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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2013 Assembly Bill 230**

**Assembly  
Amendment 1**

*Memo published:* November 6, 2013

*Contact:* David Moore, Staff Attorney (266-1946)

*Under current law*, if an animal is being held in custody, and the owner of the animal is convicted of instigating fights between animals, the animal shall be delivered to the local humane officer, municipal pound, or, if there is no local humane officer or pound, to a local humane society or to another person designated by the court. If the animal is one year old or older or shows indication of having participated in fighting, the animal shall be disposed of in a proper and humane manner.

*2013 Assembly Bill 230* provides that, under the circumstances described above, the person to whom the animal is delivered may either dispose of the animal in a proper and humane manner, or, if the person determines that the animal does not pose a threat to humans or other animals, release the animal to a person other than the owner.

*Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 230* authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to promulgate rules regarding all of the following:

- Temperament testing of dogs that have been seized because it is alleged that they have been used in or constitute evidence of a crime related to animal fighting.
- The rehabilitation of dogs that have been seized because it is alleged that they have been used in or constitute evidence of a crime related to animal fighting.

The amendment also provides that a person who in good faith rehabilitates a dog that has been seized because it is alleged that the dog has been used in or constitutes evidence of a crime related to animal fighting is immune from civil liability for damages caused by the dog.

### **Bill History**

Representative Spiros introduced Assembly Amendment 1 to 2013 Assembly Bill 230 on September 24, 2013. On October 29, 2013, the Assembly Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security voted to recommend adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 and passage of Assembly Bill 230, as amended, both on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0.

DM:jal