



Minnesota Humane Society  
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*Education-Advocacy-Rescue*  
*Dedicated to saving animals' lives*

October 13, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The Minnesota Humane Society (MHS) is a statewide education, advocacy and rescue organization dedicated to protecting the lives and interests of Minnesota's animals—both domesticated and wild. Founded in 1869, it is the oldest humane society in Minnesota.

Pound seizure is a law requiring all publicly funded shelters or impound facilities to relinquish any unclaimed animals to research/educational institutions upon request. Minnesota is one of only two states still mandating pound seizure; Oklahoma is the other state. MHS opposes pound seizure and supports efforts to repeal pound seizure in Minnesota.

Minnesotans expect animal shelters and impound facilities to be a safe haven providing temporary care for and adoption of stray animals or pets that must be surrendered. The practice of pound seizure is a betrayal of that public trust.

While unfortunately many animals who end up in shelters or pounds are not adopted and are instead euthanized, these animals are euthanized humanely and do not experience pain and suffering. Additionally, the animals selected for research are those that are healthy and nonaggressive, or in other words highly adoptable.

The practice of pound rescue is outdated and flawed. Throughout the country, leading research facilities are no longer using shelter or pound animals. Animals from shelters or pounds may have pre-existing conditions and have unknown genetic backgrounds and medical histories, making experimental controls difficult if not impossible.

MHS strongly urges you to support the repeal of pound seizure in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Linda Challeen  
President, Minnesota Humane Society