

**Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated Health and Safety Code
Title 10. Health and Safety of Animals, Chapter 828. Dog and Cat Sterilization**

The Texas law states:

- A animal cannot be adopted from an animal shelter unless the animal is sterilized or a new owner signs an agreement to have the animal sterilized.
- The agreement must contain the date of the agreement; the names, addresses and signatures of the shelter personnel and the new owner; a description of the animal to be adopted; the sterilization completion date; and a statement, printed in bold print, that violation of this chapter is a criminal offense punishable as a class C misdemeanor.
- The sterilization date must be the 30th date after adoption of an adult animal or the 30th date after a specified date estimated to be the date an adopted infant female animal becomes six month old or an adopted infant male becomes eight months old.
- The owner who signs the agreement must have the sterilization done on or before the date on the adoption agreement.
- The shelter can extend the date by 30 days if the owner brings a written report from a veterinarian stating that the life or health of the adopted animal may be jeopardized by the surgery.
- The new owner must deliver proof of sterilization by a veterinarian who performed the surgery to the animal shelter or mailed to the provided address on the adoption agreement. The letter must be delivered in person or by mail no later than the seventh day after the date on which the animal was sterilized. The proof of sterilization must include a brief of description of the animal and the date of the sterilization.
- If the animal dies on or before the sterilization completion date, the owner must deliver to the shelter or by mail a signed letter stating that the animal is dead. The letter must be delivered no later than the seventh day following the animal's death and must include the cause of death, if known, and provide the date of death.
- If an adopted animal is lost or stolen before the sterilization completion date, the new owner shall deliver to the animal shelter or mail a letter stating the animal has been lost or stolen not later than the seventh day after the animal's disappearance. The letter must describe the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and the approximate date of the disappearance.
- If the animal shelter does not receive the proof of sterilization or a letter before the expiration of the seventh day after the sterilization completion date agreed to in the adoption contract, a complaint shall be filed and the new owner will be summoned to court. The animal control agency may also reclaim the animal from the new owner.

Given to the new owner on _____, 2003 by _____.
Shelter Personnel

I have received a written explanation of the Texas State Law concerning sterilization of the animal I adopted from an animal shelter.

Date _____