

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H.B. 600
Apr 13, 2023
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10302-MH-112

Short Title: Regulatory Reform Act of 2023.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Riddell.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROVIDE FURTHER REGULATORY RELIEF TO THE CITIZENS OF NORTH
CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**AMEND LAWS FOR DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS SURRENDERED TO AN ANIMAL
SHELTER**

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 19A-32.1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 19A-32.1. Minimum holding period for animals in animal shelters; public viewing of
animals in animal shelters; disposition of animals.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all animals received by an animal shelter
or by an agent of an animal shelter shall be held for a minimum holding period of 72 hours, or
for any longer minimum period established by a board of county commissioners, prior to being
euthanized or otherwise disposed of.

(a1) Healthy cats impounded at a shelter without discernible indicia of ownership may be
sterilized, ear-tipped, vaccinated for rabies, administered other vaccinations as recommended by
the treating veterinarian, and returned to the location where trapped with no minimum hold
requirements under this section.

...

(j) Animal shelters shall maintain a record of all animals impounded at the shelter, shall
retain those records for a period of at least three years from the date of impoundment, and shall
make those records available for inspection during regular inspections pursuant to this Article or
upon the request of a representative of the Animal Welfare Section. Animal shelters shall also
maintain a record of cats disposed of as set forth in subsection (a1) of this section. These records
shall contain, at a minimum:

- (1) The date of impoundment.
- (2) The length of impoundment.
- (3) The disposition of each animal, including the name and address of any person
to whom the animal is released, any institution that person represents, and the
identifying information required under subsection (i) of this section.
- (4) Other information required by rules adopted by the Board of Agriculture."

SECTION 1.(b) G.S. 19A-65 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 19A-65. Annual Report Required From Every Animal Shelter in Receipt of State or
Local Funding.**

Every county or city animal shelter, or animal shelter operated under contract with a county
or city or otherwise in receipt of State or local funding shall prepare an annual report in the form



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1 required by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services setting forth the numbers, by
2 species, of animals received into the shelter, the number adopted out, the number returned to
3 owner, the number of cats returned to the location where trapped under G.S. 19A-32.1(a1), and
4 the number destroyed. The report shall also contain the total operating expenses of the shelter
5 and the cost per animal handled. The report shall be filed with the Department of Agriculture and
6 Consumer Services by March 1 of each year. A city or county that does not timely file the report
7 required by this section is not eligible to receive reimbursement payments under G.S. 19A-64
8 during the calendar year in which the report was to be filed."

9 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 130A-190(a) reads as rewritten:

10 "(a) Issuance. – A person who administers a rabies vaccine shall issue a rabies vaccination
11 tag to the owner of the animal. The rabies vaccination tag shall show the year issued, a
12 vaccination number, the words "North Carolina" or the initials "N.C." and the words "rabies
13 vaccine." Dogs shall wear rabies vaccination tags at all times. Cats and ferrets must wear rabies
14 vaccination tags unless they are exempt from wearing the tags by local ~~ordinance~~ ordinance, or
15 are unowned outdoor cats that have been eartipped to indicate sterilization and vaccination as set
16 forth in G.S. 130A-192."

17 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 130A-192 reads as rewritten:

18 **"§ 130A-192. Animals not wearing required rabies vaccination tags.**

19 (a) The Animal Control Officer shall canvass the county to determine if there are any
20 animals not wearing the required rabies vaccination tag. If an animal required to wear a tag is
21 found not wearing one, the Animal Control Officer shall check to see if the owner's identification
22 can be found on the ~~animal~~ animal, or if the animal is a cat with a tipped ear. A cat with a tipped
23 ear indicating that the cat has been sterilized and vaccinated is exempt from the requirement to
24 wear a rabies tag. If the animal is wearing an owner identification tag with information enabling
25 the owner of the animal to be contacted, or if the Animal Control Officer otherwise knows who
26 the owner is, the Animal Control Officer shall notify the owner in writing to have the animal
27 vaccinated against rabies and to produce the required rabies vaccination certificate to the Animal
28 Control Officer within three days of the notification. If the animal is not wearing an owner
29 identification tag and the Animal Control Officer does not otherwise know who the owner is, the
30 Animal Control Officer may impound the animal. The duration of the impoundment of these
31 animals shall be established by the county board of commissioners, but the duration shall not be
32 less than 72 hours. Healthy cats without discernable indicia of ownership may be sterilized,
33 ear-tipped, vaccinated for rabies, administered other vaccinations as recommended by the
34 treating veterinarian, and returned to the location where they were trapped without any minimum
35 impoundment period under this section. During the impoundment period, the Animal Control
36 Officer shall make a reasonable effort to locate the owner of the animal. If the Animal Control
37 Officer has access at no cost or at a reasonable cost to a microchip scanning device, the Animal
38 Control Officer shall scan the animal and utilize any information that may be available through
39 a microchip to locate the owner of the animal, if possible. If the animal is not reclaimed by its
40 owner during the impoundment period, the animal shall be disposed of in one of the following
41 manners: returned to the owner; adopted as a pet by a new owner; sterilized, ear-tipped,
42 vaccinated for rabies and administered other vaccinations as recommended by the treating
43 veterinarian, and returned to the location where it was trapped; or put to death by a procedure
44 approved by rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or, in the
45 absence of such rules, by a procedure approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association,
46 the Humane Society of the United States or of the American Humane Association.

47 ...

48 (a3) The Animal Control Officer shall maintain a record of all animals impounded under
49 this section which shall include the date of impoundment, the length of impoundment, the method
50 of disposal of the animal and the name of the person or institution to whom any animal has been

1 released. The Animal Control Officer shall also maintain a record of any cats sterilized,
2 ear-tipped, vaccinated, and returned to the location where trapped."

3 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2023.