

**By** the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senators Diaz, Powell, and Jones

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to pet protection; providing a  
3       directive to the Division of Law Revision; creating s.  
4       468.901, F.S.; providing a short title; creating s.  
5       468.903, F.S.; defining terms; creating s. 468.905,  
6       F.S.; requiring the licensure of retail pet stores;  
7       requiring the Department of Business and Professional  
8       Regulation to adopt standards and procedures for such  
9       licensure; prohibiting unlicensed retail pet stores  
10      from taking certain actions regarding certain  
11      household pets; creating s. 468.907, F.S.; defining  
12      the term "qualified breeder"; limiting the sources  
13      from which retail pet stores may acquire household  
14      pets for specified purposes; prohibiting certain  
15      household pets from being used by retail pet stores  
16      for specified purposes; requiring certain  
17      documentation of the sources from which retail pet  
18      stores acquire household pets for sale; providing  
19      requirements for the living conditions for household  
20      pets at retail pet stores; providing retail pet store  
21      veterinarian, exercise, and socialization  
22      requirements; creating s. 468.909, F.S.; requiring the  
23      department to conduct periodic inspections of retail  
24      pet stores and to audit sales records; requiring the  
25      department to establish procedures for the inspections  
26      and records of the inspections; authorizing contracts  
27      with certain veterinarians to conduct inspections;  
28      creating s. 468.911, F.S.; requiring the department to  
29      deny a retail pet store license under certain

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30 circumstances; authorizing disciplinary action under  
31 certain circumstances; specifying administrative  
32 procedures; providing civil penalties; authorizing the  
33 department to adopt rules; creating s. 468.913, F.S.;  
34 authorizing civil actions for purposes of enforcement;  
35 creating s. 468.915, F.S.; providing criminal  
36 penalties for specified violations; creating s.  
37 468.917, F.S.; requiring certain moneys to be  
38 deposited into the department's Professional  
39 Regulation Trust Fund; creating s. 468.919, F.S.;  
40 providing construction; creating s. 468.921, F.S.;  
41 prohibiting county and municipal ordinances and  
42 regulations from prohibiting or regulating the  
43 breeding, purchase, or sale of certain working dogs;  
44 providing applicability with regard to new and  
45 existing county and municipal ordinances and  
46 regulations; amending s. 823.15, F.S.; requiring  
47 certain public or private animal agencies to report on  
48 a monthly basis certain animal records to the  
49 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;  
50 requiring public animal rescues to make records  
51 available to the public; requiring the department to  
52 make the data reported by the agencies available on  
53 its website in a specified manner; requiring public  
54 and private animal rescues and humane organizations to  
55 provide for the sterilization of adopted dogs and cats  
56 according to certain requirements; authorizing public  
57 or private animal rescues to implant dogs and cats  
58 with radio frequency identification microchips and to

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59 contact the owners of such devices to verify pet  
60 ownership; requiring certain public or private animal  
61 agencies to disclose a dog's bite history before  
62 adoption; prohibiting certain public or private animal  
63 agencies from intentionally breeding dogs or cats for  
64 sale to the public and from exchanging payment or  
65 compensation to obtain dogs or cats from certain  
66 persons; providing applicability; amending s. 474.203,  
67 F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the  
68 act; providing an effective date.

69

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

71

72 Section 1. The Division of Law Revision is directed to  
73 create part XVII of chapter 468, Florida Statutes, consisting of  
74 ss. 468.901-468.921, Florida Statutes, to be entitled "Retail  
75 Pet Stores."

76 Section 2. Section 468.901, Florida Statutes, is created to  
77 read:

78 468.901 Short title.—This part may be cited as the "Florida  
79 Pet Protection Act."

80 Section 3. Section 468.903, Florida Statutes, is created to  
81 read:

82 468.903 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

83 (1) "Animal rescue" means a nonprofit organization exempt  
84 from federal income taxation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
85 Revenue Code which keeps, houses, and maintains household pets  
86 and which is dedicated to the welfare, health, safety, and  
87 protection of such pets. The term includes an organization that

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88 offers spayed or neutered household pets for adoption and  
89 charges only reasonable adoption fees to cover the  
90 organization's costs, including, but not limited to, costs  
91 related to spaying or neutering the pets.

92 (2) "Animal shelter" means a public facility, or a private  
93 facility operated by a nonprofit organization exempt from  
94 federal income taxation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
95 Revenue Code, which keeps, houses, and maintains household pets,  
96 such as a county or municipal animal control agency or pound, a  
97 humane society, an animal welfare society, a society for the  
98 prevention of cruelty to animals, or another nonprofit  
99 organization devoted to the welfare, protection, and humane  
100 treatment of household pets.

101 (3) "Department" means the Department of Business and  
102 Professional Regulation.

