

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 361

Short Title: Authorize Animal Shelter Transfers. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lazzara, Perry, and Sawyer (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 29, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFERS TO OTHER SHELTERS OR ANIMAL WELFARE
3 ORGANIZATIONS AS A PERMISSIBLE DISPOSITION OF LOST OR SURRENDERED
4 ANIMALS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 130A-192(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 130A-192. **Animals not wearing required rabies vaccination tags.**

8 (a) The Animal Control Officer shall canvass the county to determine if there are any
9 animals not wearing the required rabies vaccination tag. If an animal required to wear a tag is
10 found not wearing one, the Animal Control Officer shall check to see if the owner's identification
11 can be found on the ~~animal~~ animal and take the following actions:

12 (1) If the animal is wearing an owner identification tag with information enabling
13 the owner of the animal to be contacted, or if the Animal Control Officer
14 otherwise knows who the owner is, the Animal Control Officer shall notify
15 the owner in writing to have the animal vaccinated against rabies and to
16 produce the required rabies vaccination certificate to the Animal Control
17 Officer within three days of the notification.

18 (2) If the animal is not wearing an owner identification tag and the Animal
19 Control Officer does not otherwise know who the owner is, the Animal
20 Control Officer may impound the animal. The duration of the impoundment
21 of these animals shall be established by the county board of commissioners,
22 but the duration shall not be less than 72 hours. During the impoundment
23 period, the Animal Control Officer shall make a reasonable effort to locate the
24 owner of the animal. If the Animal Control Officer has access at no cost or at
25 a reasonable cost to a microchip scanning device, the Animal Control Officer
26 shall scan the animal and utilize any information that may be available through
27 a microchip to locate the owner of the animal, if possible.

28 (3) If the animal is not reclaimed by its owner during the impoundment ~~period,~~
29 period required by subdivision (a)(2) of this section, the animal shall be
30 disposed of in one of the following manners: (i) returned to the owner; (ii)
31 adopted ~~as a pet~~ by a new owner; (iii) transferred to another animal shelter or
32 animal welfare nonprofit organization, or (iv) put to death by a procedure
33 approved by rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
34 Services or, in the absence of such rules, by a procedure approved by the
35 American Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Society of the United
36 States or of the American Humane Association."



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SECTION 2. G.S. 19A-32.1(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) An animal that is surrendered to an animal shelter by the animal's owner and not reclaimed by that owner during the minimum holding period may be disposed of in one of the following manners:

- (1) Returned to the owner.
- (2) Adopted as a pet by a new owner.
- (3) Euthanized by a procedure approved by rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or, in the absence of such rules, by a procedure approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Society of the United States, or the American Humane Association.
- (4) Transferred to another animal shelter or animal welfare nonprofit organization.

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective October 1, 2021, and applies to animals brought to or held in animal shelters on or after that date.