

HB 997

2013

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; providing an
13 effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 823.15, Florida
18 Statutes, is amended, present subsections (2) and (3) are
19 redesignated as subsections (3) and (4), respectively, and a new
20 subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

21 823.15 Dogs and cats released from animal shelters or
22 animal control agencies; sterilization requirement.—

23 (1) The Legislature has determined that the importation of
24 dogs and cats into, and the uncontrolled breeding of dogs and
25 cats in, this state pose risks to the well-being of dogs and
26 cats, the health of humans and animals, and the agricultural
27 interests in this state. Importation of dogs and cats from
28 outside the United States could result in the transmission of

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

47 (2) (a) Each public or private animal shelter, humane
48 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane
49 organization that accepts taxpayer dollars, or by a county,
50 municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision, shall
51 prepare and maintain the following records and make them
52 available for public inspection and dissemination for the 3
53 preceding years:

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

- 57 | a. Surrendered by owner;
- 58 | b. Stray;
- 59 | c. Impounded;
- 60 | d. Confiscated; and
- 61 | e. Imported into the state.

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63 | Feral cats shall be recorded as a separate category from other

64 | cats. Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should

65 | be recorded as "other."

66 | 2. The disposition of all animals taken in by a public or

67 | private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control

68 | agency operated by a humane society that accepts taxpayer

69 | dollars, or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated

70 | political subdivision, divided into species. These data must

71 | include dispositions by:

- 72 | a. Adoption;
- 73 | b. Reclamation by owner;
- 74 | c. Death in kennel;
- 75 | d. Destruction at the owner's request;
- 76 | e. Transfer to another public or private animal shelter,
- 77 | humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a
- 78 | humane society that accepts taxpayer dollars or by a county,
- 79 | municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision; and
- 80 | f. Euthanasia.

81 | 3. A public or private animal shelter, humane

82 | organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane

83 | society that accepts taxpayer dollars, or by a county,

84 | municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision which

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85 routinely euthanizes dogs based on size or breed alone must
86 provide a written statement of such policy. Dogs euthanized due
87 to breed, temperament, or size must be recorded and included in
88 the calculation of the total euthanasia percentage.

89 (b) Records of a public animal shelter, humane
90 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane
91 society that accepts taxpayer dollars must be made available to
92 the public for a cost that does not exceed \$1 per one-sided
93 copy.

94 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.