103 (4) "Household pet" means a domestic dog or a domestic cat.

104 (5) "Pet broker" means a person who buys, sells, or offers  
105 for sale household pets for resale to other persons, or who  
106 sells or gives one or more pets to a retail pet store, and who  
107 holds a valid Class B animal dealer license issued by the United  
108 States Department of Agriculture.

109 (6) "Professional breeder" means a person required to be  
110 licensed as a Class A animal dealer by the United States  
111 Department of Agriculture.

112 (7) "Retail pet store" means a retail store that sells or  
113 offers for sale household pets to the public. The term does not  
114 include an animal rescue; an animal shelter; or a breeder who  
115 sells or transfers, directly to the public, household pets bred  
116 and raised on the breeder's premises.

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117       (8) "Veterinarian" means a health care practitioner  
118 licensed under chapter 474, or licensed in another state by the  
119 applicable entity in that state, to engage in the practice of  
120 veterinary medicine.

121       Section 4. Section 468.905, Florida Statutes, is created to  
122 read:

123       468.905 Licensure of retail pet stores.—

124       (1) A person may not operate a retail pet store in this  
125 state without having a valid retail pet store license issued by  
126 the department in accordance with this section.

127       (2) The department shall adopt standards and procedures for  
128 the licensure of retail pet stores consistent with this act. An  
129 applicant for a retail pet store license must apply to the  
130 department on a form prescribed by the department for each  
131 premises. Upon licensure, the department shall assign a unique  
132 license number for each licensed premises.

133       (3) The department may establish annual licenses that are  
134 valid for 1 year and that may be renewed. An application for  
135 renewal of a license must be submitted to the department in a  
136 format prescribed by the department.

137       (4) A retail pet store that does not have a valid license  
138 may not display, offer for sale, deliver, barter, auction,  
139 broker, give away, transfer, or sell any household pet from the  
140 store.

141       Section 5. Section 468.907, Florida Statutes, is created to  
142 read:

143       468.907 Sale or transfer of household pets by retail pet  
144 stores.—

145       (1) As used in this section, the term "qualified breeder"

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146 means a professional breeder located within or outside this  
147 state who meets all of the following requirements:

148 (a) Holds a valid Class A animal license issued by the  
149 United States Department of Agriculture and, if required by the  
150 state in which he or she is located, is licensed by a state  
151 agency.

152 (b) Has not been issued a report of a finally adjudicated  
153 direct noncompliance violation by the United States Department  
154 of Agriculture under the federal Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C.  
155 ss. 2131 et seq., in the 2 years immediately before offering for  
156 sale, delivering, bartering, auctioning, brokering, giving away,  
157 transferring, or selling a household pet. However, a  
158 professional breeder is not considered a qualified breeder until  
159 any pending report of a direct noncompliance violation is  
160 finally adjudicated.

161 (c) Has not had three or more finally adjudicated  
162 noncompliance violations documented in any report issued by the  
163 United States Department of Agriculture under the federal Animal  
164 Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. ss. 2131 et seq., for the year immediately  
165 before offering for sale, delivering, bartering, auctioning,  
166 brokering, giving away, transferring, or selling a household  
167 pet. However, a professional breeder is not considered a  
168 qualified breeder until any pending report of a noncompliance  
169 violation is finally adjudicated.

170 (2) A retail pet store may not display, offer for sale,  
171 deliver, barter, auction, broker, give away, transfer, or sell  
172 any household pet from the store unless such pet was acquired  
173 from one of the following sources:

174 (a) A qualified breeder.

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175 (b) A person who, pursuant to 9 C.F.R. s. 2.1(a)(3)(ii)-  
176 (vii), is exempt from licensure by the United States Department  
177 of Agriculture.

178 (c) An animal rescue.

179 (d) An animal shelter.

180 (e) A pet broker; however, if the pet broker acquires the  
181 pet from a professional breeder, the breeder must be a qualified  
182 breeder.

183 (3) A retail pet store may not sell, deliver, barter,  
184 auction, broker, give away, or transfer any household pet:

185 (a) Younger than 8 weeks of age.

186 (b) That has not been implanted with an International  
187 Organization for Standardization (ISO) identification microchip.

188 (c) That does not have a valid veterinary certification,  
189 including the United States Interstate and International  
190 Certificate of Health Examination for Small Animals prescribed  
191 by the United States Department of Agriculture or the official  
192 certificate of veterinary inspection prescribed by the  
193 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to s.  
194 828.29.

195 (d) To a person younger than 18 years of age, as verified  
196 by a valid driver license, state identification card, or other  
197 government-issued identification card bearing a photograph of  
198 the cardholder.

