**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 47‑5‑220 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AN ANIMAL CONTROL WORKER WHO REMOVES AN ANIMAL FROM A RESIDENCE MUST CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE ANIMAL IS A POTENTIAL CARRIER OF RABIES, HAVE THE ANIMAL TESTED FOR RABIES IF THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THE ANIMAL IS A CARRIER OF RABIES, NOTIFY THE OWNER OF THE RESIDENCE THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONSULTED, AND WHETHER THE ANIMAL WAS TESTED FOR RABIES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 5, Title 47 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 47‑5‑220. When a public or private animal control worker captures and removes an animal from a residence, prior to destroying the animal, the animal control worker must:

(1) consult with the department to determine whether the animal is a potential carrier of rabies;

(2) have the animal tested for rabies if the department believes the animal is a potential carrier of rabies;

(3) notify the owner of the residence that the department has been consulted; and

(a) the department determined the animal was not a potential carrier of rabies and, therefore, the animal was not tested; or

(b) the department determined the animal was a potential carrier for rabies, that the animal was tested for rabies, and the results of the test.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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