

HB 735

2012

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to animal welfare; amending s. 823.15,
3 F.S.; providing legislative findings concerning the
4 importation of dogs and cats and the importance of
5 determining what programs result in improved adoption
6 rates and the reduction in euthanasia rates for
7 animals in shelters and animal control agencies;
8 providing additional records requirements for any
9 public or private animal shelter or animal control
10 agency operated by a humane society or government;
11 providing that such records are public records;
12 specifying a maximum copying charge; amending s.
13 828.29, F.S.; providing vaccination and other health
14 requirements for dogs transported into the state for
15 adoption; providing that animal control agencies and
16 registered nonprofit humane organizations are subject
17 to such provisions; providing an effective date.

18
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
20

21 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 823.15, Florida
22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23 823.15 Dogs and cats released from animal shelters or
24 animal control agencies; sterilization requirement.—

25 (1) The Legislature has determined that uncontrolled
26 breeding and importation of dogs and cats in this ~~the~~ state
27 results in a greater risk of disease transmission to animals and
28 humans from animals imported from outside the United States as

29 well as a risk to agriculture interests of this state created by
 30 the importation of diseases endemic in other areas of the world,
 31 but eradicated in the United States, and in the births
 32 ~~production~~ of many more puppies and kittens than are needed to
 33 replace pet animals that ~~which~~ have died or become lost or to
 34 provide pet animals for new owners. This leads to many dogs,
 35 cats, puppies, and kittens being unwanted, becoming strays and
 36 suffering privation and death, being impounded and destroyed at
 37 great expense to the community, and constituting a public
 38 nuisance and public health hazard. It is therefore declared to
 39 be the public policy of the state that every feasible means be
 40 used to reduce the birth of ~~reducing the production of~~ unneeded
 41 and unwanted puppies and kittens ~~be encouraged~~. Crucial to this
 42 effort is determining which programs result in improved adoption
 43 rates and the reduction in euthanasia rates for animals in
 44 shelters and animal control agencies.

45 (a) Additional records requirements for any public or
 46 private animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a
 47 humane society or by a county, city, or other incorporated
 48 political subdivision include:

- 49 1. The total number of animals taken in, divided into
 50 species, in the following categories:
- 51 a. Surrendered by owner.
 - 52 b. Strays.
 - 53 c. Impounds.
 - 54 d. Confiscations.
 - 55 e. Imports into the state.

56

57 Feral cats shall be recorded as a separate category from other
 58 cats. Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should
 59 be recorded as "other."

60 2. The disposition of all animals taken in, divided into
 61 species, including:

62 a. Adoptions.

63 b. Reclaims by owner.

64 c. Kennel deaths.

65 d. Euthanizations at the owner's request.

66 e. Transfers to another public or private animal shelter
 67 or animal control agency operated by a humane society or by a
 68 county, city, or other incorporated political subdivision.

69 f. Total euthanizations.

70 3. A statement confirming the policy of routine
 71 euthanizations of dogs based on size or breed alone. Dogs
 72 euthanized due to breed, temperament, or size must be recorded
 73 and included in the total euthanasia percentage calculation.

74 (b) Records required by this subsection shall be public
 75 records under chapter 119 and, notwithstanding any other law,
 76 shall be available to the public for a cost not to exceed \$1 per
 77 one-sided copy.

78 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection
 79 (15) of section 828.29, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

80 828.29 Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale;
 81 health requirements; consumer guarantee.—

82 (1) (a) For each dog transported into the state for sale or
 83 adoption, the tests, vaccines, and anthelmintics required by
 84 this section must be administered by or under the direction of a

HB 735

2012

85 veterinarian, licensed by the state of origin and accredited by
86 the United States Department of Agriculture, who issues the
87 official certificate of veterinary inspection. The tests,
88 vaccines, and anthelmintics must be administered no more than 30
89 days and no less than 14 days before the dog's entry into the
90 state. The official certificate of veterinary inspection
91 certifying compliance with this section must accompany each dog
92 transported into the state for sale or adoption.

93 (15) County-operated or city-operated animal control
94 agencies and registered nonprofit humane organizations are
95 exempt from this section except for paragraph (1)(a).

96 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.