**An Act To Increase Funding for the Animal Welfare Fund**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec.** **1. 7 MRSA §714, sub-§2,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2001, c. 422, §2, is amended to read:

**2.** **Fees.**  The commissioner shall deposit ~~1/2 of~~ the fees collected pursuant to subsection 1 in the ~~General Fund and 1/2 of the fees collected in the~~ Animal Welfare Fund established under section 3906‑B.

**Sec.** **2. 7 MRSA §3906-B, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 148, §2, is further amended to read:

**2.** **Animal Welfare Fund.**  The commissioner shall deposit all license fees received pursuant to chapters 721, 723, 725 and 735 in a separate account established by the Treasurer of State and known as the Animal Welfare Fund. The commissioner shall deposit ~~1/2 of~~ the feed registration fees collected under section 714, subsection 1 and revenue in excess of $100,000 from the surcharge collected under section 714, subsection 4 in the Animal Welfare Fund. This account does not lapse, but continues from year to year. The commissioner shall pay from the Animal Welfare Fund the expense of furnishing license blanks, stickers and tags, travel expenses and salaries for necessary personnel, payments to animal shelters and expenses incurred in the administration of this Part.

**Sec.** **3. 7 MRSA §3919-C, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 439, §11, is amended to read:

**1.** **Compensation for dogs and cats.**  Compensation for a dog or cat is ~~$5~~ $15 a day. Compensation for a female cat or dog with a litter that has not been weaned is ~~$8~~ $18 a day.

**Sec.** **4. 7 MRSA §3919-C, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 439, §11, is amended to read:

**2.** **Equines.**  Compensation for an equine is ~~$10~~ $20 a day.

**Sec.** **5. 7 MRSA §3919-C, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 439, §11, is amended to read:

**3.** **Livestock.**  Except for equines, fowl and rabbits, compensation for a livestock animal is between $5 and ~~$8~~ $20 a day as determined by the department based on the size of the animal.

**SUMMARY**

This bill increases the amount of the fees collected from registrations to distribute a commercial feed in the State that is deposited in the Animal Welfare Fund from half of the fees collected to all of the fees collected. It amends the animal welfare laws regarding rabies prevention and shelters to increase daily compensation for animal shelters holding animals pending court decisions from $5 to $15 for dogs and cats, from $8 to $18 for female cats or dogs with unweaned litters and from $10 to $20 for equines; it also increases from $8 to $20 the upper limit of daily compensation for holding livestock animals, excluding equines, fowl and rabbits.