

HOUSE No. 3704

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to the regulation of animal shelters..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 To Amend Chapter 129 of the General Laws by inserting the following:

2 Section 39E: Animal Shelters and Rescue (rehoming) Organizations

3 SECTION 1. Definitions:

4 “Shelter” – Any 501 (c)3 organization or other IRS not for profit status organization that
5 finds homes for unowned animals.

6 “Rescue Organization” – A 501 (c)3 organization or other IRS not for profit status
7 organization other than a shelter as defined in this act that arranges for transfer of unowned dogs
8 and cats to temporary or permanent homes in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

9 “Department” – Department of Agricultural Resources

10 SECTION 2: The Department may promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of
11 shelter and rescue organizations operating or conducting business in the Commonwealth of

- 12 Massachusetts regarding the transfer of ownership of domestic animals, including but not
- 13 limited to their importation, transportation, housing and medical treatment.