

## WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §48-27-702

### **§48-27-702. Law-enforcement officers to provide information, transportation and to report suspicions of animal cruelty.**

(a) Any law-enforcement officer responding to an alleged incident of domestic violence shall inform the parties of the availability of the possible remedies provided by this article and the possible applicability of the criminal laws of this state. Any law-enforcement officer investigating an alleged incident of domestic violence shall advise the victim of such violence of the availability of the family protection shelter to which such person may be admitted.

(b) If there is reasonable cause to believe that a person is a victim of domestic violence or is likely to be a victim of domestic violence, a law-enforcement officer responding to an alleged incident of domestic violence shall, in addition to providing the information required in subsection (a) of this section, provide transportation for or facilitate transportation of the victim, upon the request of such victim, to a shelter or an appropriate court.

(c) Whenever a law-enforcement officer, pursuant to a response to an alleged incident of domestic violence, forms a reasonable suspicion that an animal is a victim of cruel or inhumane treatment, he or she shall report the suspicion and the grounds therefor to the county humane officer within twenty-four hours of the response to the alleged incident of domestic violence.