

Article 1 – Pet Sterilization Act, 77-1-18 through 77-1-20.

77-1-18. Short title.

This act [77-1-18 to 77-1-20 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Pet Sterilization Act".

History: Laws 1993, ch. 43, § 1.

77-1-19. Definitions.

As used in the Pet Sterilization Act [77-1-18 to 77-1-20 NMSA 1978]:

A. "animal" means a cat or dog;

B. "animal shelter" means any animal facility operated privately or by or for a municipality or

county, in which stray, lost or unwanted animals are kept and released for adoption;

C. "sterilization" means rendering an animal unable to reproduce, either by the spaying of a female

animal or by the neutering of a male animal; and

D. "sterilization deposit" means that portion of the adoption fee charged by the animal shelter when

a person adopts an unsterilized animal; the "sterilization deposit" is refunded when the animal is sterilized.

History: Laws 1993, ch. 43, § 2. 4

77-1-20. Sterilization agreement and sterilization deposit required.

A. No animal shall be released from an animal shelter to an adopting person unless a sterilization

agreement has been signed and a sterilization deposit has been paid, as provided in Subsections C and D of this

section.

B. In addition to any adoption fee charged, a sterilization deposit of at least twenty-five dollars

(\$25.00) shall be imposed on the adoption of each animal from an animal shelter.

C. Animals less than six months of age shall be released only upon payment of the adoption fee and a

sterilization deposit and after the adopting person has signed an agreement stating he will have the adopted animal

sterilized when it is no older than six months of age.

D. Adult animals over the age of six months shall be released only upon payment of the adoption fee

and a sterilization deposit and after the adopting person has signed an agreement stating he will have the animal

sterilized within thirty days of the date of adoption.

E. The sterilization deposit shall be reimbursed only upon presentation of a receipt from a

veterinarian that the adopted animal has been sterilized.

F. An unsterilized animal reclaimed by its owner shall be released without being sterilized upon

payment of the twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the sterilization deposit and impoundment fees imposed by the

shelter, and the owner shall sign an agreement stating he will sterilize the animal within thirty days after release or

will obtain a breeder permit or its equivalent. The sterilization deposit shall be reimbursed upon presentation by the

owner of a receipt from a veterinarian that the animal has been sterilized.

History: Laws 1993, ch. 43, § 3.