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A bill to be entitled

1 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 maintain specified records; specifying the information 10 that must be included in the records; providing for 11 12 public availability of such records; providing an 13 effective date. 14 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 16 17 Subsection (1) of section 823.15, Florida Section 1. 18 Statutes, is amended, present subsections (2) and (3) are redesignated as subsections (3) and (4), respectively, and a new 19 20 subsection (2) is added to that section, to read: 823.15 Dogs and cats released from animal shelters or 21 22 animal control agencies; sterilization requirement.-23 The Legislature has determined that the importation of (1)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 outside the United States could result in the transmission of 28



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29 diseases that have been eradicated in the United States to dogs and cats, other animals, and humans living in this state. 30 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 privation and death, being impounded and destroyed at great 38 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 euthanasia rates for animals in shelters and animal control 45 46 agencies is crucial to this effort. (2) (a) Each public or private animal shelter, humane 47 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 for the preceding 3 52 years and make them available for public inspection and 53 dissemination, and beginning July 31, 2013, such records shall be prepared, maintained, and made available for public 54 55 inspection and dissemination on a monthly basis: 56 The total number of dogs and cats taken in by the 1.



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57	public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal
58	control agency operated by a humane society that accepts
59	taxpayer dollars or by a county, municipality, or other
60	incorporated political subdivision, divided into species, in the
61	following categories:
62	a. Inventory on the first business day of the month;
63	b. Surrendered by owner;
64	c. Stray;
65	d. Impounded;
66	e. Confiscated;
67	f. Transferred from within Florida;
68	g. Transferred into or imported from outside the state;
69	and
70	h. Born in shelter.
71	
72	Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should be
73	recorded as "other."
74	2. The disposition of all animals taken in by the public
75	or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal
76	control agency operated by a humane society that accepts
77	taxpayer dollars or by a county, municipality, or other
78	incorporated political subdivision, divided into species, in the
79	following categories:
80	a. Adoption;
81	b. Reclamation by owner;
82	c. Death in kennel;
83	d. Euthanasia at the owner's request;
84	e. Transferred to another public or private animal

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CS/HB 997 2013 85 shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency operated 86 by a humane society that accepts taxpayer dollars or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political 87 88 subdivision; 89 f. Euthanasia; 90 q. Died in care for reason other than euthanasia; h. Released in field and trapped-neutered-released (TNR); 91 i. Lost in care and missing animals or records; and 92 93 j. Ending inventory and shelter count at end of the last 94 day of the month. 95 3. A public or private animal shelter, humane 96 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane 97 society that accepts taxpayer dollars or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision which 98 99 routinely euthanizes dogs based on size or breed alone must 100 provide a written statement of such policy. Dogs euthanized due 101 to breed, temperament, or size must be recorded and included in 102 the calculation of the total euthanasia percentage. 103 (b) The records of a public animal shelter, humane 104 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane 105 society that accepts taxpayer dollars must be made available to 106 the public pursuant to chapter 119. An animal shelter, humane 107 organization, or animal control agency referenced in this 108 subsection that has a website may post the required records 109 online in addition to making paper copies available. Such 110 records must be maintained onsite for at least 3 years. 111 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

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