

ENROLLED  
CS/HB 219

2008 Legislature

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 for the membership of the  
9           board of directors; providing for honorary board members  
10          of the direct-support organization; providing for  
11          appointment of Gertrude Maxwell or her designee as the  
12          first honorary board member of the direct-support  
13          organization; providing an effective date.

14  
15           WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 800,000 homeless,  
16          discarded, abandoned, stray, and unclaimed dogs and cats are  
17          euthanized in the state each year, and

18           WHEREAS, in 7 years one female cat and her offspring can  
19          theoretically produce 420,000 cats, and in 6 years one female  
20          dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs, and

21           WHEREAS, the cost to spay or neuter a pet or feral cat is  
22          about \$20-\$70 per animal, while the approximate cost to capture,  
23          house, feed, and eventually euthanize a homeless animal is about  
24          \$100, and

25           WHEREAS, reducing euthanasia of unwanted animals can save  
26          lives of companion animals and potential service animals and  
27          save tax dollars, and many homeless animals can be trained as  
28          service animals and therapy animals, NOW, THEREFORE,

Page 1 of 3

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

hb0219-02-er

ENROLLED  
CS/HB 219

2008 Legislature

29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56

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

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

Section 2. Section 570.97, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

570.97 Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Direct-Support Organization.--

(1) The Gertrude Maxwell Save a Pet Direct-Support Organization is created within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and shall be governed by this section and ss. 570.902 and 570.903. The purpose of this direct-support organization is to provide grants to animal shelters for spaying and neutering animals, provide grants for shelters and services during times of emergencies, and develop and disseminate pet care education materials. The direct-support organization shall not participate in, endorse, or financially support political activities at the national, state, or local level.

(2) The board of directors of the direct-support organization shall include one representative of each of the following groups as recommended by that group: the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, the Cat Fanciers' Association, the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, a humane organization designated by the commissioner, the Florida Animal Control Association, the National Rifle Association, a consumer member not affiliated with any of the aforementioned associations, and the commissioner or his or her designee.

ENROLLED  
CS/HB 219

2008 Legislature

57           (3) The board of directors of the direct-support  
58 organization may appoint up to three nonvoting honorary members.  
59 Nominees should be individuals, companies, or organizations that  
60 have exemplified themselves or have made significant  
61 contributions to the health, safety, or well-being of animals.  
62 Honorary board members shall serve for a maximum of two  
63 consecutive annual terms. The commissioner shall appoint the  
64 board of directors as well as the honorary board members.

65           Section 3. Gertrude Maxwell or her designee shall be  
66 appointed as the first honorary member of the board of directors  
67 of the direct-support organization created by this act.

68           Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.