**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

**Updates To the Commercial Breeder-Broker Law**

*(1 April 2024)*

Indiana lawmakers recently updated the commercial breeder-broker (CBB) law (HEA 1412). Many aspects take effect on July 1, 2024, while others (such as inspections) go into effect in 2025. The following are commonly asked questions about the updates as they pertain to commercial dog breeders and commercial dog brokers.

**Q:**  **Who can sell puppies to Indiana pet stores?**

**A:** Indiana pet stores may sell dogs obtained only through the following sources:

* Indiana commercial dog breeders must be registered with the Board of Animal Health (BOAH). Additionally, the breeder must be certified by a national science-based breeder standards program and audited by an independent auditing firm that complies with applicable standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) ***or*** licensed with USDA Animal Care (under 9 CFR 2.1) with no direct violations for the previous two years.
* Indiana commercial dog brokers must be registered with BOAH and acquire dogs from a commercial dog breeder who meets the standard outlined above, ***or*** a dog broker licensed under USDA Animal Care (under 9 CFR 2.1) who has had no direct violations for previous two years.
* Any dog breeder or broker, regardless of location, licensed with USDA Animal Care (under 9 CFR 2.1) with no direct violations for the previous two years.

**Q:** **Can hobby dog breeders continue to sell to Indiana pet stores?**

**A:** Yes, if the hobby dog breeder, as defined under state law in IC 15-21-1-5.3, is licensed with USDA Animal Care as a breeder and has not had any direct violations for the previous two years.

**Q: Can Indiana dog breeders (either commercial or hobby) sell to out-of-state pet stores?**

**A:** Indiana does not have jurisdiction over out-of-state pet stores; the new law does not affect an Indiana breeder’s ability to sell out-of-state.

* As always, the regulations of the destination state must be met to move dogs legally.
* USDA Animal Care/federal regulations must be met to sell dogs legally through a pet store in any state.

**Q:** **Does a dog breeder have to be Canine Care Certified (CCC) to be able to sell to Indiana pet stores?**

**A:** No—participating in the CCC program is just one option for being able to sell to pet stores. Other, national scienced-based breeder standards programs may be used. Another option is to be licensed with USDA Animal Care as a dog breeder and not have a direct violation for the previous two years.

**Q:** **Did the requirements to be a commercial dog breeder change?**

**A:** Yes. Beginning July 1, 2024, registration with BOAH is required of anyone with more than 19 unaltered female dogs at least 12 months of age and who sells to a broker, pet store, or the general public. (Exemptions still apply for those breeding sport dogs and service/law enforcement dogs.)

**Q:** **Did the requirements to be a commercial dog broker change?**

**A:** Yes. The definition of a commercial dog broker means a person: (1) who is a Class "B" licensee under 9 CFR 1.1; or (2) who sells at least 500 dogs in a calendar year. (Previously, the law required both requirements to be met to be considered a commercial dog broker.)

**Q:** **What** **does the new “lemon law” component of the law say?**

**A:** Customers who purchase a dog *from an Indiana retail store* may be entitled to compensation for expenses and/or a refund if a veterinarian provides a written statement within 14 days of purchase that the dog died or was unfit for sale because of illness or disease that existed before purchase. Congenital or hereditary conditions that severely affect the animal’s health within 2 years of purchase also qualify. Complaints will be handled through the Indiana Office of the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division.

**Q:** **What** **changes are coming as of July 1, 2025?**

**A:** Beginning in 2025, in addition to commercial dog breeders and brokers (CBBs), BOAH will be responsible for inspecting retail pet stores according to the requirements outlined in this law. Pet stores and CBBs may be inspected more than one time per calendar year if the facility failed an inspection and/or additional inspections are necessary to protect the safety and well-being of the dogs. BOAH may issue an order of compliance with civil penalties to CBBs and retail pet stores.