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**SENATE BILL 5832**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By Senator Barr**

Read first time 02/16/93. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

1 AN ACT Relating to disposition of animals; and adding new sections  
2 to chapter 16.52 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is unlawful for any humane society or  
5 animal control agency to euthanize any animal in its custody or control  
6 if such animal is suitable for placement in any home, research  
7 facility, or commercial establishment. Nonsuitability shall be sworn  
8 to by a veterinarian pursuant to criteria adopted by the state  
9 department of agriculture. The humane society or animal control agency  
10 shall not refuse to place any animal that is suitable for placement  
11 when such refusal is predicated, in whole or part, directly or  
12 indirectly, implicitly or explicitly, on the status of the purchaser or  
13 transferee as the employee, agent, director, or officer of a medical  
14 research facility or pet store.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) All animal shelters, pounds, or other  
16 facilities that receive funding from any state, local, or federal  
17 government authority, must make animals in their possession available  
18 for ownership at a reasonable cost to any individual or organization

1 that legally sells animals for domestic ownership, animal husbandry,  
2 animal research, or other legal activity, to any organization that  
3 conducts research in compliance with federal laws governing animal  
4 welfare, care, and use. Any individual or organization may take  
5 possession of an animal which is in the custody of a pound or shelter,  
6 after any waiting period restricting euthanasia of the animal has  
7 expired. Pounds or shelters must hold animals and make them available  
8 to appropriate organizations for one full additional business day after  
9 holding periods restricting euthanasia of the animal have expired.  
10 Pounds or shelters may charge a fee for an animal no more than any  
11 additional expenses incurred over and above the projected expense of  
12 normal care and euthanasia of an animal.

13 (2) Any individual or organization, including pounds or shelters,  
14 that interferes with or restricts the proper holding and transfer of an  
15 animal as specified in subsection (1) of this section is liable for any  
16 losses or damages suffered by an individual or organization that may  
17 have rightfully taken possession of an animal.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are each added  
19 to chapter 16.52 RCW.

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