

impounded, yarded or confined and continues without necessary food, water or proper attention, or is cruelly treated or neglected, any officer or authorized agent of an animal humane society or any police officer or other public officials charged with the protection of animals may enter into and upon any place in which the animal is impounded, yarded or confined and supply it with necessary food, water and attention so long as it there remains, or, if necessary, for the health of the animal, may remove the animal, and not be liable to any action for that entry. In all cases the owner or custodian of that animal shall be notified of that action and any administrative remedies which may be available by the person taking possession of the animal. The owner or custodian may file within ten days, if no administrative remedy is available, a petition for return of the animal in the District Court of the county in which the removal occurred. If the owner or custodian is notified and fails to file the petition within the time prescribed, or if the owner or custodian is unknown and cannot with reasonable effort be ascertained for a period of 20 days, the animal shall be held to be an estray and be dealt with as such, provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting the entry into a private dwelling or as permitting the taking of a farm animal without prior recommendation of a licensed veterinarian. In Baltimore County, the provisions of this section shall be enforced by the Baltimore County Bureau of Animal Control.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1984.

Approved May 29, 1984.

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CHAPTER 529

(Senate Bill 320)

AN ACT concerning

Child Abuse and Neglect - Visitation and Custody

FOR the purpose of providing that a court may prohibit visitation or custody if the court has reasonable grounds to believe that child abuse or neglect has occurred under certain circumstances; requiring--local--departments--of--social services--to--make--certain--reports--and--conduct--certain investigations--under--specific--circumstances;--defining--a certain--term; and generally relating to visitation and custody.

BY renumbering