

This legislation also prohibits the destruction of seized animals, except for humane reasons as determined by a veterinarian.

According to the Kentucky Humane Society, there is no uniform daily rate for animal care among county animal control offices. Daily care rates range from \$10 per day to \$25 per day for dogs and cats. If medical care is rendered on site, rates vary as well, from actual costs to a set fee. If an external veterinarian is needed, the costs are reflective of the veterinary fees charged. All costs are higher for larger animals such as horses and livestock and for non-typical pets, etc.

The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminable and expected to be minimal. Reasonable costs incurred for the care of seized animals should be recovered through reimbursement from the convicted persons as ordered by the court. In cases where reimbursements are not made, city/county attorneys would become involved in obtaining restitution and will incur necessary expenses.

While no additional crimes are created within the Act, if there is any jail time applied at sentencing, then an additional impact will be seen by counties. A person convicted of a Class B misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to 90 days. A person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to twelve months. Misdemeanants are housed in one of Kentucky's 74 full service jails or three life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, this estimated impact will be based on an average cost to incarcerate of \$35.43 per day. While the majority of misdemeanor defendants are granted bail, those who do not will also cost local jails an average cost to incarcerate of \$35.43 per day.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): Kentucky Humane Society, Department of Corrections, LRC Staff

Preparer: MJO (wfb) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/10/22