Local Law Number 8 Of 2026

County Of Ulster

A Local Law Amending Chapter 152 Animals, Article III Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Regulation Of Pet Sellers, To Align County Law And Enforcement Responsibilities With State Regulation

BE IT ENACTED, by the County Legislature of the County of Ulster, New York, as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND PURPOSE.

The Ulster County Legislature finds that since the adoption of Local Law No. 2 of 2017, New York State has expanded and clarified its statutory framework governing the sale, breeding, care, and humane treatment of dogs and cats, including enforcement authority vested in state agencies.

The Legislature further finds that maintaining a parallel county-level permitting, inspection, and enforcement regime governing pet sellers and breeders may result in duplication of regulatory oversight, inconsistent enforcement standards, and inefficient use of county resources.

It is therefore the intent of this Local Law to amend the Code of the County of Ulster to eliminate county-specific regulatory requirements that exceed or duplicate state law, and to revise the role of the Ulster County Department of Health so that it functions primarily as a recipient of complaints and a referral agency to appropriate state authorities, rather than as an independent investigatory or enforcement body.

SECTION 2. REPEAL OF COUNTY PERMITTING AND LICENSING PROVISIONS.

Chapter 152 Animals, Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster is hereby amended by repealing in their entirety the following sections:

§152 - 18 (Pet seller's permit required.)
§152 - 19 (Residential breeder's permit required)
§152 - 20 (Permit procedure)
§152 - 21 (Permit refusal, suspension, or revocation)

SECTION 3. REPEAL OF COUNTY INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.

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Chapter 152 Animals, Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster is hereby amended by repealing in their entirety the following sections and subdivisions:

§152 - 22 (Administration and enforcement)
§152 - 23 (Inspection of pet sellers)
§152 – 29. C (Inspection of Residential Breeders)

SECTION 4. REPEAL OF COUNTY-SPECIFIC STANDARDS OF CARE.

Chapter 152 Animals, Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster is hereby amended by repealing in their entirety the following sections:

§152 - 24 (Minimum standards of care for pet sellers)
§152 - 28 (Minimum standards of care for dog source breeders)
§152 - 29(A) (Residential breeder minimum standards of care)

SECTION 5. REPEAL OF COUNTY SUPPLY-CHAIN AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Chapter 152 Animals, Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster is hereby amended by repealing in its entirety:

§152 - 27 (Certification by dog dealers and source breeders required)

SECTION 6. MODIFICATION OF RECORDS AND REGISTRY PROVISIONS.

§152 – 26 Records of purchase and sale of Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster is hereby amended, current sections C and D repealed, and a new C added to read as follows:

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A. Each pet seller shall keep and maintain records for each dog or cat purchased, acquired, held, sold or otherwise disposed of. The records should include the following:

(1) The name and address of the person from whom each dog or cat was acquired; if the person from whom the animal was obtained is a dealer licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, the person's name, address, and federal dealer identification number; if the person is a pet dealer licensed by New York State pursuant to Article 26-a of the Agriculture and Markets Law, the dealer's name, address and state dealer identification number; if the person is a pet seller licensed by this Act, the pet seller's name, address and permit number; if the person is a breeder, the breeder's name, address, and, if applicable, USDA license number; and

(2) In the case of cats, if a cat is placed in the custody or possession of a pet seller and the source of origin is unknown, the pet seller shall state that the source of origin is unknown, accompanied by the date, time, and location of receipt; and

(3) The original source of the animal, if different than the person recorded in Subsection A of this section; and

(4) The date each dog or cat was acquired; and

(5) A description of each animal, showing age, color, markings, sex, breed, and any inoculation, worming, or other veterinary treatment or medication information available. Records shall also include any other significant identification, if known, for each animal, including official tag number, tattoo or (implant) microchip; and

(6) The name and address of the person to whom the animal is sold, given or bartered or to whom it is otherwise transferred or delivered. The records shall indicate the date and method of disposition.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this section, no pet seller shall knowingly buy, sell, exhibit, transport or offer for sale, exhibition or transportation any stolen dog or cat. No pet seller shall knowingly sell any dog or cat younger than eight weeks of age.

C. The County shall have no authority to inspect, audit, or enforce compliance with record-keeping requirements except where such authority is expressly assigned to the County by state statute.

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SECTION 7. CONSUMER NOTICE.

Chapter 152 Animals, §152 – 30 of Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster, Notice to consumers, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 8. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

Chapter 152 Animals, §152 – 31 of Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster, Violations, is hereby repealed in its entirety. A new §152 – 31 shall be added pursuant to Section 9 of this Local Law.

SECTION 9. COMPLAINT INTAKE AND REFERRAL TO STATE AUTHORITIES.

A new Section is hereby added to Chapter 152 Animals, Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster to read as follows:

§152 – 31. Complaint Referral and Coordination with State Agencies

1. The Ulster County Department of Health may receive complaints from members of the public relating to the sale, breeding, care, or treatment of dogs and cats.
2. Upon receipt of such complaints, the Department shall, at its reasonable discretion and as appropriate:
   - Refer the complaint to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets;
   - Refer the complaint to any other state agency having jurisdiction; and/or
   - Provide the complainant with information regarding the appropriate state authority responsible for enforcement.
3. Nothing in this Local Law shall be construed to authorize the Department to conduct independent investigations, inspections, enforcement actions, or adjudications relating to pet sellers or breeders, except as expressly authorized by state law.
4. The Department may maintain records of complaints received and referrals made for informational and reporting purposes only.

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SECTION 10. CONSTRUCTION WITH STATE LAW.

§152 – 32 of Article III Regulation of Pet Sellers of the Code of the County of Ulster is hereby amended to read as follows:

Nothing in this article shall be construed to limit or restrict, expand, or otherwise alter the enforcement authority of New York State or any state agency acting pursuant to state law. Furthermore, this article shall not be construed to impose any affirmative duty on the County to enforce state law. The County expressly reserves the right to exercise any authority that may hereafter be delegated to it by the State of New York with respect to the regulation or enforcement of laws governing the sale, breeding, or humane treatment of animals.

SECTION 11. SEVERABILITY.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall take effect upon its filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

Adopted by the County Legislature: June 16, 2026

Approved by the County Executive: July 16, 2026

Filed with New York State Department of State: August 6, 2026