

Sec. 5-47.1. Sterilization of adopted dogs and cats: enforcement; civil penalty.

- (a) Every new owner of a dog or cat adopted from a releasing agency within the city shall cause to be sterilized the dog or cat pursuant to the agreement required by subdivision (2) or subsection (b) of this section.
- (b) A dog or cat shall not be released for adoption from a releasing agency unless:
 - (1) The animal has already been sterilized; or
 - (2) The individual adopting the animal signs an agreement to have the animal sterilized by a licensed veterinarian (i) within thirty (30) days of the adoption, if the animal is sexually mature, or (ii) within thirty (30) days after the animal reaches six (6) months of age, if the animal is not sexually mature at the time of adoption.
- (c) A releasing agency may extend for thirty (30) days the date by which a dog or cat must be sterilized on presentation of a written report from a veterinarian stating that the life or health of the adopted animal may be jeopardized by sterilization. In cases involving extenuating circumstances, the veterinarian and the releasing agency may negotiate the terms of an extension of the date by which the animal must be sterilized.
- (d) Nothing in this section shall preclude the sterilization of a sexually immature dog or cat upon the written agreement of the veterinarian, the releasing agency, and the new owner.
- (e) Upon the petition of an animal control officer, investigator, or the state veterinarian or his designee to the district court of the city where a violation of this article occurs, the court may order the new owner to take any steps necessary to comply with the requirements of this article. This remedy shall be exclusive of and in addition to any civil penalty which may be imposed under this article.
- (f) Any person who violates subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Cross reference – Similar provision, Code of Virginia, § 3.1-796.126:1