

Subject Veterinarians; criminal and civil immunity

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Overview

This bill would provide civil and criminal penalty immunity to a licensed veterinarian who (1) reports suspected animal cruelty, or (2) determines that an animal is suffering, unable to be cured through reasonable care and treatment, and may be immediately put down when the animal was seized by law enforcement, animal control, or a humane agent because the animal was at risk of death due to exposure or the lack of suitable food or water.

For purposes of this bill, “animal” would be defined broadly to include every living creature except members of the human race (Minn. Stat. § 343.20, subd. 2). This is the definition that applies under current law to Minnesota’s general animal cruelty statutes (Minn. Stat. §§ 343.20 to 343.36). This bill would become part of these animal cruelty statutes.