

# Fact Sheet

## Support The Alaska Cost of Animal Care Act

\*Good for Animals    \*Good for Animal Shelters    \*Good for Taxpayers

*The Alaska Cost of Animal Care Act shifts the financial burden of caring for animals lawfully seized due to cruelty or neglect from government agencies or independent shelters to the animals' owner – saving tax dollars and animals' lives.*

### **The Alaska Cost of Animal Care Act:**

- Provides a hearing process whereby an owner whose animals have been lawfully seized due to cruelty or neglect may be required to post a bond to cover the costs of providing for the animals' care during the judicial process.
- Provides a defendant an expedited hearing to challenge the legality of the animal's seizure and the reasonableness of the bond requested.
- Allows for the adoption and rehoming of seized animals if an owner fails to post a court-ordered bond to provide care for his or her animals.
- Relieves animal control agencies or shelters, and by extension taxpayers, from incurring the significant expense of caring for lawfully seized animals.

### **Why does Alaska need this law?**

- Cruelty cases can involve the seizure of dozens or even hundreds of animals. Providing humane and adequate care for these animals for months or years can amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- It is unfair to expect Alaska taxpayers, or independent shelters and rescues, to incur the significant costs of providing care for lawfully seized animals; this expense remains an owner's responsibility.
- Alaska agencies may be unable to help animals who are suffering from neglect and/or abuse simply because they do not have the resources to provide long-term care.

*The Alaska Cost of Animal Care Act is supported by The Association of Shelter Veterinarians, The Humane Society of the United States, and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.*



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