



# HOUSE BILL 808: Community Cats/Animal Shelter Disposition.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	May 3, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. McElraft, Humphrey, Harrison	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jessica Sammons Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition H808-CSBK-15		

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**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:** Under current law, cats and ferrets must wear rabies vaccination tags, unless they are exempt from wearing tags by local ordinance.

Animals not wearing a required vaccination tag may be impounded, if the animal's owner cannot be located. 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 do the following:

- Exempt unowned outdoor cats that have been eartipped to indicate the cat has been vaccinated from the rabies vaccination tag requirement.
- Clarify that the disposition of animals not wearing the required rabies vaccination tags is established by the county board of commissioners.
- Add that animals impounded for not having the required rabies vaccination tag may be transferred to an animal advocate group or another animal shelter if not reclaimed by the animal's owner during the impoundment period set by the county board of commissioners.
- Add that 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 transferred to another animal shelter or an animal advocate group.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective October 1, 2019.

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