

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That a new section be and it is hereby added to Article 63 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Mechanics Lien", sub-title "Hospitals", said new section to be known as Section 52 and to follow immediately after Section 51 thereof, said section having been added by Chapter 14 of the Acts of 1954, and to read as follows:*

52. *Any duly qualified veterinarian as defined in Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1951, title "Health", sub-title "State Board of Veterinary Examiners", giving care or custody, or performing medical services, or any services necessary or incidental to his profession to any animal in his care or custody, shall* MAY AFTER SAID ANIMAL IS READY FOR DELIVERY TO THE OWNER THEREOF *notify the owner or client* THE PERSON BY WHOM SAID ANIMAL WAS DELIVERED TO SAID VETERINARIAN *that the animal is ready for delivery and shall render* IN PERSON OR BY GIVING 30 days' notice by registered letter mailed to the given address, OF SUCH OWNER OR PERSON, or the last known address, or if said address is unknown such notice shall be rendered by posting at the court house door of the city or county wherein the animal is located for a period of 30 days. After the expiration of said 30 days' notice, either by registered letter or by posting at the court house door of the city or county wherein the animal is located, if the animal is not claimed, it shall be considered ~~abandoned~~ THAT TITLE OF THE OWNER TO THE ANIMAL IS FORFEITED *and the veterinarian shall have the right to:*

(a) *Sell the animal at either public or private sale, except for purposes of experimentation or vivisection, provided such sale is advertised in a local newspaper on at least two occasions seven days apart. Proceeds of such sale shall be applied, first, to the expenses thereof, second, to the liquidation of such indebtedness, and the balance, if any, shall be held for the benefit of the owner or client for a period of 30 days, after which time the veterinarian shall* SHALL turn the same over to the local Board of Education; or

(b) *Offer the animal for placement, except for purposes of experimentation or of vivisection; or*

(c) (B) *Turn the animal over to the local sheriff to be handled in the customary manner.* AN ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCY LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY WHERE SAID ANIMAL IS LOCATED OR IF NO SUCH AGENCY IS LOCATED IN THAT COUNTY THEN TO THE NEAREST SUCH AGENCY.

*The exercise of any of the rights hereinabove given shall not prevent subsequent action at law for the collection of any moneys remaining due and unpaid to the veterinarian.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1957.*

Approved April 10, 1957.