

March 12, 2013

RE: HSVMA Support of Illinois SB1639
Special note on canine infectious disease incubation periods and potential veterinary expenses for treating health problems

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), and our 5,000 plus members, to express our support for Illinois SB1639. The HSVMA is a national organization of veterinary professionals with a focus on the health and welfare of animals. Our members include veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, and veterinary and veterinary technician students.

The HSVMA is supportive of a dog seller providing a remedy to the purchaser of the dog for a disease or illness determined by a licensed veterinarian to have existed in the dog on or before the date of delivery to the purchaser for up to 21 days after this date. As can be seen in the table on page two, using information from the textbook *Infectious Diseases of the Dog and Cat* by Craig E. Greene, DVM, MS, the incubation period of the highlighted infectious canine diseases varies, with some longer than 14 days. Considering the wide range of incubation periods of possible canine infectious diseases, we feel that 21 days is a reasonable range to be used for the warranty period and therefore should be adopted in SB1639, as is currently written. This would allow the purchaser 21 days to obtain a diagnosis and to present the information to the seller from which the dog was purchased. Since the incubation period for some of the more common canine infectious diseases can be as long as 14 days (e.g., canine distemper virus), any period less than 21 days would simply not be enough time for obtaining and reporting a proper diagnosis.

Table of Incubation Periods for Some Canine Infectious Diseases

Disease	Incubation Period	Route of Transmission
<i>Canine distemper virus</i>	1 – 14 days	Inoculation
<i>Canine adenovirus 1</i>	4 – 8 days	Inoculation
<i>Ehrlichia canis</i>	8 – 20 days	Tick bite
<i>Ehrlichia platys</i>	8 – 15 days	Experimental IV
<i>Canine parvovirus</i>	6 - 10 days	Oral exposure
<i>Canine coronavirus</i>	1 – 2 days	Oral injection
<i>Canine oral papillomavirus</i>	4 – 8 weeks	Inoculation
<i>Canine herpesvirus</i>	3 – 4 days	Inoculation
<i>Babesiosis canis</i>	10 – 21 days	Tick bite
<i>Canine parainfluenza virus</i>	9 days	Inoculation
<i>Bordetella bronchiseptica</i>	3 – 4 days	Inoculation
<i>Rabies</i>	Avg. of 3 – 8 weeks	Animal bite
<i>Pseudorabies virus</i>	3 – 6 days	Inoculation
<i>Rocky Mountain spotted fever</i>	2 – 3 days	Tick bite
<i>Leptospirosis</i>	5 – 7 days	Direct contact

Note: Incubation period is the development of an infectious disease from the time of the entrance of the pathogen to the appearance of clinical signs.

Diagnosing and treating health problems experienced by pets can be an expensive proposition. According to a poll of 1,118 pet guardians done by AP-Petside.com in October 2011, those whose pets had serious health conditions during the year spent an average of \$1,092 on veterinary care. Many said that they would have spent more, if necessary. In a [report](#) compiled by The Humane Society of the United States which analyzed 2,479 puppy buyer complaints, some buyers reported spending thousands of dollars trying to save the life of a sick puppy, with a few spending more than \$10,000 in veterinary bills attempting to save the life or ease the suffering of their pet. For example, one puppy buyer spent more than \$1,800 to have her dog treated for pneumonia and another spent more than \$13,000 for corrective surgery to treat severe hip dysplasia.

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According to CostHelper.com, purchasing a pet quality puppy usually costs between \$300 and \$1,500, depending on the breed, sex, and quality. Therefore, it is more than reasonable to allow consumers to recover two times the purchase price of the dog to cover veterinary expenses, if not more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan B. Krebsbach, DVM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan B. Krebsbach, DVM
Veterinary Consultant
Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association
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