investigate animal cruelty situations.

**Action Items:**

- Municipal Dog Licensing Clerks shall provide each person licensing their dog a copy of each of the three documents and have these 3 documents posted on the municipal website.

**Contact Information:**

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- The Communicable Disease Service, Office of Veterinary Public Health at (609) 826-5964