

2017 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 64

BY SENATOR GATTI

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ANIMALS. Provides for animal shelter operating procedures and training requirements and authorizes animal shelters to post pictures of animals on a social media account or website. (8/1/17)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:2463(C) and (E) and to enact R.S. 3:2462(6), (7), and (8) and  
3 2465(E) and (F), relative to animal shelter operating procedures; to authorize animal  
4 shelters to post pictures of animals on a social media account or website; to require  
5 inspectors and shelter personnel to attend annual training; to require animal shelters  
6 to implement a seventy-two hour minimum hold time for stray animals; to provide  
7 for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 3:2463(C) and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
10 3:2462(6), (7), and (8) and 2465(E) and (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §2462. Definitions

12 As used in this Part, the following words shall have the following meanings  
13 ascribed to them:

14 \* \* \*

15 **(6) "Severely injured" means an animal which because of major trauma,**  
16 **broken bones, blood loss, or other easily apparent life-threatening condition,**  
17 **will not be expected to live and is in severe pain or suffering.**



1 and understand the principal animal diseases and injuries, and should have good  
2 judgment and even temperament.

3 \* \* \*

4 §2465. Operating procedures

5 \* \* \*

6 **E. Any animal shelter that maintains a social media account or a website**  
7 **may post pictures of every animal that enters the shelter upon intake and again**  
8 **prior to euthanasia of the animal.**

9 **F.(1) Any animal seized while running at large and bearing no**  
10 **identification, including a microchip registered to the owner or a name tag with**  
11 **traceable information, shall be held for a minimum of seventy-two hours prior**  
12 **to becoming property of the animal shelter or animal control agency.**

13 **(2) This Subsection shall not apply to the following:**

14 **(a) Any cat seized while running at large and bearing no identification**  
15 **which is sterilized and returned to the area where the cat was originally seized.**

16 **(b) Any severely injured or terminally ill animal.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Lann.

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SB 64 Engrossed DIGEST 2017 Regular Session Gatti

Present law requires animal shelters to be inspected at least once every six months by an authorized representative of the parish in which it is located.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires each parish to notify the director of the animal control agency or shelter of the inspector's name in writing.

Proposed law requires inspectors and shelter personnel to annually attend training offered by an organization that provides accredited continuing education courses regarding shelter safety, animal welfare, and state compliance procedures, such as the Louisiana Animal Control Association.

Present law (R.S. 3:2463-2465) provides for animal shelter minimum standards and operating procedures.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides for the following definitions:

(1) "Severely injured" means an animal which because of major trauma, broken bones,

blood loss, or other easily apparent life-threatening condition, will not be expected to live and is in severe pain or suffering.

- (2) "Social media account" means an Internet-based service that allows individuals to do the following:
- (a) Construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system created by the service.
  - (b) Create a list of other users with whom they share a connection within the system.
  - (c) View and navigate their list of connections and those made by others within the system.
- (3) "Terminally ill" means an animal that, because of apparent sickness or condition, is not expected to live and is in dire physical distress.

Proposed law authorizes any animal shelter that maintains a social media account or a website to post pictures of every animal that enters the shelter upon intake and again prior to euthanasia of the animal.

Proposed law requires any animal seized while running at large and bearing no identification, including a microchip registered to the owner or a name tag with traceable information, to be held for a minimum of seventy-two hours prior to becoming property of the animal shelter or animal control agency.

Proposed law further provides an exemption to the seventy-two hour minimum hold requirement for the following animals:

- (1) Any cat seized while running at large and bearing no identification which is sterilized and returned to the area where the cat was originally seized.
- (2) Any severely injured or terminally ill animal.

Effective August 1, 2017.

(Amends R.S. 3:2463(C) and (E); adds R.S. 3:2462(6), (7), and (8) and 2465(E) and (F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill

- 1. Defines the terms "severely injured" and "terminally ill".
- 2. Expands the training requirement for inspectors and shelter personnel to include organizations that offer accredited continuing education courses regarding shelter safety, animal welfare, and state compliance procedures.
- 3. Exempts certain cats and severely injured or terminally ill animals from the seventy-two hour minimum hold requirement.