

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2574

4  
5 By: Representative Bright  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 20-19-103(c) TO  
10 MANDATE THAT ALL ANIMAL SHELTERS STERILIZE DOGS  
11 AND CATS BEFORE RELEASING THEM TO A NEW OWNER;  
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 20-19-103  
15 (c) TO MANDATE THAT ALL ANIMAL SHELTERS  
16 STERILIZE DOGS AND CATS BEFORE RELEASING  
17 THEM TO A NEW OWNER.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 20-19-103(c), concerning animal shelters  
24 releasing dogs and cats to new owners, is amended to read as follows:

25 (c)(1) ~~In any county in the state having a population of three hundred~~  
26 ~~thousand (300,000) or more persons according to the most recent federal~~  
27 ~~decennial census, it~~ It shall be unlawful for any pound, shelter, or humane  
28 organization to release to a new owner any dog or cat over two (2) months of  
29 age which has not been sterilized except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of  
30 this section.

31 (2)(A) An animal which in the opinion of a veterinarian licensed  
32 to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas is medically  
33 compromised to the extent that it cannot withstand immediate sterilization  
34 may be temporarily released pursuant to a foster care agreement until such  
35 time as it can safely be sterilized or until two (2) veterinarians licensed  
36 to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas certify that is

1 unlikely that the animal will ever recover to the extent that it can safely  
2 be sterilized.

3 (B)(i) At that time, ownership of the animal may be  
4 transferred to an owner who certifies that the animal will not be used for  
5 breeding.

6 (ii) An owner who violates the agreement shall be  
7 subject to the penalties set forth in subsection (d) of this section.

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