



HOUSE BILL 808: Community Cats/Animal Shelter Disposition.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 2, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. McElraft, Humphrey, Harrison	Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H808-CSBG-42		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 808 would amend the laws relating to animal rabies vaccine tag requirements and disposition of animals surrendered to animal shelters.*

CURRENT LAW: Current law requires:

- That cats and ferrets must wear rabies vaccination tags unless they are exempt from wearing tags by local ordinance.
- Animals not wearing a vaccination tag that are required to wear a tag, for which an owner cannot be found, maybe impounded. The duration of the impoundment is established by the county board of commissioners, but must not be less than 72 hours. If the animal is not reclaimed during the impoundment period, the animal must either be:
 - Returned to the owner.
 - Adopted as a pet by a new owner.
 - Put to death by approved procedures.
- 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:
 - Returned to the owner.
 - Adopted as a pet by a new owner.
 - Euthanized by an approved procedure.

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 808 would:

- Exempt unowned outdoor cats that have been eartipped to indicate vaccination from the rabies vaccination tag requirement.
- Clarify that duration of impoundment and disposition is established by the county board of commissioners, and shall not be less than 72 hours.
- Add that animals impounded for not having rabies vaccination tags as required may be transferred to another shelter or returned to an animal advocate group.
- Add that an animal that is surrendered to an animal shelter by an owner may be transferred to another animal shelter.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective October 1, 2019.

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Director



Legislative Analysis
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