

Article 5A.

Animal Shelter Support Fund.

**§ 19A-67. Animal Shelter Support Fund.**

(a) Creation. – The Animal Shelter Support Fund is established as a special fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Fund consists of appropriations by the General Assembly or contributions and grants from public or private sources.

(b) Use. – The Fund shall be used by the Animal Welfare Section of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to reimburse local governments for expenses related to their operation of a registered animal shelter due to any of the following:

- (1) The denial, suspension, or revocation of the shelter's registration.
- (2) An unforeseen catastrophic disaster at an animal shelter.

(c) Rules. – The Board of Agriculture shall issue rules detailing eligible expenses and application guidelines that comply with the requirements of this Article.

(d) Reversion. – Any appropriated and unencumbered funds remaining at the end of each fiscal year in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall revert to the General Fund. (2015-241, s. 13.7(b); 2016-113, s. 6(a).)

**§ 19A-68. Distributions to counties and cities from Animal Shelter Support Fund.**

(a) Reimbursable Costs. – Local governments eligible for distributions from the Animal Shelter Support Fund may receive reimbursement only for the direct operational costs of the animal shelter following an event described in G.S. 19A-67(b). For purposes of this subsection, direct operational costs shall include veterinary services, sanitation services and needs, animal sustenance and supplies, and temporary housing and sheltering. Counties and cities shall not be reimbursed for administrative costs or capital expenditures for facilities and equipment.

(b) Cost-Share. – A local government requesting distributions from the Animal Shelter Support Fund must provide a local match based on their most recent development tier designation as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08. Local governments located in development tier one counties must provide a match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every three dollars (\$3.00) distributed from the Fund. Local governments located in development tier two counties must provide a match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every two dollars (\$2.00) distributed from the Fund. Local governments located in development tier three counties must provide a match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) distributed from the Fund.

(c) Application. – A county or city eligible for reimbursement from the Animal Shelter Support Fund shall apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services within 60 days of when the reimbursable cost has been incurred. The application shall be submitted in the form required by the Department and shall include an itemized listing of the costs for which reimbursement is sought.

(d) Distribution. – The Department shall make payments from the Animal Shelter Support Fund to eligible counties and cities that have made timely application for reimbursement within 30 days of receipt of requests. (2015-241, s. 13.7(b).)

**§ 19A-69. Report.**

The Department shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division no later than

March 1. The report shall contain information regarding all revenues and expenditures of the Animal Shelter Support Fund. (2015-241, s. 13.7(b); 2020-78, s. 5.1(b).)