



Veterinary Health Center

MANHATTAN, KANSAS

OFFICIAL PROTOCOL

ABANDONDED ANIMALS

Animals will only be designated as abandoned by the senior clinician responsible for the case using the following guidelines from the Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.) pertaining to abandonment:

K.S.A. 47-835. Abandonment of animals; notice to owner; relief from liability for disposal; "abandoned" defined.

(a) Any animal placed in the custody of a licensed veterinarian for treatment, boarding or other care, which shall be unclaimed by its owner or its owner's agent for a period of more than ten (10) days after written notice by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, is given the owner or the owner's agent at such person's last known address, shall be deemed to be abandoned and may be turned over to the nearest humane society, or dog pound or disposed of as the custodian may deem proper.

(b) The giving of notice to the owner, or the agent of the owner, of such animal by the licensed veterinarian, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, shall relieve the licensed veterinarian and any custodian to whom such animal may be given of any further liability for disposal. Such procedure by a licensed veterinarian shall not constitute grounds for disciplining procedure under this act.

(c) For the purpose of this act, the term "abandoned" shall mean to forsake entirely, or to neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations for care and support of an animal by its owner, or its owner's agent. Such abandonment shall constitute the relinquishment of all rights and claims by the owner to such animal.

Small Animals:

After an animal is determined to be abandoned, contact via all available phone numbers will be attempted at least twice a day for 5 consecutive days. Each call will be documented in the medical record. If the owner is not able to be reached after 5 consecutive days a certified letter will be sent to the client stating that the owner has 10 days to pick up the animal before it is released to a licensed Kansas shelter. Any charges incurred during this time will be the responsibility of the owner.

If an owner verbally relinquishes ownership in the presence of two witnesses, the 15-day contact period is not necessary and the animal may be released to a licensed Kansas shelter as soon as possible. Documentation of this conversation will be noted in the medical record.

Large Animals:

If a senior clinician is concerned that a large animal may be abandoned, please contact the Hospital Administrator to determine the best course of action.

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Approved by C. Duvendack, Hospital Administrator
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