

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

DANIEL B. VERDIN, III
CHAIRMAN



GENE HOGAN
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

EMMA HALL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SUITE 402, GRESSETTE OFFICE BUILDING
P. O. BOX 142
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202-0142
(803) 212-6230

November 2, 2016

Municipal Association of South Carolina
Attention: Miriam Hair, Executive Director
PO Box 12109
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Miriam:

I am communicating with you today in my role as Chairman of the Pet Care & Humane Treatment Study Committee. That body was established by Act 274 (S. 980), which became law in June. Also contained in that legislation are the duties of the committee (a copy is enclosed). The committee began meeting in September; we have heard several presentations and will continue to hear others as a resource for the members. We are receiving public input, as well.

The prescribed duties include some data collection (see Section 5. (B) (2-5)). At the last meeting, held October 27, I informed the committee that I would seek assistance from your organization, as well as others, for the needed data. If you are able to provide any applicable data, I would greatly appreciate it.

Receipt of your information by November 14, in time for our next meeting, would be helpful. If that is not possible, or if you need to discuss this matter further, please contact Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Staff at 212-6230. Please send your response to sagricomm@sccsenate.gov. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Sheheen", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Vincent Sheheen
SC Senate, District 27
Chesterfield, Kershaw & Lancaster & Counties
Chairman, Pet Care & Humane Treatment Study Committee

cc: House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee

SECTION 5. (A) There is established the Pet Care and Humane Treatment Study Committee to review, study, and make recommendations concerning the need for improved oversight and regulation in the State.

(B) The study committee shall:

(1) identify issues relating to pets including, but not limited to, breeding, adoption, purchase, veterinary care, transportation, and sale of pets out of this State;

(2) identify and categorize a statewide estimate of the historical and current private nonprofit animal shelters in this State, rescue shelters, county animal shelters, and municipal animal shelters;

(3) identify and categorize the range of services offered in an animal shelter including kenneling, grooming, and veterinary services;

(4) identify and categorize any limitations on services based on income status or other poverty measures;

(5) identify any underserved areas of the State for basic veterinary services;

(6) identify concerns related to unhealthy breeding practices;

(7) identify and quantify the sale of pets by animal shelters to out of state individuals or organizations;

(8) identify how animals are transported to other states and any regulation that might apply;

(9) review the animal cruelty laws and determine if the enforcement and penalties are working;

(10) review appointments to the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to determine if it needs any updating or structural change; and

(11) recommend changes to public policy, regulations, or statutes that would improve the overall health and safety of animal shelters, breeding practices, sale, and transportation of pets.

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November 2, 2016

South Carolina Association of Counties
Attention: Michael B. Cone, Executive Director
P.O. Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

Dear Michael:

I am communicating with you today in my role as Chairman of the Pet Care & Humane Treatment Study Committee. That body was established by Act 274 (S. 980), which became law in June. Also contained in that legislation are the duties of the committee (a copy is enclosed). The committee began meeting in September; we have heard several presentations and will continue to hear others as a resource for the members. We are receiving public input, as well.

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Vincent Sheheen
SC Senate, District 27
Chesterfield, Kershaw & Lancaster & Counties
Chairman, Pet Care & Humane Treatment Study Committee

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