



HOUSE BILL 327: Clarify Animal Welfare Statutes.

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Agriculture. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 22, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Harrison, Humphrey, Setzer, Dahle	Prepared by:	Kyle Evans
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H327-CSBR-2		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 327 would provide that any dog owned or harbored for the purpose of dog fighting, or trained for dog fighting, would have to be determined unsuitable for adoption after an assessment made by the animal shelter with custody of the dog before being deemed a "dangerous dog."*

CURRENT LAW & BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to G.S. 67-4.1, a "dangerous dog" is defined as one that meets any of the following criteria:

- Has, without provocation, killed or inflicted serious injury on a person.
- Is determined to be potentially dangerous by a person or board authorized by a local government to make that determination.
- Is owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of dog fighting, or is trained for dog fighting.

G.S. 19A-32.1(b) requires an animal shelter to determine whether a dog is suitable for adoption before the dog may be adopted, when that dog has been voluntarily surrendered to the shelter.

G.S. 19A-70(d) requires an animal shelter to determine whether the dog is suitable for adoption before the dog may be adopted, when that dog has been placed in the custody of an animal shelter following a dog fighting arrest or seizure and the dog's owner fails to pay the costs of care to the animal shelter.

In dog fighting cases, the defendant/dog owner may choose to voluntarily surrender their dogs or may fail to pay the costs of care, thus forfeiting ownership of the dog to the animal shelter.

BILL ANALYSIS:

The PCS for House Bill 327 would provide that a dog owned or harbored for the purpose of dog fighting, or any dog trained for dog fighting, must be determined to be unsuitable for adoption after an assessment made by the animal shelter with custody of the dog before the dog would be deemed a "dangerous dog."

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective October 1, 2023.

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Director



Legislative Analysis
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