Abandoned animals; defined.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. An animal is deemed to be abandoned under the provisions of this act when it is placed in the custody of a veterinarian, boarding kennel owner, or any person for treatment, board, or care and:

(1) Having been placed in such custody for an unspecified period of time the animal is not removed within thirty days after notice to remove the animal has been given to the person who placed the animal in such custody or having been so notified the person depositing the animal refuses or fails to pay agreed upon or reasonable charges for the treatment, board, or care of such animal, or;

(2) Having been placed in such custody for a specified period of time the animal is not removed at the end of such specified period or the person depositing the animal refuses to pay agreed upon or reasonable charges for the treatment, board, or care of such animal.

Sec. 2. Any person having in his care, custody, or control any abandoned animal as defined in sec-

[ 766 ]
tion 1 of this act, may deliver such animal to any humane society having facilities for the care of such animals or to any pound maintained by or under contract or agreement with any city or county within which such animal was abandoned. If no such humane society or pound exists within the county the person with whom the animal was abandoned may notify the sheriff of the county wherein the abandonment occurred.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the sheriff of such county upon being so notified, to dispose of such animal as provided by law in reference to estrays if such law is applicable to the animal abandoned, or if not so applicable then such animal shall be sold by the sheriff at public auction. Notice of any such sale shall be given by posting a notice in three public places in the county at least ten days prior to such public sale. Proceeds of such sale shall be paid to the county treasurer for deposit in the county general fund.

Passed the Senate February 9, 1955.
Passed the House March 2, 1955.
Approved by the Governor March 16, 1955.