

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

67B.

(a) Animal shelters and animal control facilities shall dispose of unclaimed dogs and cats only by the following means:

- (1) Placement for adoption in a suitable home;
- (2) Retention by the shelter; or
- (3) Humane destruction.

(b) An impounded domesticated animal may not be sold, placed for adoption, or destroyed by an animal control agency until:

(1) The animal has been carefully inspected for a tag, tattoo, or other identification to ascertain the owner; AND

(2) (I) 1. The owner is notified if his identity reasonably may be ascertained by the inspection; AND

[[3)] 2. 72 hours after notice has been given to the owner; OR

(II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, IF THE OWNER CANNOT BE NOTIFIED, 72 HOURS AFTER THE ANIMAL IS IMPOUNDED.

(C) AN IMPOUNDED DOMESTICATED ANIMAL OR LITTER OF ANIMALS MAY BE DESTROYED BY AN ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCY UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IF:

(1) THE OWNER CANNOT BE NOTIFIED WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER THE ANIMAL OR LITTER OF ANIMALS IS IMPOUNDED;

(2) THE ANIMAL IS SERIOUSLY DISEASED OR SEVERELY INJURED; OR

(3) THE LITTER OF ANIMALS IS UNDER 3 MONTHS OF AGE.

~~(c)~~ (D) The owner shall pay all fees, costs, and expenses incurred by the animal control agency. A new owner may be charged an adoption fee.

~~(d)~~ (E) As used in this section, "animal control agency" means the local organization or governmental unit or agency designated by the appropriate local governmental body to house, care for, and control domestic animals of unknown ownership.