

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 516

DATE: April 21, 2011

Version: As introduced

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Subject: Local animal control

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Overview

This bill would eliminate several animal-related local government requirements.

- 1 **Seizure; impoundment; presumption.** Eliminates a requirement that when a county elects to license dogs, a sheriff, sheriff's deputy, or police officer must seize, impound, or restrain any unlicensed dogs running at large.
- 2 **Applicability.** Eliminates a 2008 requirement that animal control and law enforcement agencies must enforce the state's dangerous dog laws whether the local government has adopted a corresponding ordinance or not.
- 3 **Repealer.** Eliminates laws that:
 - Require a town poundmaster to impound seized animals that were at large and damaging property and to sell the animals at a posted public auction unless the animals are properly claimed, seized, or discharged within six days (§ 346.13).
 - Require towns without a pound to find another enclosure to hold seized animals that were at large and damaging property. The county sheriff must sell any unclaimed animal if the animal is not property claimed, seized, or discharged after six days (§ 346.14).
 - Require a person who purchases an unclaimed, seized animal to keep the animal for at least two months, in order to give the true owner the opportunity to claim the animal in exchange for proper payment including interest (§ 346.15).
 - Requires a local animal control authority to report annually to the Board of Animal Health regarding any grandfathered exotic animals that were registered in the jurisdiction and any related enforcement action taken (§ 346.155). Exotic animals include large cats such as leopards and cheetahs, bears, and nonhuman primates. In general, state law prohibits ownership of these animals but a person who possessed an exotic animal before 2005 may continue to possess the animal if the person satisfies several requirements, including registration.