

2016 -- H 7800

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LC004763  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Introduced By: Representative John M. Carnevale

Date Introduced: March 02, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4-1-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-1 entitled "Cruelty to  
2 Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **4-1-26. Abandonment of animals.** – (a) If any person having possession and/or control  
4 of an animal abandons that animal on a street, road, highway or in a public place or on private  
5 property or from a motor vehicle, or in a dwelling or any other building or structure without  
6 providing for the care of that animal, he or she shall be punished in the manner provided in § 4-1-  
7 2 for each such offense. If this abandonment results in the death of the animal, the person shall be  
8 punished in the manner provided in § 4-1-5. Abandonment means the relinquishment of all right,  
9 title, claim, or possession of the animal with the intention of not reclaiming it or resuming its  
10 ownership or possession.

11 (b) Any animal shelter or pound, as defined in §4-19-2, shall deem abandoned any animal  
12 that is impounded and not claimed by its owner within seven (7) days of impoundment if the  
13 animal has identification. Any impounded animal that does not have identification shall be  
14 deemed abandoned if it is not claimed by its owner within five (5) days of impoundment. Any  
15 animal deemed abandoned shall become the property of the animal shelter or pound and may be  
16 made available for adoption or may be euthanized in a humane manner.

17 (c) Any animal shelter or pound, as defined in §4-19-2, shall make a prompt and  
18 reasonable attempt to locate and notify the owner of the impounded animal including scanning  
19 the animal for an identifying microchip.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would authorize an animal shelter to claim an animal has been abandoned by its  
2 owner if it has identification and has not been claimed after seven (7) days or if it does not have  
3 identification and has not been claimed after five (5) days. The animal shelter may then put the  
4 animal up for adoption or dispose of it in a humane way after a reasonable attempt has been made  
5 to find the owner.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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