199 (e) Acquired from a qualified breeder or pet broker, unless  
200 the retail pet store provides to the buyer acquiring the pet,  
201 before completing the transaction, a written certification that  
202 includes the following:

203 1. The name, address, and, if applicable, United States

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204 Department of Agriculture license number of the breeder who bred  
205 the household pet.

206 2. An electronic or paper copy of the breeder's most recent  
207 United States Department of Agriculture inspection report, if  
208 applicable.

209 3. The household pet's date of birth, if known.

210 4. The date the retail pet store took possession of the  
211 household pet.

212 5. The breed, gender, color, and any identifying marks of  
213 the household pet.

214 6. A signed statement by the retail pet store's Florida-  
215 licensed veterinarian, in a format prescribed by the department,  
216 which describes any known disease, illness, or congenital or  
217 hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the  
218 household pet at the time of examination.

219 7. A document signed by the owner or a manager or an  
220 employee of the retail pet store certifying that all information  
221 required to be provided to the person acquiring the household  
222 pet under this paragraph is accurate.

223

224 A retail pet store shall keep an electronic or paper copy of the  
225 certification for at least 3 years after the date the buyer  
226 acquires the household pet. The owner or a manager or an  
227 employee of a retail pet store may not fraudulently alter or  
228 provide false information on a certification provided in  
229 accordance with this paragraph.

230 (4) A licensed retail pet store shall provide the buyer of  
231 a household pet with all of the following information:

232 (a) The pet's microchip identification number.



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233       (b) The complete name, address, and telephone number of all  
234 professional breeders, pet brokers, or other persons who kept,  
235 housed, or maintained the pet before the retail pet store took  
236 possession of the animal or proof that the pet was acquired  
237 through an animal rescue or animal shelter.

238       (c) A photograph or digital image and the name and  
239 registration number of both of the pet's parents, sire and dam.

240

241 A retail pet store shall keep a copy of the documentation  
242 required under this subsection for at least 3 years after the  
243 date it acquired the household pet.

244       (5) A retail pet store shall provide for all of the  
245 following:

246       (a) Flooring in the primary enclosures that house household  
247 pets which is constructed of a solid surface or, if grid-style  
248 or wire flooring is used, the surface of which is covered with a  
249 rubberized or coated material that prevents a pet's toe or foot  
250 from passing through or being caught in the flooring. A retail  
251 pet store shall clean all primary enclosures daily, or as often  
252 as necessary to prevent accumulation of bodily waste, and keep a  
253 daily sanitation log.

254       (b) An isolation enclosure with separate ventilation which  
255 allows a household pet to be kept separately from other pets  
256 while under veterinarian-directed isolation.

257       (c) Climate control that ensures that the ambient air  
258 temperature of the retail pet store's premises is kept between  
259 67 and 78 degrees at all times. Retail pet stores shall keep  
260 daily logs of the temperature. If, for any reason, the  
261 temperature falls outside the required range, a corrective

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262 action record detailing steps taken to adjust the temperature  
263 must be kept.

264 (d) A Florida-licensed veterinarian who visits the retail  
265 pet store at least twice each week to observe the condition of  
266 the pets' health and overall well-being.

267 (e) An enrichment program for puppies which consists of  
268 exercise and socialization for at least two 30-minute periods  
269 each day. A retail pet store must keep a log for each puppy of  
270 the daily activities that the puppy participates in as part of  
271 the program.

272 (f) A photograph or digital image and video footage  
273 depicting each breeding facility from which the retail pet store  
274 acquires household pets.

275 Section 6. Section 468.909, Florida Statutes, is created to  
276 read:

277 468.909 Inspections.—

278 (1) (a) At least annually, the department shall inspect each  
279 retail pet store that is subject to licensure to ensure  
280 compliance with this part and with rules adopted under this  
281 part. The inspection must include, but need not be limited to,  
282 an audit of the records that the licensee maintains pursuant to  
283 s. 468.907(3) (e) and (4).

284 (b) The department also may conduct an inspection upon  
285 receipt of a complaint or other information alleging a violation  
286 of this part or rules adopted under this part.

287 (2) The department shall establish procedures for  
288 conducting inspections and making records of inspections.  
289 Inspections must be conducted during regular business hours in  
290 accordance with the department's procedures and may be conducted

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291 without prior notice. The department shall maintain a record of  
292 each inspection in accordance with such procedures.

293 (3) The department may enter into a contract or an  
294 agreement with one or more veterinarians to conduct inspections  
295 under this section. Such veterinarians must be independent and  
296 may not be affiliated with a retail pet store or an animal  
297 rights advocacy organization.

298 Section 7. Section 468.911, Florida Statutes, is created to  
299 read:

300 468.911 Administrative remedies; penalties.—

301 (1) The department must deny an application for issuance or  
302 renewal of a retail pet store license if either of the following  
303 applies:

304 (a) The licensee or applicant violates this part or any  
305 rule or order issued under this part, if the violation  
306 materially threatens the health or welfare of a household pet.

