

By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senator Young

590-02442-17

20171270c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to compensatory damages for injury or
3 death of a pet; providing a definition; specifying
4 liability for compensatory damages for the injury or
5 death of a pet; providing applicability; providing an
6 effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Liability for compensatory damages for injury or
11 death of pet.—

12 (1) As used in this section, the term “pet” means a
13 domesticated dog or cat normally maintained in or near the
14 household of its owner.

15 (2) The owner of a pet may bring an action for the recovery
16 of damages arising out of the injury or death of the owner’s pet
17 and in any such action brought by the owner, the defendant is
18 liable for:

19 (a) Monetary losses for reasonable and necessary veterinary
20 care of the pet due to the injury or death of the pet.

21 (b) Monetary loss in the fair market value of the pet due
22 to the injury or death of the pet.

23 (c) If the injury or death of the pet was caused by the
24 gross negligence of the defendant, noneconomic damages of up to
25 \$5,000 for the loss of the reasonably expected companionship,
26 love, and affection of the pet.

27 (3) Limits for noneconomic damages under paragraph (2) (c)
28 do not apply to causes of action for intentional infliction of
29 emotional distress or any other civil action other than the

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30 direct and sole loss of a pet.

31 (4) This section does not apply to:

32 (a) Any veterinarian licensed under chapter 474, Florida
33 Statutes.

34 (b) Any nonprofit entity or governmental agency or their
35 employees negligently causing the death of a pet while acting on
36 the behalf of public health or animal welfare.

37 (c) Any killing of a dog that is killing or worrying
38 livestock as defined in s. 588.13, Florida Statutes.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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