

By: Menendez

S.B. No. 1781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to euthanasia as a last resort in a county or municipal  
3 animal shelter in certain counties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 821, Health and Safety  
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 821.0521 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 821.0521. EUTHANASIA AS LAST RESORT. (a) This  
8 section applies only to a county or municipal animal shelter in a  
9 county having a population of more than 500,000.

10 (b) A dog, cat, or other companion animal impounded in an  
11 animal shelter may not be euthanized if there is an empty cage,  
12 kennel, or other living environment in the shelter in which to  
13 safely place the animal or if the animal can safely share a cage,  
14 kennel, or other living environment in the shelter with another  
15 animal of the same species.

16 (c) This section does not apply to:

17 (1) an animal suspected of carrying and exhibiting  
18 signs of rabies, as determined by a licensed veterinarian;

19 (2) a dog that, after severely injuring a person, has  
20 been determined by a court having competent jurisdiction to be a  
21 dangerous dog under state law; or

22 (3) an animal who has a poor or grave prognosis for  
23 being able to live without severe, unremitting pain even with  
24 comprehensive, prompt, and necessary veterinary care, as

1 determined by a licensed veterinarian.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.