

What California's New Consumer Protection Laws Mean for Dog Breeders

Are you a regulated "dog breeder" (by law) in California? Currently, that depends. If you breed two litters or fewer and transfer less than 20 dogs annually, you are not subject to current California laws regulating higher volume dog breeders.

However, on January 1, 2026, everyone who breeds and transfers one dog will be subject to certain consumer protection requirements.

If you breed and transfer three or more litters or 20 or more dogs annually, you are already subject to the [Polanco-Lockyer Pet Breeder Warranty Act](#). In addition to providing consumer protection to purchasers, the regulations require certain disclosures from the breeder to the purchaser.

On January 1, 2026, Assembly Bill 506 takes effect.

What will change? All breeders- even those not meeting the state's definition – will have to disclose certain health, vaccination, and other important information to the purchaser at the time of sale and be subject to consumer protection. Additionally, AB 506 also bans nonrefundable deposits to purchasers residing in California.

Essentially, AB 506 expands consumer protection, requires disclosures on the known condition of the dog, and bans nonrefundable deposits. For a full list of what all dog breeders will have to disclose to their purchasers, click [here](#).

Note: All breeders, even those not meeting the current state definition, continue to be subject to state animal cruelty laws and any applicable local laws regarding the breeding and care of animals.