
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 545 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, VULAKOVICH, SCAVELLO AND RAFFERTY,
MARCH 24, 2017

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, MARCH 24, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),
2 entitled, as amended, "An act relating to dogs, regulating
3 the keeping of dogs; providing for the licensing of dogs and
4 kennels; providing for the protection of dogs and the
5 detention and destruction of dogs in certain cases;
6 regulating the sale and transportation of dogs; declaring
7 dogs to be personal property and the subject of theft;
8 providing for the abandonment of animals; providing for the
9 assessment of damages done to animals; providing for payment
10 of damages by the Commonwealth in certain cases and the
11 liability of the owner or keeper of dogs for such damages;
12 imposing powers and duties on certain State and local
13 officers and employees; providing penalties; and creating a
14 Dog Law Restricted Account," in sterilization of dogs and
15 cats, further providing for spaying or neutering as condition
16 for release of certain animals and repealing certain
17 provisions relating to sterilization of dogs and cats.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. Section 902-A of the act of December 7, 1982
21 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, is amended to read:

22 Section 902-A. Spaying or neutering as condition for release of
23 certain animals.

24 No dog or cat may be adopted by a new owner from a releasing
25 agency unless the animal has been sterilized by a licensed

1 doctor of veterinary medicine [or unless the new owner signs an
2 agreement to have the animal sterilized by or under the
3 supervision of a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine and
4 deposits funds with the releasing agency to ensure that the
5 adopted animal will be sterilized. The amount of the deposit
6 required shall be determined by each releasing agency. In no
7 event shall the required deposit be less than \$30 for a dog or
8 \$20 for a cat] of the releasing agency.

9 Section 2. Sections 903-A, 904-A, 905-A, 906-A, 907-A, 908-
10 A, 909-A, 910-A and 911-A of the act are repealed:

11 [Section 903-A. Refund of deposit upon proof of sterilization.

12 The funds deposited with the releasing agency shall be
13 refunded to the new owner upon the presentation of a written
14 statement signed by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine
15 that the subject animal has been sterilized. However, no refunds
16 shall be made unless the animal was sterilized within 60 days of
17 acquisition in the case of a mature animal or, in the case of an
18 immature animal, within 30 days of the date the animal attained
19 the age of six months.

20 Section 904-A. Rules and sterilization agreement.

21 Releasing agencies may establish any additional rules to
22 implement this article, provided that such rules are not in
23 conflict with the provisions or purpose of this article to
24 require the sterilization of all dogs and cats adopted from
25 releasing agencies. The sterilization agreement to be used by
26 releasing agencies shall be in substantially the following form:

27 STERILIZATION AGREEMENT

28 This agreement is made and entered into this day of

29 , 19 , by and between:

30 (Releasing Agency)

(New Owner)

1 New Owner

2 (signature of)

3 WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LICENSED DOCTOR OF

4 VETERINARY MEDICINE

5 I hereby certify that the above-described

6 animal has been sterilized on

7 (give date).

8 (Signature of

9 Licensed Doctor of

10 Veterinary

11 Medicine)

12 Address

13 City State Zip

14 Section 905-A. Extension of time to sterilize.

15 Upon presentation of a written report from a licensed doctor

16 of veterinary medicine stating that the life or health of an

17 adopted animal may be jeopardized by sterilization, the

18 releasing agency shall grant a 30-day extension of the period

19 within which sterilization would otherwise be required. Further

20 extensions shall be granted upon additional veterinary reports

21 stating their necessity.

22 Section 906-A. Exemption from sterilization; refund of

23 deposited funds.

24 Upon presentation of a written report from a licensed doctor

25 of veterinary medicine stating that the adopted animal has

26 already been sterilized or can never be sterilized due to old

27 age or a health condition that would likely result in the death

28 of the animal, the sterilization deposit shall be refunded.

29 Section 907-A. Death of adopted animal.

30 Upon request, the releasing agency shall refund deposited

1 funds to the new owner upon reasonable proof being presented to
2 the releasing agency by the new owner that the adopted animal
3 died before the expiration of the period during which the
4 sterilization was required to be completed.

5 Section 908-A. Forfeiture of deposited funds and adopted dog or
6 cat.

7 Failure of a new owner to comply with provisions of this
8 article shall result in the forfeiture of the deposited funds to
9 the releasing agency. The releasing agency may reclaim the dog
10 or cat from the new owner.

11 Section 909-A. Disposition of forfeited funds; record of
12 accounts.

13 Funds which have been forfeited by new owners shall be placed
14 in an interest-bearing account belonging to the releasing
15 agency. The releasing agency may allocate the unused funds from
16 such account to programs which directly promote, subsidize or
17 otherwise reduce the cost of sterilization of animals of the
18 releasing agency. Funds may also be used to provide for the
19 health and welfare of animals being cared for by the releasing
20 agency. The releasing agency shall maintain an accurate
21 accounting of these forfeited funds.

22 Section 910-A. Construction of article.

23 The provisions of this article shall not be construed to
24 require the sterilization of dogs and cats which are being held
25 in releasing agencies which might be claimed by their rightful
26 owners. Further, this article shall not be construed to
27 interfere with municipal ordinances or the policies and programs
28 of releasing agencies that meet or exceed the sterilization
29 requirements set forth in this article.

30 Section 911-A. Penalty.

1 Failure to comply with the provisions of this article
2 relating to the sterilization of animals constitutes a summary
3 offense.]

4 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.