

Missouri Revised Statutes

Chapter 273 **Dogs--Cats**

August 28, 2011

Sterilization of all cats and dogs adopted or purchased from animal shelters or animal control agencies, procedure.

273.403. 1. Provisions shall be made for the sterilization of all dogs and cats sold or released for adoption or purchased from any public or private animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a humane society, or by a county or city, or other political subdivision. Such provisions may be made by:

- (1) Providing for sterilization by a licensed veterinarian before relinquishing custody of the animal; or
 - (2) Entering into a written agreement with the adopter or purchaser guaranteeing that sterilization will be performed by a licensed veterinarian, in compliance with a sterilization agreement which shall contain the following information:
 - (a) The date of the agreement;
 - (b) The name, address, and signature of the releasing agency and the adopter;
 - (c) A description of the animal to be adopted;
 - (d) A statement printed in conspicuous bold print that sterilization of the animal is required pursuant to sections 273.400 to 273.405;
 - (e) A sterilization completion date which shall be either:
 - a. The thirtieth day after the date of adoption in the case of an adult animal; or
 - b. The thirtieth day after a specified date estimated to be the date an adopted infant female or male puppy or kitten becomes six months of age; or
 - c. If the releasing agency has a written policy recommending sterilization of certain infant animals at an earlier date, the thirtieth day after the date contained in* the written policy.
2. An adopter that signs a sterilization agreement shall have the adopted animal sterilized on or before the sterilization date stated in the agreement. If the sterilization completion date stated in

the agreement falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the deadline may be extended to the first day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. The releasing agency may extend the deadline for thirty days on the presentation of a letter or telephone report from a licensed veterinarian stating that the life or health of the adopted animal may be jeopardized by sterilization. There shall be no limit to the number of extensions that may be granted for this reason.

(L. 1992 S.B. 636 § 8)

*Word "after" appears in original rolls.

Animal considered sterilized when--exceptions to sterilization requirement--costs to be paid by adopter or purchaser.

273.405. 1. Each releasing agency shall agree to give title, possession, and control of the animal so long as the adopter complies with the terms and conditions of the adoption agreement.

2. The releasing agency shall consider the animal sterilized upon receipt of written confirmation signed by the licensed veterinarian who performed the sterilization.

3. Exceptions to the sterilization requirements of sections 273.400 to 273.405 shall not apply to a dog or cat that is claimed from a releasing agency by a person who already owns the animal. This subsection shall not apply to a releasing agency located in a political subdivision that has in effect an ordinance providing standards for dog and cat sterilization that exceed the requirements of sections 273.400 to 273.405.

4. All costs of sterilization pursuant to sections 273.400 to 273.405 shall be paid by the prospective adopter or purchaser, unless otherwise provided.

5. The requirements of sections 273.400 to 273.405 shall not apply to canines of a breed regularly used for lawful hunting or livestock production or management, as specified by rules of the department, to be used in the practice of livestock production or management or the practice of lawful hunting. The adopter may sign a statement that states he is* going to use the canines for such purposes in lieu of the sterilization agreement.

(L. 1992 S.B. 636 § 9)

*Words "they are" appear in original rolls.

