

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 for
12 public availability 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

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 or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated
50 political subdivision, shall prepare and maintain the following
51 records for the preceding 3 years and make them available for
52 public inspection and dissemination, and beginning July 31,
53 2013, such records shall be prepared, maintained, and made
54 available for public inspection and dissemination on a monthly
55 basis:

56 1. The total number of dogs and cats taken in by the

57 | public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal
 58 | control agency operated by a humane society or by a county,
 59 | municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision,
 60 | divided into species, in the following categories:

- 61 | a. Surrendered by owner;
- 62 | b. Stray;
- 63 | c. Impounded;
- 64 | d. Confiscated;
- 65 | e. Transferred from within Florida;
- 66 | f. Transferred into or imported from outside the state;
- 67 | and
- 68 | g. Born in shelter.

69 |
 70 | Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should be
 71 | recorded as "other."

72 | 2. The disposition of all animals taken in by the public
 73 | or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal
 74 | control agency operated by a humane society or by a county,
 75 | municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision,
 76 | divided into species, in the following categories:

- 77 | a. Adopted;
- 78 | b. Reclaimed by owner;
- 79 | c. Died in kennel;
- 80 | d. Euthanized at the owner's request;
- 81 | e. Transferred to another public or private animal
 82 | shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency operated
 83 | by a humane society or by a county, municipality, or other
 84 | incorporated political subdivision;

85 f. Euthanized;
 86 g. Released in field and trapped-neutered-released (TNR);
 87 h. Lost in care and missing animals or records; and
 88 i. Ending inventory and shelter count at end of the last
 89 day of the month.

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

98 (b) The records of a public animal shelter, humane
 99 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane
 100 society must be made available to the public pursuant to chapter
 101 119.

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