

# MARYLAND: COST OF ANIMAL CARE FLOW CHART

Law enforcement seizes animals in a case of illegal animal cruelty.



As provided by current law, the defendant has ten days from the date of seizure to request a hearing to prevent disposition of his/her animals. If he or she fails to, the animals are forfeited to the seizing agency.



If the defendant does makes such a request, the seizing agency may petition for a hearing to request the defendant be responsible for medical and other costs of caring for him/her animals while the cruelty case is prosecuted against him/her. Costs other than medical are limited to \$15 a day.



The seizing agency argues at the hearing why the seizure was warranted and the costs of care requested from the defendant are reasonable. Defendant has the opportunity to object to the request from the seizing agency.



If the judge presiding over the hearing agrees, the defendant is ordered to make monthly payments to cover costs of animal care while the cruelty case against him or her is prosecuted.



The owner makes regular payments and the seizing agency uses the payments for animal care while the cruelty case is prosecuted.



The owner fails to make payments.



The owner is convicted of animal cruelty and the animals are forfeited to the seizing agency.



The owner is acquitted and the animals and all expenses are returned to him or her.



The seized animals are forfeited to the seizing agency and can find new homes.