

## CHAPTER 17

AN ACT concerning certified animal control officers, and amending P.L.1983, c.525.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 4 of P.L.1983, c.525 (C.4:19-15.16b) is amended to read as follows:

C.4:19-15.16b Appointment of certified animal control officer.

4. The governing body of a municipality shall, within three years of the effective date of P.L.1983, c.525, appoint a certified animal control officer who shall be responsible for animal control within the jurisdiction of the municipality and who shall enforce and abide by the provisions of section 16 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.16). The governing body shall not appoint a certified animal control officer, shall not contract for animal control services with any company that employs a certified animal control officer, and shall revoke the appointment of a certified animal control officer, who has been found to have violated the provisions of R.S.4:22-17, R.S.4:22-18, R.S.4:22-19, section 3 of P.L.1982, c.76 (C.4:22-19.1), section 3 of P.L.1982, c.158 (C.4:22-19.2), R.S.4:22-20, R.S.4:22-21, R.S.4:22-22, R.S.4:22-23, R.S.4:22-24, section 1 of P.L.1939, c.315 (C.4:22-25.1), or R.S.4:22-26.

The governing body may authorize the certified animal control officer to investigate and sign complaints, arrest violators and otherwise act as an officer for detection, apprehension and arrest of offenders against the animal control, animal welfare and animal cruelty laws of the State and ordinances of the municipality, if the officer has completed the training required pursuant to paragraph 4 of subsection a. of section 3 of P.L.1983, c.525 (C.4:19-15.16a). Only certified animal control officers who have completed the training may be authorized by the governing body to so act as an officer for detection, apprehension and arrest of offenders; however, officers who have completed the training shall not have the authority to so act unless authorized by the governing body which is employing the officer or contracting for the officer's services.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved April 28, 2000.