

CHAPTER 343

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

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343.01 PURPOSES; POWERS; COUNTY ORGANIZATION.

Subdivision 1. The Minnesota humane society is hereby confirmed and continued, with all existing powers, for the purpose of inculcating humane principles, the enforcement of law, and the prevention of cruelty, especially to animals. The Minnesota humane society may make reasonable rules governing the humane care, treatment, transportation, and in extreme cases the disposition by death or sale of animals as it deems expedient to accomplish its purposes. It may appoint representatives in any county where no active county society exists, for the purpose of receiving and accounting for funds from any source, and may also appoint agents at large to carry out the work of the society throughout the state. This society and all county societies may appoint agents for the purpose of investigating or otherwise assisting lawfully empowered officials in the prosecution of persons charged with cruelty to animals. Branches of the society, consisting of not less than ten members, may be organized in any part of the state to prosecute the work of the society in their several localities under rules established by it. It may make rules and bylaws as are necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter.

Subd. 2. It shall be unlawful for any organization, association, firm or corporation not authorized by this chapter to refer to itself as or in any way to use the names Minnesota society for the prevention of cruelty, the Minnesota humane society, or any combination of words or phrases using the above names which would imply that it represents, acts in behalf or is a branch of said society.

Subd. 3. The society shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of seven persons appointed by the governor. The governor, the commissioner of education and the attorney general, or their designees shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the board. The membership terms, compensation, removal and filling of vacancies of board members other than ex-officio members shall be as provided in section 15.0575; provided that the terms of two initial members shall expire in each of 1979, 1980, and 1981, and the term of the seventh initial member shall expire in 1982. The members of the board shall annually elect a chairman and other officers as deemed necessary. Meetings shall be called by the chairman or at least two other members. The board may employ staff who shall serve in the unclassified civil service at the pleasure of the board. The commissioner of administration upon request of the board shall supply the board with necessary office space and administrative services, and the board shall reimburse the commissioner for the cost thereof.

History: *RL s 3125; 1971 c 85 s 1; 1975 c 369 s 1; 1977 c 264 s 1 (7927)*

343.02 [Repealed, 1977 c 264 s 5; 1977 c 332 s 17]
343.03 [Repealed, 1977 c 264 s 5; 1977 c 332 s 17]
343.04 [Repealed, 1977 c 264 s 5]
343.05 [Repealed, 1977 c 264 s 5]

343.06 DUTIES.

It shall be the duty of the Minnesota humane society to secure the enforcement of the laws for the prevention of wrongs to animals; to assist in the organization of district and county societies and the appointment of local and state agents, and give them representation in the state society; to aid such societies and agents in the enforcement of the laws for the prevention of wrongs to animals which may now or hereafter exist, and to promote the growth of education and sentiment favorable to the protection of animals.

History: 1905 c 274 s 3; 1975 c 369 s 4; 1977 c 264 s 2 (7930)

343.07 [Repealed, 1977 c 264 s 5]

343.08 BIENNIAL REPORT.

The board of directors of the state society shall make a biennial report by November 15 in each even numbered year, to the governor and to the legislature, describing its budget, expenditures, and activities for the two preceding fiscal years, including statistics showing its work.

History: 1905 c 274 s 5; 1955 c 847 s 26; 1975 c 369 s 6; 1977 c 332 s 14; 1978 c 674 s 37

343.09 [Repealed, 1977 c 264 s 5]

343.10 COUNTY SOCIETIES.

County societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals may be formed in any county by not less than seven incorporators, and the members, at a meeting called for that purpose, may elect not less than three of their number directors, who shall continue in office until their successors have qualified.

History: RL s 3126; 1975 c 369 s 7 (7934)

343.11 ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY, APPROPRIATIONS.

Every county society for the prevention of cruelty to animals may acquire, by purchase, gift, grant, or devise, and hold, use, or convey, real estate and personal property, and lease, mortgage, sell, or use the same in any manner conducive to its interest, to the same extent as natural persons. The county board of any county, or the council of any city, in which such societies exist, may, in its discretion, appropriate for the maintenance and support of such societies in the transaction of the work for which they are organized, any sums of money not otherwise appropriated, not exceeding \$4,800 in any one year; provided, that no part of the appropriation shall be expended for the payment of the salary of any officer of the society.

History: RL s 3127; 1913 c 31 s 1; 1955 c 366 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 187 s 1; 1975 c 369 s 8

343.12 DUTIES OF PEACE OFFICERS.

Upon application of any appointed agent at large or county agent in his county of appointment, it shall be the duty of, any sheriff or his deputy or any police officer to investigate any alleged violation of the law relative to cruelty to animals, and to arrest any person found violating those laws. It shall also be the duty of those officers to take possession of any animals in their respective jurisdictions which have been cruelly treated, and deliver the same to the proper officers of the county for custody and care.

History: RL s 3128; 1975 c 369 s 9; 1977 c 332 s 15 (7936)