

"(b) Fee. - An application for an initial license or a renewed license as a wholesale distributor shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of ~~five hundred dollars (\$500.00) one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ for a manufacturer or ~~three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) seven hundred dollars (\$700.00)~~ for any other person."

**FOOD MANUFACTURER AND RETAILER INSPECTION FEES**

SECTION 13.5. G.S. 106-254 reads as rewritten:

"§ 106-254. **Inspection fees; wholesalers; retailers and cheese factories.**

For the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred in the enforcement of this Article, the owner, proprietor or operator of each ice cream factory where ice cream, milk shakes, milk sherbet, sherbet, water ices, mixes for frozen or semifrozen desserts and other similar frozen or semifrozen food products are made or stored, or any cheese factory or butter-processing plant that disposes of its products at wholesale to retail dealers for resale in this State shall pay to the Commissioner of Agriculture each year an inspection fee of ~~forty dollars (\$40.00) one hundred dollars (\$100.00)~~. Each maker of ice cream, milk shakes, milk sherbet, sherbet, water ices and/or other similar frozen or semifrozen food products who disposes of his product at retail only, and cheese factories, shall pay to the Commissioner of Agriculture an inspection fee of ~~ten dollars (\$10.00) fifty dollars (\$50.00)~~ each year. The inspection fee of ~~ten dollars (\$10.00) fifty dollars (\$50.00)~~ shall not apply to conventional spindle-type milk-shake mixers, but shall apply to milk-shake dispensing and vending machines, which operate on a continuous or automatic basis."

**SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM REVISIONS**

SECTION 13.7.(a) G.S. 19A-63 reads as rewritten:

"§ 19A-63. **Eligibility for distributions from Spay/Neuter Account.** ~~Account; Definitions.~~

(a) A county or city is eligible for reimbursement from the Spay/Neuter Account if it meets the following condition:

(1) The county or city offers one or more of the following programs to low-income persons on a year-round basis for the purpose of reducing the cost of spaying and neutering procedures for dogs and cats:

- a. A spay/neuter clinic operated by the county or city.
- b. A spay/neuter clinic operated by a ~~private non-profit~~ organization under contract or other arrangement with the county or ~~city~~ city, provided that the non-profit organization contracts with a local veterinarian to perform the spay/neuter procedures.
- c. A contract or contracts with one or more veterinarians, whether or not located within the county, to provide reduced-cost spaying and neutering procedures.
- d. Subvention of the spaying and neutering costs incurred by low-income pet owners through the use of vouchers or other procedure that provides a discount of the cost of the spaying or neutering procedure fixed by a participating ~~veterinarian or other provider~~ veterinarian.
- e. Subvention of the spaying and neutering costs incurred by persons who adopt a pet from an animal shelter operated by or under contract with the county or city.

(2) Reserved for future codification purposes.

(b) ~~For purposes of this Article, the term "low income person" shall mean~~ The following definitions apply in this Article:

(1) Local veterinarian. - A veterinarian licensed by the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board under Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes and practicing within the county where the services are provided. If no licensed veterinarian practices within that county, then a local veterinarian is a licensed veterinarian practicing in a county adjacent to the county where the services are provided. For purposes of this definition, "practicing" means engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, as defined in Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.

(2) Low-income person. - ~~an~~ An individual who qualifies for one or more of the programs of public assistance administered by the Department of Health and

Start of Spay/Neuter Changes \*

End of Spay/Neuter  
Changes  
\*

1 ~~Human Services pursuant to Chapter 108A of the General Statutes or whose~~  
2 ~~annual household income is under three hundred percent (300%) lower than~~  
3 ~~one hundred percent (100%) of the federal poverty level guidelines~~  
4 ~~published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.~~

5 (c) Each county shall make rules or publish guidelines that designate what proof a  
6 low-income person must submit to establish that the person ~~qualifies for public assistance~~  
7 ~~under subsection (b) of this section or has an annual household income lower than three~~  
8 ~~hundred percent (300%) one hundred percent (100%) of the federal poverty level guidelines~~  
9 ~~published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.~~

10 (d) Each county shall provide the opportunity to participate in the program created by  
11 this Article to all local veterinarians. Proof of the provision of this opportunity shall be included  
12 in the first reimbursement request of each calendar year."

13 SECTION 13.7.(b) Chapter 19A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a  
14 new Article to read:

15 "Article 5A.

16 "Animal Shelter Support Fund.

17 "**§ 19A-67. Animal Shelter Support Fund.**

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

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

24 (1) The denial, suspension, or revocation of the shelter's registration.

25 (2) An unforeseen catastrophic disaster at an animal shelter.

26 (c) Rules. – The Animal Welfare Section shall issue rules detailing eligible expenses  
27 and application guidelines that comply with the requirements of this Article.

28 (d) Reversion. – Any appropriated and unencumbered funds remaining at the end of  
29 each fiscal year in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall revert to the  
30 General Fund.

31 "**§ 19A-68. Distributions to counties and cities from Animal Shelter Support Fund.**

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

38 (b) Cost-Share. – A local government requesting distributions from the Animal Shelter  
39 Support Fund must provide a local match based on their most recent development tier  
40 designation as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08. Local governments located in development tier  
41 one counties must provide a match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every three dollars  
42 (\$3.00) distributed from the Fund. Local governments located in development tier two counties  
43 must provide a match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every two dollars (\$2.00) distributed  
44 from the Fund. Local governments located in development tier three counties must provide a  
45 match equivalent to one dollar (\$1.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) distributed from the Fund.

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

51 (d) Distribution. – The Department shall make payments from the Animal Shelter  
52 Support Fund to eligible counties and cities that have made timely application for  
53 reimbursement within 30 days of receipt of requests.

54 "**§ 19A-69. Report.**

55 The Department shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Commission on  
56 Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division no later than March 1. The report  
57 shall contain information regarding all revenues and expenditures of the Animal Shelter  
58 Support Fund."