

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECTIONAL FOR HB 147

An Act relating to the investigation of cruelty to animals complaints; relating to the seizure of animals; relating to the destruction of animals; relating to a bond or security posted for the costs of care for an animal; relating to the inclusion of an animal in a protective order and the crimes and arrests for violating that protective order; and relating to ownership upon divorce.

Sections 1-5, 16 (Cost of Care)

Amends animal statutes to require owners of animals lawfully seized for neglect or cruelty to pay their cost of care through bond or other security. This will shift the burden from governmental agencies, or independent shelters, and rescue agencies to the animals' owners – saving tax dollars and animals' lives. The bill also allows the adoption and rehoming of seized animals if the owners surrender them or fail to pay the costs of care ordered or post court-ordered bond. The sections also require notice of a seizure and impending hearing to be posted at the location from which the animal was seized. In addition, the bill specifies that the district court, rather than the superior court, may hear most cases related to the seizure of animals.

Sections 6-15 (Domestic Violence)

Amends domestic violence statutes to allow courts to allow for the inclusion of animals, including for their temporary care, in domestic violence protective orders.

Sections 17-21 (Divorce and Dissolution)

Amends divorce and marriage dissolution statutes to require consideration of animals' well-being when adjudicating their ownership or joint ownership.