

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to compensatory damages for injury or  
 3           death of pet; providing a definition; specifying  
 4           liability for compensatory damages for the injury or  
 5           death of a pet; providing applicability; providing an  
 6           effective date.

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 8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10           Section 1. Liability for compensatory damages for injury  
 11 or death of pet.-

12           (1) As used in this section, the term "pet" means a  
 13 domesticated dog or cat normally maintained in or near the  
 14 household of its owner.

15           (2) In any action for the recovery of damages arising out  
 16 of the injury or death of a pet, the defendant is liable for:

17           (a) Monetary losses for reasonable and necessary  
 18 veterinary care of the pet due to the injury or death of the  
 19 pet.

20           (b) Monetary loss in the fair market value of the pet due  
 21 to the injury or death of the pet.

22           (c) If the injury or death of the pet was caused by the  
 23 gross negligence of the defendant, noneconomic damages of up to  
 24 \$5,000 for the loss of the reasonably expected companionship,  
 25 love, and affection of the pet.

26        (3) Limits for noneconomic damages under paragraph (2)(c)  
27 do not apply to causes of action for intentional infliction of  
28 emotional distress or any other civil action other than the  
29 direct and sole loss of a pet.

30        (4) This section does not apply to:

31        (a) Any nonprofit entity or governmental agency or their  
32 employees negligently causing the death of a pet while acting on  
33 the behalf of public health or animal welfare.

34        (b) Any killing of a dog that is killing or worrying  
35 livestock as defined in s. 588.13, Florida Statutes.

36        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.