

Frequently Asked Questions on the Action Agreement

What happens if the animal is examined and the recommended treatment is declined by the owner of the animal?

Simply do not sign the document.

Is the veterinarian responsible for following up with the owner of the animal to ensure ongoing care?

Follow up should be treated the same as any other patient, encourage the owner to schedule a recheck appointment if it is necessary.

If euthanasia is recommended due to the severity of the illness or cost of extensive treatment is the owner going to face criminal charges? Clinical evidence of neglect?

The primary goal of animal control is to help the animal more so than punishing the owner. Every case is handled on an individual basis.

Does animal control want a copy of the medical record after the owner has sought treatment for the animal?

No, the point of this effort is to ensure that the animal is examined and treated (if possible) by a veterinary medical professional. The animal control officer is not involved in diagnosing or documenting the diagnosis of medical conditions. The goal is to give the owner an opportunity to seek veterinary care for the pet and receive guidance from the veterinarian.

Could the owner of the animal seek legal action against me if I do not sign the form?

§ 54.1-3812.1. Reporting of animal cruelty. Any veterinarian who makes a report of suspected animal cruelty or who provides records or information related to a report of suspected cruelty or testifies in any judicial proceeding arising from such report, records, or information shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability or administrative penalty or sanction on account of such report, records, information, or testimony, unless such veterinarian acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose. (Chapter 38 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia Veterinary Medicine)