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S.79

Introduced by Senators Illuzzi, Campbell and McCormack

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crimes and criminal procedure; humane and proper treatment of
animals; possession of abused animal

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to allow a humane officer who has
seized an abused animal to arrange necessary medical care for the animal.

An act relating to medical care for abused animals

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 354 is amended to read:

§ 354. ENFORCEMENT; POSSESSION OF ABUSED ANIMAL;
SEARCHES AND SEIZURES; FORFEITURE

* * *

(c) A humane officer shall provide suitable care, including necessary
medical attention, at a reasonable cost for an animal seized under this section,
and have a lien on the animal for all expenses incurred. A humane officer may
arrange for the euthanasia of a severely injured, diseased, or suffering animal
upon the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian. A humane officer may
arrange for euthanasia of an animal seized under this section when the owner is

1 unwilling or unable to provide necessary medical attention required while the
2 animal is in custodial care or when the animal cannot be safely confined under
3 standard housing conditions. An animal not destroyed by euthanasia shall be
4 kept in custodial care until final disposition of the criminal charges except as
5 provided in subsections (d) through (h) of this section. The custodial caregiver
6 shall be responsible for maintaining the records applicable to all animals
7 seized, including identification, residence, location, medical treatment, and
8 disposition of the animals.

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