

Keith Grover proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **Shelter Animal Euthanasia Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Keith Grover**

House Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill deals with the treatment of dogs and cats in an animal shelter.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

7 ▶ defines terms; and

8 ▶ provides that an animal shelter may euthanize an animal only if no reasonable alternatives  
9 to euthanasia are available.

10 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

11 None

12 **Other Special Clauses:**

13 None

14 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

15 **ENACTS:**

16 **11-46-403**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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17 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

18 Section 1. Section **11-46-403** is enacted to read:

19 **11-46-403 . Disposition of animals in an animal shelter.**

20 **(1) As used in this section:**

21 (a) "Animal rescue group" includes a private humane society or a private animal welfare  
organization.

22 (b) "Animal shelter" does not include a private humane society or a private animal  
welfare organization.

23 **(2) An animal held by or in the custody of an animal shelter that is not adopted, transferred**  
**to another animal shelter or an animal rescue group, placed into a community cat**  
**program as described in Part 3, Community Cat Act, or reclaimed by the animal's owner,**

30       may be euthanized:

31        (a) if no reasonable alternatives to euthanasia are available; and

32        (b) in accordance with the requirements of this part.

33       (3)(a) An animal shelter may euthanize an animal:

34           (i) only after:

35              (A) the holding period for the animal required by Section 11-46-103 is expired;

36              (B) notifying animal shelter and animal rescue groups, except as provided in

37              Subsection (4), that have expressed an interest in receiving animals at risk of

38              euthanasia;

39              (C) no animal shelter or animal rescue group requests the transfer of the animal  
40              within two business days after the day on which the animal shelter makes the  
41              notice described in Subsection (3)(a)(i)(A); and

42              (D) no animal shelter or animal rescue group collects the animal within three  
43              business days after the day on which the animal shelter makes the notice  
44              described in Subsection (3)(a)(i)(A);

45              (ii) to prevent unnecessary suffering due to serious injury or disease, in accordance  
46              with Subsection 11-46-103(3); or

47              (iii) if the animal is a dog that has been determined to be dangerous or vicious under  
48              state or local law.

49       (b) The time periods described in Subsections (3)(a)(i)(C) and (D) may run concurrently  
50       with:

51            (i) the holding period required by Section 11-46-103; and

52            (ii) any holding period required by an applicable local ordinance.

53       (4) Nothing in Subsection (3)(a)(i) requires an animal shelter to notify or release an animal  
54       to an organization if:

55        (a) any of the organization's current directors, officers, or employees have been  
56        convicted of a crime related to animal cruelty or neglect;

57        (b) any of the organization's current directors, officers, or employees have pending  
58        charges related to animal cruelty or neglect; or

59        (c) the organization is constrained by court order that prevents the organization from  
60        taking in or keeping animals.

61       Section 2. **Effective Date.**

62       This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.