


F R O M	Name & Title	Sharon Miller Director, Animal Services	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore, Maryland 21202		
	Subject	Animal Impoundment and Redemption		

October 5, 2016

TO: Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter

Under the legal authority of the Baltimore City Health Code (HE) §10-801 an animal enforcement officer, police officer, humane officer, or other person authorized and contracting with the City to do so may impound any animal:

- (1) found at large;
- (2) whose owner or custodian does not have the required license or permit for the animal;
- (3) that is found without a license tag required by this title;
- (4) that poses a threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
- (5) reasonably believed to be a dangerous or vicious animal;
- (6) placed at risk by its health or environment;
- (7) that is abandoned;
- (8) that is prohibited in the City;
- (9) reasonably believed to be a public nuisance animal;
- (10) whose owner or custodian is in violation of this title; or
- (11) whose owner or custodian is in violation of any other animal control or protection law, rule, or regulation for this City or State.

Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter is the contracting shelter organization for Baltimore City (BARCS) and as such, BARCS staff may impound any animal brought in by a member of the public that is found at large (stray), abandoned or that meets any of the other criteria listed in HE § 10-801 (above).

Pursuant to HE § 10-805 (b) if the owner seeks to reclaim the animal within 72 hours of impoundment the Office may require the owner or custodian to:

- (1) provide proof of legal title or custodianship of the animal or provide an affidavit of legal title or custodianship;
- (2) demonstrate that the animal has required license or permit;
- (3) pay any fees or expenses required by the Office for the care, feeding, housing, and veterinary care of the animal during the impoundment;
- (4) allow the Office to microchip the animal at the owner's or custodian's expense; and
- (5) allow the Office to alter the animal at the owner's or custodian's expense.

BARCS is authorized to carry out the Office of Animal Control's current 'Policy on Owner Reclaiming of Animals within 72 Hours of Impoundment.' (see attached).

ATTACHMENT:

Baltimore City Health Department

Office of Animal Control

Policy on Owner Reclaiming Animals within 72 Hours of Impoundment

Version 1, October 5, 2016

If the owner of an impounded animal seeks to reclaim the animal within 72 hours of impoundment, all of the requisites (1-5) of HE 10-805(b) listed below shall be fulfilled prior to redemption of the animal **with the exception of altering the animal if the animal is at risk due to its age or medical condition.**

- (1) provide proof of legal title or custodianship of the animal or provide an affidavit of legal title or custodianship;
- (2) demonstrate that the animal has required license or permit;
- (3) pay any fees or expenses required by the Office for the care, feeding, housing, and veterinary care of the animal during the impoundment;
- (4) allow the Office to microchip the animal at the owner's or custodian's expense; and
- (5) allow the Office to alter the animal at the owner's or custodian's expense.