



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6303**

January Session, 2011

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB06303PD\_\_\_\_\_031111\_\_\_\_\_\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF ILL AND INJURED ANIMALS IN MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. NEW (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "animal control officer" means a municipal or regional animal  
3 control officer, "animal treatment list" means a list of organizations that  
4 will provide treatment by a licensed veterinarian to an ill or injured  
5 animal in a municipal or regional dog pound without charge to such  
6 dog pound, and "organization" means a public or private nonprofit  
7 animal rescue organization.

8 (b) Each animal control officer shall maintain an animal treatment  
9 list that includes the contact information for any organization that  
10 requests to be placed on such list. If at any time an animal control  
11 officer observes that an impounded animal is ill or injured and  
12 reasonably believes that such animal is in urgent need of veterinary  
13 treatment, or if a municipal employee, member of an organization or  
14 volunteer at a municipal or regional dog pound observes that an  
15 impounded animal is ill or injured, reasonably believes that such  
16 animal is in urgent need of veterinary treatment and notifies an animal  
17 control officer of this belief, such animal control officer shall, not later  
18 than twenty-four hours after such animal control officer observed or  
19 received notification of such animal's illness or injury, (1) arrange for

20 the treatment of such animal by a licensed veterinarian, or (2) if such  
21 dog pound has insufficient funds to cover the cost of such treatment,  
22 contact one or more organizations on the animal treatment list to  
23 request or arrange for such treatment.

24 (c) If an animal control officer contacts an organization on the  
25 animal treatment list to request or arrange for the treatment of an ill or  
26 injured animal and the seven-day period under subsection (b) of  
27 section 22-332 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for an  
28 owner to claim such animal has not expired, such organization may  
29 provide, at such organization's expense, treatment by a licensed  
30 veterinarian of the organization's choice. If an animal control officer  
31 contacts an organization on the animal treatment list to request or  
32 arrange for such treatment and the seven-day period under said  
33 subsection has expired, the organization may, notwithstanding  
34 subsection (b) of section 22-332 of the general statutes, as amended by  
35 this act, take ownership and possession of such animal without charge  
36 to such organization and may provide, at such organization's expense,  
37 treatment to such animal by a licensed veterinarian of the  
38 organization's choice.

39 (d) Nothing in this section shall prevent an animal from being  
40 mercifully killed by a licensed veterinarian or disposed of as the State  
41 Veterinarian may direct when, in the opinion of a licensed  
42 veterinarian, an animal is so ill or injured that it should be destroyed  
43 immediately.

44 Sec. 2. Section 22-332 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
45 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

46 (a) The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or  
47 any municipal animal control officer shall be responsible for the  
48 enforcement of this chapter and shall make diligent search and inquiry  
49 for any violation of any of its provisions. Any such officer may take  
50 into custody (1) any dog found roaming in violation of the provisions  
51 of section 22-364, (2) any dog not having a tag or plate on a collar about

52 its neck or on a harness on its body as provided by law or which is not  
53 confined or controlled in accordance with the provisions of any order  
54 or regulation relating to rabies issued by the commissioner in  
55 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, or (3) any dog found  
56 injured on any highway, neglected, abandoned or cruelly treated. The  
57 officer shall impound such dog at the pound serving the town where  
58 the dog is taken unless, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian, the  
59 dog is so injured or diseased that it should be destroyed immediately,  
60 in which case the municipal animal control officer of such town may  
61 cause the dog to be mercifully killed by a licensed veterinarian or  
62 disposed of as the State Veterinarian may direct. The municipal animal  
63 control officer shall immediately notify the owner or keeper of any dog  
64 so taken, if known, of its impoundment. Such officer shall immediately  
65 notify the owner or keeper of any other animal which is taken into  
66 custody, if such owner or keeper is known. If the owner or keeper of  
67 any such dog or other animal is unknown, the officer shall  
68 immediately tag or employ such other suitable means of identification  
69 of the dog or other animal as may be approved by the Chief Animal  
70 Control Officer and shall promptly cause (1) a description of such dog  
71 or other animal to be published once in the lost and found column of a  
72 newspaper having a circulation in such town, and (2) a photograph or  
73 description of such dog or other animal and the date on which such  
74 dog or animal shall be available for adoption to be posted on a national  
75 pet adoption Internet web site, except that if an officer does not have  
76 the technological resources to post such information on such web site,  
77 such officer shall contact an organization on the animal treatment list  
78 and request that such organization post such information at such  
79 organization's expense. For purposes of this section, "animal treatment  
80 list" and "organization" have the same meaning as provided in section  
81 1 of this act.

82 (b) [If] Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 1 of this act, if  
83 such dog or other animal is not claimed by and released to the owner  
84 within seven days after the date of publication, the municipal animal  
85 control officer, upon finding such dog or other animal to be in

86 satisfactory health, may have a licensed veterinarian spay or neuter  
87 such dog and sell such dog or other animal to any person who satisfies  
88 such officer that he is purchasing it as a pet and that he can give it a  
89 good home and proper care. The municipal animal control officer may  
90 retain possession of such dog or other animal for such additional  
91 period of time as he may deem advisable in order to place such dog or  
92 other animal as a pet and may have a licensed veterinarian spay or  
93 neuter such dog. If, within such period, any dog or other animal is not  
94 claimed by and released to the owner or keeper or purchased as a pet,  
95 the officer shall cause such dog or other animal to be mercifully killed  
96 by a licensed veterinarian or disposed of as the State Veterinarian may  
97 direct. Any veterinarian who so destroys a dog shall be paid from the  
98 dog fund account. No person who so destroys a dog or other animal  
99 shall be held criminally or civilly liable therefor nor shall any licensed  
100 veterinarian who spays or neuters a dog pursuant to this section be  
101 held civilly liable, including, but not limited to, liability for  
102 reconstructive neutorial implantation surgery.

103 (c) The town treasurer or other fiscal officer shall pay from the dog  
104 fund account the advertising expense incurred under the provisions of  
105 this section upon receipt of an itemized statement together with a copy  
106 of the advertisement as published. Any person who purchases a dog as  
107 a pet shall pay a fee of five dollars and procure a license and tag for  
108 such dog from the town clerk, in accordance with the provisions of  
109 section 22-338.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2011	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2011	22-332

**PD**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*