

SENATE BILL 280: STANDARDS FOR ANIMALS IN SHELTERS

Goal: Reduce kill rate in animal shelters & ensure uniform basic accountability to the public of shelter care of animals.

Drafted and supported by: All animal shelters in Delaware: Faithful Friends No Kill Animal Shelter in Wilm., Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary in Sussex, Delaware SPCA in NCC and Sussex, Kent County SPCA, Delaware Humane Association

Shelter Care & Treatment

Animal shelters **MUST BE** advised by a licensed veterinarian and follow written veterinary care protocol.

1. **Evaluation and testing of newly impounded animals**, disease control and prevention, and adequate veterinary care. Updated as needed by Veterinarian.
2. **Vaccinate all dogs and cats against deadly diseases of distemper/parvo and all dogs for kennel cough** before or upon entering the shelter or holding facility to reduce the spread of disease and therefore unnecessary killing of animals. Vaccinations must be given to each animal upon arrival or within 8 hours after entering the shelter. Does not include animals in quarantine or specific medical exceptions. Based on National best practice to prevent deadly diseases.
3. **Health exam by a licensed veterinarian with 72 hours of entering the shelter** or licensed vet technician who has been certified by the licensed veterinarian advising the shelter.
4. Animals requiring veterinary care shall be seen within **a reasonable amount of time.**
5. **Designated treatment area and isolation and/or quarantine areas.**

Animal Adoption, Recovery, and Rehabilitation

1. **Shelters open to the public after normal business hours to increase adoptions**, including evenings and weekends.
2. **Minimum holding period of 72 hours** to allow reclaiming by their owners. First ever holding period requirement for cats.
3. **Animal recovery:**
 - Animals to be checked for ID upon intake includes microchips
 - Updated lists of animals reported lost online
 - If owner is identified, the animal shelters shall make reasonable attempt to reunite with the owner. Five day period to allow for completion of recovery process.
 - Registry of organizations willing to accept animals must be contacted before animal is killed
 - Acceptance of animals from within the State of DELAWARE is priority over bringing in animals from other states

Update rules on euthanasia in Animal Shelters

1. Shelters have to have written protocol on humane euthanasia
2. Outlines Technician required certification to perform euthanasia if a Veterinarian not available
3. Regulations on euthanasia to be developed by Dept of Agriculture based on AVMA guidelines

Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements for Accountability

1. Requires shelters to maintain and make available for accountability specific information on outcomes for animals & treatments & post data on website for public information.