



Medical Treatment of Animals Held in Shelters for Legal Reasons

(Last Reviewed: April 2021)

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians believes that the legal status of an animal must never interfere with necessary preventive care or treatment of painful injuries, significant illness, debilitating conditions, or urgent behavioral needs. When a shelter is legally required to hold an animal with such a condition, the shelter must enact a plan to provide adequate treatment or seek alternative placement. If suffering cannot be alleviated, the shelter should seek permission to euthanize the animal.

The mission of the ASV is to advance and support the practice of shelter medicine in order to improve community animal health and well-being.