



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 982

S.P. 321

In Senate, March 9, 2017

An Act To Protect Abused or Neglected Animals

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senator: DIAMOND of Cumberland, Representative: JOHANSEN of Monticello.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1021, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 702, §41, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Possession.** A state veterinarian, humane agent, sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable,
5 police officer, animal control officer, person authorized to make arrests ~~or~~ the
6 commissioner or a nonprofit organization organized under Title 13-B or described in 26
7 United States Code, Section 501(c)(3) and licensed as an animal shelter pursuant to Title
8 7, section 3932-A may apply to the District Court or the Superior Court for authorization:

9 A. To take possession of any maimed, disabled, diseased, dehydrated, malnourished
10 or injured animal or any animal whose owner has abandoned or cruelly treated it and
11 turn over the animal to the applicant or other suitable person; or

12 B. To cause the animal to be disposed of humanely.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill authorizes nonprofit, licensed animal shelters to apply for authorization to
15 take possession of abandoned or cruelly treated animals or to cause these animals to be
16 disposed of humanely.