



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

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Legislative Update Affecting Partner Shelters

On September 22 the Animal Welfare Program sent you a letter updating you on the compensation to shelter partners for housing animals pending court decisions. This information was based on the bill that was signed on May 2, 2022. The fourth item in the update included a TBD by Department amount for Livestock, fowl and rabbits. Now that the final law has posted, livestock fowl and poultry rates have been specifically included. The final text is included below.

§3919-C. Animal held pending court decision

When an animal shelter holds an animal at the request or with the approval of the person who seized the animal pending an investigation or disposition by the court of an alleged violation of [chapter 739](#) or [Title 17, chapter 42](#), the shelter is entitled to receive from the person who seized the animal monetary compensation in accordance with this section for the period for which food and shelter are furnished to the animal. For the purposes of this section, "person who seized the animal" includes a humane agent, law enforcement or an animal control officer permitted by law to obtain a search warrant or to seize animals ex parte. [PL 2015, c. 223, §6 (AMD).]

1. Compensation for dogs and cats. Compensation for a dog or cat is \$15 a day. Compensation for a female cat or dog with a litter that has not been weaned is \$18 a day.

[PL 2021, c. 696, §3 (AMD).]

2. Equines. Compensation for an equine is \$20 a day.

[PL 2021, c. 696, §4 (AMD).]

3. Livestock. Except for equines, fowl and rabbits, compensation for a livestock animal is between \$5 and \$20 a day as determined by the department based on the size of the animal.

[PL 2021, c. 696, §5 (AMD).]

4. Other animals. Compensation for a rabbit is \$2 a day. Compensation for a bird, including poultry, is \$1 a day. Compensation for other animals is as determined by the department.

If you are housing an animal not specially listed above, please contact the department prior to submitting an invoice for the rate.

These rates were effective August 8, 2022. Adjustments to prior billing will be made in the form of a credit or debit on future payments. Please adjust future invoices accordingly.

Thank you for all that you do for the animals of Maine!

Ronda Steciuk, Director
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