

CHAPTER 343

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

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343.01 PURPOSES; POWERS; COUNTY ORGANIZATION. Subdivision 1. The Minnesota society for the prevention of cruelty which may also be known or designate itself as 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 elect officers and make such rules and bylaws as are necessary.

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.

[*RL s 3125; 1971 c 85 s 1; 1975 c 369 s 1*] (7927)

343.02 TRANSFER OF POWERS TO BOARD OF CONTROL. The state board of control shall have and exercise the rights and powers and perform the duties conferred by law upon the Minnesota society for the prevention of cruelty.

[*1925 c 426 art 8 s 1*] (53-39)

343.03 RETURN OF POWERS. All the rights, powers, and duties of the Minnesota society for the prevention of cruelty conferred by section 343.02 upon the state board of control are hereby transferred to, vested in, and imposed upon the society, which shall be constituted in the same manner and for the same purposes and with the same rights, privileges, and duties as prior to the enactment of section 343.02. All unexpended funds appropriated to the state board of control for the prevention of cruelty are hereby transferred and appropriated to the society. The state board of control is hereby authorized and directed to transfer and deliver to the society any and all personal property of the state in its charge and being used for the purposes specified in this section.

[*1939 c 431 art 7 s 7*] (3199-107)

343.04 SOCIETY CONSTITUTED STATE BUREAU. The Minnesota society for the prevention of cruelty is constituted a state bureau of animal protection for the purposes hereinafter set forth; provided, that the society for the prevention of cruelty shall accept and carry out the provisions of this chapter.

[*1905 c 274 s 1; 1975 c 369 s 2*] (7928)

343.05 EX OFFICIO MEMBERS. The governor, the commissioner of education, and the attorney general shall be ex officio members of the board of directors of the state bureau of animal protection.

[*1905 c 274 s 2; 1975 c 369 s 3*] (7929)

343.06 DUTIES. It shall be the duty of the state bureau of animal protection 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 bureau; 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.

[1905 c 274 s 3; 1975 c 369 s 4] (7930)

343.07 ANNUAL MEETING. The state bureau of animal protection shall hold its annual meetings on the second Monday in November, in each year, at the state capitol, or at any other place in the state which may be selected by its board of directors, for the transaction of its business and the election of its officers, at which meeting all questions relating to animal protection in the state may be considered.

[1905 c 274 s 4; 1953 c 237 s 1; 1975 c 369 s 5] (7931)

343.08 BIENNIAL REPORT. The state bureau of animal protection shall make a biennial report before October 1, in each even numbered year, to the secretary of state, embracing its proceedings for the preceding year, and statistics showing its work.

[1905 c 274 s 5; 1955 c 847 s 26; 1975 c 369 s 6]

343.09 ACCEPTANCE. If the humane society shall accept the provisions of sections 343.04 to 343.08, it shall certify its acceptance of the same to the secretary of state and the commissioner of finance.

[1905 c 274 s 6; 1973 c 492 s 14] (7933)

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.

[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.

[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; FEES. 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 society for custody and care. For such care extended, the society shall be allowed its reasonable costs which shall constitute a part of the costs taxed on conviction.

[RL s 3128; 1975 c 369 s 9] (7936)