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Quinn Signs Pet-Related Laws

Illinois has two new laws regarding pets. Gov. Pat Quinn signed the two measures into law on Thursday night in Chicago.

H.B. 4722 requires a bitter flavor to be added to all anti-freeze sold in Illinois. Anti-freeze leaks or spills out of cars, and is sweet but poisonous, and creature that drinks it can be seriously sickened or killed. Dogs are the most common victims, but cats, wildlife and even children are affected. Jordan Matyas, Illinois director for the Humane Society, says the bitter flavor works 100 percent. It's so bitter that if you do ingest it, you'll spit it right back up. Illinois is the 14th state to require bitter flavor in anti-freeze. The law takes effect July 1, 2011. It was sponsored by State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) and State Sen. Linda Holmes (D-Aurora).

H.B. 4801 prohibits primates kept as pets in Illinois. They are dangerous and not domesticated, Matyas says, citing an instance in Connecticut in which a woman was severely injured by a primate. Any primates kept now as pets can stay, but they have to be registered with animal control. Illinois is the 22nd state to ban primates as pets. The law takes effect Jan. 1, 2011. It was sponsored by State Rep. Dan Burke (D-Chicago) and State Sen. Don Harmon (D-Oak Park).

(Illinois Radio Network)

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