

SENATE, No. 3402

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires veterinarians and facilities providing veterinary care to hold seized cat or dog for at least seven days before euthanizing or impounding animal.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the care and euthanizing of certain animals and
2 supplementing P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.1 et seq.).
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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
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7 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 27 of
8 P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.27), or any rule or regulation adopted
9 pursuant thereto to the contrary, whenever a certified animal control
10 officer, municipal humane law enforcement officer, county humane
11 law enforcement officer, or other law enforcement officer seizes a
12 cat or dog which the officer places in the care of a licensed
13 veterinarian, veterinary hospital, or other establishment providing
14 veterinary care to sick or injured animals because the officer
15 believes the cat or dog is sick or injured and outside of the control
16 of an owner, the licensed veterinarian, veterinary hospital, or other
17 establishment providing veterinary care to sick or injured animals
18 that receives the cat or dog shall hold the cat or dog and care for it
19 for at least seven days.

20 b. During the seven days that the licensed veterinarian,
21 veterinary hospital, or other establishment providing veterinary care
22 to sick or injured animals holds and cares for the animal pursuant to
23 subsection a. of this section, the officer that seized the cat or dog
24 shall make every reasonable effort to:

25 (1) identify the owner or custodian of the property on which the
26 cat or dog was seized and the possible owner of the cat or dog;

27 (2) notify the owner or custodian of the property and the
28 possible owner of the animal that the animal was seized and placed
29 under veterinary care, and identify the location where the animal is
30 under veterinary care; and

31 (3) unite the cat or dog with its owner.

32 c. (1) If the owner of the cat or dog is not identified after
33 seven days have elapsed and the animal is beyond recovery as
34 determined by a licensed veterinarian, the cat or dog may be
35 euthanized.

36 (2) If the cat or dog has recovered sufficiently to be adopted, as
37 determined by a licensed veterinarian, then the licensed
38 veterinarian, veterinary hospital, or other establishment providing
39 veterinary care to sick or injured animals may have the cat or dog
40 impounded at a shelter, pound, or animal rescue organization
41 facility as provided in section 16 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-
42 15.16).

43 (3) If the owner of the cat or dog is identified and the cat or dog
44 is reclaimed by its owner, the licensed veterinarian, veterinary
45 hospital, or other establishment providing veterinary care to sick or
46 injured animals may seek payment from the owner of reasonable

1 costs of care incurred by the licensed veterinarian, veterinary
2 hospital, or other establishment providing care to sick or injured
3 animals to provide necessary care to the animal.

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5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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8 STATEMENT

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10 This bill would require that, whenever a certified animal control
11 officer, municipal humane law enforcement officer, county humane
12 law enforcement officer, or other law enforcement officer seizes a
13 cat or dog and places the animal in the care of a licensed
14 veterinarian, veterinary hospital, or other such establishment
15 providing care to sick or injured animals because the officer
16 believes the cat or dog is sick or injured and outside of the control
17 of an owner, the licensed veterinarian, veterinary hospital, or other
18 such establishment providing care to sick or injured animals that
19 receives the cat or dog is required to hold the cat or dog and care for
20 it for at least seven days. The bill also specifies that the exemption
21 from regulation by P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.1 et seq.) for
22 veterinarians and other establishments providing care to sick or
23 injured animals would not apply to the requirements of the bill.

24 The bill also requires that the officer that seized the cat or dog
25 make every reasonable effort to:

26 1) identify the owner or custodian of the property on which the
27 cat or dog was seized and the possible owner of the cat or dog;

28 2) notify the owner or custodian of the property and the
29 possible owner of the animal that the animal was seized and placed
30 under veterinary care, and identify the location where the animal is
31 under veterinary care; and

32 3) unite the cat or dog with its owner.

33 Finally, the bill provides that:

34 1) if the owner of the cat or dog is not identified after seven
35 days have elapsed and the animal is beyond recovery as determined
36 by a licensed veterinarian, the cat or dog may be euthanized;

37 2) if the cat or dog has recovered sufficiently to be adopted as
38 determined by a licensed veterinarian, the licensed veterinarian,
39 veterinary hospital, or other such establishment providing care to
40 sick or injured animals may have the cat or dog impounded at a
41 shelter, pound, or animal rescue organization facility as provided
42 pursuant to section 16 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.16); and

43 3) if the owner of the cat or dog is identified and the cat or dog
44 is reclaimed by its owner, the licensed veterinarian, veterinary
45 hospital, or other such establishment providing care to sick or
46 injured animals may seek payment from the owner of reasonable

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- 1 costs of care incurred by the licensed veterinarian, veterinary
- 2 hospital, or other such establishment providing care to sick or
- 3 injured animals to provide necessary care to the animal.