

By Senator Atwater

25-00599A-08

20081994\_\_

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Act;  
3 providing a short title; creating s. 570.97, F.S.;  
4 creating a direct-support organization for the Department  
5 of Agriculture and Consumer Services; providing for the  
6 organization and operation of the direct-support  
7 organization; providing for the purpose of the direct-  
8 support organization; providing an effective date.

9  
10 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 800,000 homeless,  
11 discarded, abandoned, stray, and unclaimed dogs and cats are  
12 euthanized in the state each year, and

13 WHEREAS, in 7 years one female cat and her offspring can  
14 theoretically produce 420,000 cats, and in 6 years one female dog  
15 and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs, and

16 WHEREAS, the cost to spay or neuter pet and feral cats is  
17 about \$20-\$70 per cat, while the approximate cost to capture,  
18 house, feed, and eventually euthanize a homeless animal is about  
19 \$100, and

20 WHEREAS, reducing euthanasia of unwanted animals can save  
21 lives of companion animals and potential service animals and save  
22 tax dollars and many homeless animals can be trained as service  
23 animals and therapy animals, NOW, THEREFORE,

24  
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

26  
27 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Gertrude Maxwell  
28 Save a Pet Act."

29 Section 2. Section 570.97, Florida Statutes, is created to

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30 read:

31 570.97 Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Direct-Support  
32 Organization.--The Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Direct-Support  
33 Organization is created within the Department of Agriculture and  
34 Consumer Services and shall be governed by this section and ss.  
35 570.902 and 570.903. The purpose of this direct-support  
36 organization is to prevent animal cruelty, assist pet  
37 overpopulation management, provide grants to animal shelters for  
38 the purpose of spaying and neutering, reduce the need for  
39 euthanasia of animals, and support other pet-oriented endeavors  
40 when the board determines a need.

41 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.