

The impact of this legislation on local governments will occur at the time the emergency plan needs to be put into place. Implementation of the plan could increase the cost to local animal control agencies and shelters. Disasters, especially natural disasters, typically increase the number of household pets and/or assistance or service animals that have to be impounded. This drives up the cost of care to the shelter or agency.

KRS 285.215 requires impounded dogs to be kept for at least five days. 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. They estimate the average cost per impounded animal is \$250. Currently, during times of disaster, many shelters opt to extend the mandated five-day stay, increasing the care amount even more.

SB 172 does not mandate shelters to adopt any particular protocol. Instead, shelters would be able to exercise discretion and flexibility in choosing which protocols fit within existing staffing and budgetary allotments. Depending on staffing and budget, a shelter may opt to choose protocols that either have no associated costs, reduce ordinary costs, or are reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in declared disaster areas. Eligible reimbursable costs under DAP9523.19 include:

- Use of agency owned or leased equipment to provide transportation to congregate pet shelters;
- Facility cost including minor modifications, facility lease or rent, increased utility costs, generator lease and operation (not purchase), security, shelter management, shelter cleaning.
- Supplies and commodities needed for and used directly on the declared emergency
- Eligible Labor including overtime for regular full-time employees. Regular-time and overtime for contract labor specifically hired to provide additional support required as a result of the disaster;
- Emergency veterinary services;
- Removal and disposal of animal carcasses; and
- Reasonable costs to the agency for cataloging/tracking system.

Reimbursement of costs, either whole or in part, will reduce any impact on local animal control agencies because of an emergency.

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, United States Humane Society, Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity, FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy DAP9523.19 (Oct 24, 2007), and LRC Staff

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