

By Senator Klein

34-790-04

See HB 211

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to animal welfare protection  
3           programs; creating s. 570.93, F.S.; creating  
4           the Florida Animal Friend Council as a  
5           direct-support organization of the Department  
6           of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the  
7           purpose of distributing funds received from the  
8           sale of the Animal Friend license plate;  
9           providing for membership and meetings of the  
10          council; providing for a grant solicitation and  
11          award process; providing purposes for funding;  
12          amending ss. 320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.;  
13          creating the Animal Friend license plate;  
14          providing for the distribution of annual use  
15          fees received from the sale of such plates;  
16          providing an effective date.

17  
18           WHEREAS, 2,000 dogs and 3,000 cats are born every hour  
19   in the United States, and

20           WHEREAS, one unspayed female dog, her mate, and their  
21   offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in only 6 years, and

22           WHEREAS, one unspayed female cat, her mate, and their  
23   offspring can produce 370,092 cats in just 7 years, and

24           WHEREAS, an estimated 800,000 homeless cats and dogs  
25   were euthanized in Florida in the year 2002, NOW, THEREFORE,

26  
27   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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29           Section 1.   Section 570.93, Florida Statutes, is  
30   created to read:

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1           570.93 Florida Animal Friend Council.--The Florida  
2 Animal Friend Council is created as a direct-support  
3 organization of the department to provide for distribution of  
4 funds received from the sale of the Animal Friend license  
5 plate under s. 320.08058.

6           (1) The council shall be administered by a board of  
7 directors composed of five members as follows:

8           (a) A representative of the Humane Society of the  
9 United States.

10           (b) A representative of the Florida Veterinary Medical  
11 Association.

12           (c) A representative of the Florida Animal Control  
13 Association.

14           (d) One member at large who shall be appointed by the  
15 members of the council and shall serve for 2 years. This  
16 member shall represent a not-for-profit organization not  
17 directly affiliated with any other member of the council. This  
18 member shall not apply for a grant during the years in which  
19 he or she serves.

20           (e) One member at large who shall be appointed by the  
21 Commissioner of Agriculture.

22           (2) Members of the board, unless otherwise specified  
23 in subsection (1), shall serve a term of 4 years or until  
24 their successors are duly qualified and appointed. Members may  
25 serve consecutive terms.

26           (3) The board shall meet at least biannually.

27           (4) All moneys received by the council shall be  
28 deposited into an account of the council.

29           (5) The board shall develop and administer a grant  
30 solicitation and award process for distribution of funds  
31 received for the sale of the Animal Friend license plate

1 pursuant to the provisions of s. 320.08058. Funding may only  
2 be granted and used for those proposals which are in  
3 compliance with federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.  
4 The council shall provide for the distribution of funds which  
5 shall be used only for the following purposes:

6 (a) Spay and neuter programs provided by  
7 not-for-profit organizations or governmental agencies in  
8 Florida that deal with spay or neuter programs.

9 (b) Other emergency animal welfare protection programs  
10 or projects, provided that funding for the program or project  
11 is approved by a unanimous vote of the council.

12 Section 2. Paragraph (ss) is added to subsection (4)  
13 of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

14 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

15 (4) The following license plate annual use fees shall  
16 be collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:

17 (ss) Animal Friend license plate, \$25.

18 Section 3. Subsection (45) is added to section  
19 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

20 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

21 (45) ANIMAL FRIEND LICENSE PLATES.--

22 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 320.08053,  
23 the department shall develop an Animal Friend license plate as  
24 provided in this section. Animal Friend license plates must  
25 bear the colors and design approved by the department. The  
26 word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the  
27 words "Animal Friend" must appear at the bottom of the plate.

28 (b)1. The proceeds of the annual use fee shall be  
29 distributed to the Florida Animal Friend Council as created in  
30 s. 570.93 and used as provided for in that section.

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1           2. In the first year the plate is issued, no more than  
2 25 percent of the fees collected may be used for  
3 administrative costs directly associated with the operation of  
4 the Florida Animal Friend Council and marketing and promotion  
5 of the Animal Friend concept and license plate.

6           3. In the second and subsequent years that the plate  
7 is issued, no more than 20 percent of the fees collected may  
8 be used for administrative costs directly associated with the  
9 operation of the Florida Animal Friend Council and marketing  
10 and promotion of the Animal Friend concept and license plate.

11           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.