

2013674e1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to animal shelters and animal control  
3           agencies; amending s. 823.15, F.S.; declaring  
4           legislative priorities relating to the importation and  
5           uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats; requiring that  
6           each public or private animal shelter, humane  
7           organization, or animal control agency operated by a  
8           humane society or by a county, municipality, or other  
9           incorporated political subdivision prepare and  
10          maintain specified records; specifying the information  
11          that must be included in the records; providing a  
12          maximum fee for copies of such records; amending s.  
13          828.27, F.S.; providing that proceeds, carryover, and  
14          fund balances may be used to fund animal shelter  
15          operating expenses; providing an effective date.

16  
17   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
19           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 823.15, Florida  
20           Statutes, is amended, present subsections (2) and (3) are  
21           redesignated as subsections (3) and (4), respectively, and a new  
22           subsection (2) is added to that section, 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 the importation of  
26           dogs and cats into, and the uncontrolled breeding of dogs and  
27           cats in, this state pose risks to the well-being of dogs and  
28           cats, the health of humans and animals, and the agricultural  
29           interests in this state. Importation of dogs and cats from

2013674e1

30 outside the United States could result in the transmission of  
31 diseases that have been eradicated in the United States to dogs  
32 and cats, other animals, and humans living in this state.  
33 Uncontrolled breeding ~~The Legislature has determined that~~  
34 ~~uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats in the state~~ results in  
35 the birth production of many more puppies and kittens than are  
36 needed to provide pet animals to new owners or to replace pet  
37 animals that ~~which~~ have died or become lost ~~or to provide pet~~  
38 ~~animals for new owners~~. This leads to many dogs, cats, puppies,  
39 and kittens being unwanted, becoming strays and suffering  
40 privation and death, being impounded and destroyed at great  
41 expense to the community, and constituting a public nuisance and  
42 public health hazard. It is therefore declared to be the public  
43 policy of the state that every feasible means be used to reduce  
44 the incidence of birth ~~of reducing the production~~ of unneeded  
45 and unwanted puppies and kittens ~~be encouraged~~. Determining  
46 which programs result in improved adoption rates and in reduced  
47 euthanasia rates for animals in shelters and animal control  
48 agencies is crucial to this effort.

49 (2) (a) Each public or private animal shelter, humane  
50 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane  
51 organization or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated  
52 political subdivision, shall prepare and maintain the following  
53 records and make them available for public inspection and  
54 dissemination for the 3 preceding years. The following data will  
55 be available on a monthly basis commencing July 31, 2013:

56 1. The total number of dogs and cats taken in by the animal  
57 shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency, divided  
58 into species, in the following categories:

2013674e1

- 59       a. Surrendered by owner;  
60       b. Stray;  
61       c. Impounded;  
62       d. Confiscated;  
63       e. Transferred from within Florida;  
64       f. Transferred into or imported from out of the state; and  
65       g. Born in shelter.

66  
67 Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should be  
68 recorded as "other."

69       2. The disposition of all animals taken in by a public or  
70 private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control  
71 agency operated by a humane society or by a county,  
72 municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision,  
73 divided into species. These data must include dispositions by:

- 74       a. Adoption;  
75       b. Reclamation by owner;  
76       c. Death in kennel;  
77       d. Euthanasia at the owner's request;  
78       e. Transfer to another public or private animal shelter,  
79 humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a  
80 humane society or by a county, municipality, or other  
81 incorporated political subdivision;  
82       f. Euthanasia;  
83       g. Released in field/Trapped, Neutered, Released (TNR);  
84       h. Lost in care/missing animals or records; and  
85       i. Ending inventory/shelter count at end of the last day of  
86 the month.  
87       3. A public or private animal shelter, humane organization,

2013674e1

88 or animal control agency operated by a humane society, or by a  
89 county, municipality, or other incorporated political  
90 subdivision which routinely euthanizes dogs based on size or  
91 breed alone must provide a written statement of such policy.  
92 Dogs euthanized due to breed, temperament, or size must be  
93 recorded and included in the calculation of the total euthanasia  
94 percentage.

95 (b) Records of a public animal shelter, humane  
96 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane  
97 society must be made available to the public pursuant to  
98 provisions in chapter 119.

99 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 828.27, Florida  
100 Statutes, is amended to read:

101 828.27 Local animal control or cruelty ordinances;  
102 penalty.—

103 (4) (a) 1. County-employed animal control officers shall, and  
104 municipally employed animal control officers may, successfully  
105 complete a 40-hour minimum standards training course. Such  
106 course shall include, but is not limited to, training for:  
107 animal cruelty investigations, search and seizure, animal  
108 handling, courtroom demeanor, and civil citations. The course  
109 curriculum must be approved by the Florida Animal Control  
110 Association. An animal control officer who successfully  
111 completes such course shall be issued a certificate indicating  
112 that he or she has received a passing grade.

113 2. Any animal control officer who is authorized prior to  
114 January 1, 1990, by a county or municipality to issue citations  
115 is not required to complete the minimum standards training  
116 course.

2013674e1

117           3. In order to maintain valid certification, every 2 years  
118 each certified county-employed animal control officer shall  
119 complete 4 hours of postcertification continuing education  
120 training. Such training may include, but is not limited to,  
121 training for: animal cruelty investigations, search and seizure,  
122 animal handling, courtroom demeanor, and civil citations.

123           (b) The governing body of a county or municipality may  
124 impose and collect a surcharge of up to \$5 upon each civil  
125 penalty imposed for violation of an ordinance relating to animal  
126 control or cruelty. The proceeds from such surcharges shall be  
127 used to pay the costs of training for animal control officers.

128           (c) In addition to the uses set forth in paragraph (b), a  
129 county as defined in s. 125.011 may use the proceeds specified  
130 in that paragraph and any carryover or fund balance from such  
131 proceeds for animal shelter operating expenses. This paragraph  
132 shall expire July 1, 2014.

133           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.