



COVID-19 WAIVER:

Spay/Neuter Requirement Waived at Time of Adoption

Pennsylvania's Dog Law requires shelters and rescues to have dogs and cats spayed/neutered prior to adoption. In consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the PA Veterinary Medical Association, effective April 2, 2020, the Department of Agriculture is temporarily waiving this requirement due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19. This will allow conservation of PPE and limit risk of exposure to COVID-19 for veterinarians. Shelters must keep a running list of pets adopted out during the COVID-19 pandemic, provide a copy to PDA, and follow up with adopted pets to ensure the procedure takes place. Adoptive pet owners will have up to 120 days from the time of adoption – timeframe to be re-evaluated as necessary – to have the procedure completed and come into compliance.

ARTICLE IX-A STERILIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS (Art. IX-A added Dec. 11, 1996, P.L.943, No.151)

Section 901-A. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this article shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Adopt" or "adoption." The transfer of ownership of a dog or cat from a releasing agency to a new owner.

"Licensed doctor of veterinary medicine." A person licensed to practice veterinary medicine under the act of December 27, 1974 (P.L.995, No.326), known as the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, or licensed under similar laws and qualifications in other states.

"Neuter." A procedure to render a male dog or cat unable to reproduce.

"New owner." A person who enters into a binding agreement pursuant to section 902-A and who adopts a dog or cat from a releasing agency.

"Releasing agency." A public or private pound, animal shelter, humane society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, rescue network kennel or other similar entity that releases a dog or cat for adoption. (Def. amended Oct. 9, 2008, P.L.1450, No.119)

"Spay." A procedure to render a female dog or cat unable to reproduce.

"Sterilize" or "sterilization." The spaying or neutering of a dog or cat.

(901-A added Dec. 11, 1996, P.L.943, No.151)

Section 902-A. Spaying or neutering as condition for release of certain animals.

No dog or cat may be adopted by a new owner from a releasing agency unless the animal has been sterilized by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine or unless the new owner signs an agreement to have the animal sterilized by or under the supervision of a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine and deposits funds with the releasing agency to ensure that the adopted

