

By Senator Montford

3-00598B-13

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to animal shelters and animal control  
3           agencies; amending s. 823.15, F.S.; declaring  
4           legislative priorities relating to the importation and  
5           uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats; requiring that  
6           each public or private animal shelter, humane  
7           organization, or animal control agency operated by a  
8           humane society or by a county, municipality, or other  
9           incorporated political subdivision prepare and  
10          maintain specified records; specifying the information  
11          that must be included in the records; providing a  
12          maximum fee for copies of such records; providing an  
13          effective date.

14  
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
17           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 823.15, Florida  
18           Statutes, is amended, present subsections (2) and (3) are  
19           redesignated as subsections (3) and (4), respectively, and a new  
20           subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

21           823.15 Dogs and cats released from animal shelters or  
22           animal control agencies; sterilization requirement.—

23           (1) The Legislature has determined that the importation of  
24           dogs and cats into, and the uncontrolled breeding of dogs and  
25           cats in, this state pose risks to the well-being of dogs and  
26           cats, the health of humans and animals, and the agricultural  
27           interests in this state. Importation of dogs and cats from  
28           outside the United States could result in the transmission of  
29           diseases that have been eradicated in the United States to dogs

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30 and cats, other animals, and humans living in this state.  
31 Uncontrolled breeding ~~The Legislature has determined that~~  
32 ~~uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats in the state~~ results in  
33 the birth production of many more puppies and kittens than are  
34 needed to provide pet animals to new owners or to replace pet  
35 animals that ~~which~~ have died or become lost ~~or to provide pet~~  
36 ~~animals for new owners~~. This leads to many dogs, cats, puppies,  
37 and kittens being unwanted, becoming strays and suffering  
38 privation and death, being impounded and destroyed at great  
39 expense to the community, and constituting a public nuisance and  
40 public health hazard. It is therefore declared to be the public  
41 policy of the state that every feasible means be used to reduce  
42 the incidence of birth ~~of reducing the production~~ of unneeded  
43 and unwanted puppies and kittens ~~be encouraged~~. Determining  
44 which programs result in improved adoption rates and in reduced  
45 euthanasia rates for animals in shelters and animal control  
46 agencies is crucial to this effort.

47 (2) (a) Each public or private animal shelter, humane  
48 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane  
49 organization that accepts taxpayer dollars, or by a county,  
50 municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision, shall  
51 prepare and maintain the following records and make them  
52 available for public inspection and dissemination for the 3  
53 preceding years:

54 1. The total number of dogs and cats taken in by the animal  
55 shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency, divided  
56 into species, in the following categories:

57 a. Surrendered by owner;

58 b. Stray;

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- 59       c. Impounded;  
60       d. Confiscated; and  
61       e. Imported into the state.

62  
63       Feral cats shall be recorded as a separate category from other  
64       cats. Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should  
65       be recorded as "other."

66       2. The disposition of all animals taken in by a public or  
67       private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control  
68       agency operated by a humane society that accepts taxpayer  
69       dollars, or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated  
70       political subdivision, divided into species. These data must  
71       include dispositions by:

- 72       a. Adoption;  
73       b. Reclamation by owner;  
74       c. Death in kennel;  
75       d. Destruction at the owner's request;  
76       e. Transfer to another public or private animal shelter,  
77       humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a  
78       humane society that accepts taxpayer dollars or by a county,  
79       municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision; and  
80       f. Euthanasia.

81       3. A public or private animal shelter, humane organization,  
82       or animal control agency operated by a humane society that  
83       accepts taxpayer dollars, or by a county, municipality, or other  
84       incorporated political subdivision which routinely euthanizes  
85       dogs based on size or breed alone must provide a written  
86       statement of such policy. Dogs euthanized due to breed,  
87       temperament, or size must be recorded and included in the

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88 calculation of the total euthanasia percentage.

89 (b) Records of a public animal shelter, humane  
90 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane  
91 society that accepts taxpayer dollars must be made available to  
92 the public for a cost that does not exceed \$1 per one-sided  
93 copy.

94 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.