

**SEC. 1 Definitions.**

(a) **ANIMAL SHELTER.**—The term ‘animal shelter’ means Austin Animal Center.

(b) **LICENSED VETERINARIAN.**—The term ‘licensed veterinarian’ means a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this State of Texas.

(c) **RESCUE ORGANIZATION.**—The term ‘rescue organization’ means an organization that is:  
(1) An organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code; and,  
(2) An animal rescue organization, animal adoption organization, or organization formed for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

(d) **IRREMIEDIABLE SUFFERING.**—The term ‘irremediable suffering’ means an animal who has a poor or grave prognosis for being able to live without severe, unremitting physical pain even with comprehensive, prompt, and necessary veterinary care, as certified in writing by a licensed veterinarian.

**SEC. 2 Right of Rescue.**

(a) Not less than two business days before the euthanasia of any animal, the animal shelter shall:

- (1) Notify or make a reasonable attempt to notify by verifiable written electronic communication any rescue organization that has previously requested to be notified before animals are euthanized;
- (2) Unless there is evidence of neglect or animal cruelty as certified in writing by a licensed veterinarian, notify or make a reasonable attempt to notify by verifiable written electronic communication the owner who surrendered the animal and inform that person that the animal is scheduled to be killed;
- (3) Notify or make a reasonable attempt to notify by verifiable written electronic communication the finder who surrendered the stray animal and inform that person that the animal is scheduled to be killed;
- (4) Give those notified under Sec. 2, subsections (a)(1), (2), and (3) possession of the animal to avoid the animal’s death if they request it.

(b) Austin Animal Center may not euthanize any animal without making the notification required by Subsections (a)(1), (2), and (3).

(c) This Subsection does not apply to:

- (1) An animal who is irremediably suffering;
- (2) A dog who has been judicially declared dangerous under the Texas dangerous dog statute at Sec. 822.001 and whose release to a rescue group would violate a court order.

(d) This provision also applies to animals in utero when a female animal is visibly pregnant.