307 (b) The licensee or applicant, in the past 20 years, has  
308 been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to,  
309 regardless of adjudication, a misdemeanor or felony under  
310 chapter 828 or a misdemeanor or felony under chapter 741  
311 involving an act of domestic violence.

312 (2) The department may enter an order for one or more of  
313 the following if the department finds that an owner of a retail  
314 pet store, or a person employed or contracted by a retail pet  
315 store about whom the owner knows or reasonably should have  
316 known, has violated or is operating in violation of this part or  
317 any rule or order issued pursuant to this part:

318 (a) Issuing a notice of noncompliance under s. 120.695.

319 (b) Imposing an administrative fine for each act or

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320 omission, not to exceed the following amounts:

321 1. For a first violation, \$250.

322 2. For a second violation, \$500.

323 3. For a third or subsequent violation, \$1,000.

324

325 Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate  
326 violation.

327 (c) Directing that the person cease and desist specified  
328 activities.

329 (d) Refusing to issue or renew a license or revoking or  
330 suspending a license.

331 (e) Placing the licensee on probation, subject to  
332 conditions specified by the department.

333 (3) The administrative proceedings that could result in the  
334 entry of an order imposing any of the penalties specified in  
335 subsection (1) or subsection (2) are governed by chapter 120.

336 (4) The department may adopt rules to administer this part.

337 Section 8. Section 468.913, Florida Statutes, is created to  
338 read:

339 468.913 Civil penalties; remedies.—The department may bring  
340 a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover  
341 any penalties or damages authorized by this part and for  
342 injunctive relief to enforce compliance with this part.

343 Section 9. Section 468.915, Florida Statutes, is created to  
344 read:

345 468.915 Criminal penalties.—A person commits a misdemeanor  
346 of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
347 775.083, if he or she violates either of the following:

348 (1) Section 468.905(1) or (4), relating to operation of a

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349 retail pet store without a license.

350 (2) Section 468.907(2) or (3), relating to unlawful  
351 practices in the sale of household pets by a retail pet store.

352 Section 10. Section 468.917, Florida Statutes, is created  
353 to read:

354 468.917 Deposit of funds.—All moneys collected by the  
355 department under this part from civil penalties must be  
356 deposited into the department's Professional Regulation Trust  
357 Fund for use by the department for administration of this part.

358 Section 11. Section 468.919, Florida Statutes, is created  
359 to read:

360 468.919 Construction.—This part may not be construed to  
361 prohibit or regulate a person who offers for sale, directly to  
362 the public, only dogs that the person has bred or has trained to  
363 be hunting dogs, field trial dogs, sporting dogs, conformation  
364 dogs, cattle dogs, police dogs, or service dogs as defined under  
365 the Americans with Disabilities Act.

366 Section 12. Section 468.921, Florida Statutes, is created  
367 to read:

368 468.921 Local regulation; grandfathering of existing local  
369 regulations.—

370 (1) A county or municipality may not prohibit or regulate a  
371 person who offers for sale, directly to the public, only dogs  
372 that the person has bred or has trained to be hunting dogs,  
373 field trial dogs, sporting dogs, conformation dogs, cattle dogs,  
374 police dogs, or service dogs as defined under the Americans with  
375 Disabilities Act.

376 (2) (a) A county or municipality may adopt an ordinance or a  
377 regulation on or after July 1, 2022, which regulates, but does

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378 not prohibit, the operation of retail pet stores or the  
379 breeding, purchase, or sale of household pets, provided the  
380 ordinances or regulations are consistent and not in conflict  
381 with the requirements of s. 468.907.

382 (b) This subsection does not affect any of the following:

383 1. Any county or municipal ordinance or regulation in  
384 effect on or before June 1, 2021, which prohibits the operation  
385 of retail pet stores within its jurisdiction.

386 2. Any county or municipal ordinance or regulation adopted  
387 before July 1, 2022, which imposes a moratorium on the  
388 establishment of new retail pet stores, or that otherwise  
389 regulates such stores within its jurisdiction.

390 (c) This subsection does not affect a local government's  
391 authority to levy a local business tax pursuant to chapter 205.

392 Section 13. Section 823.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
393 read:

394 823.15 Public or private animal agencies; sterilization,  
395 ~~required for dogs and cats released;~~ recordkeeping, and  
396 disclosure requirements; microchipping.-

397 (1) The Legislature finds ~~has determined~~ that the  
398 importation of dogs and cats into, and the uncontrolled breeding  
399 of dogs and cats in, this state pose risks to the well-being of  
400 dogs and cats, the health of humans and animals, and the  
401 agricultural interests in this state. Importation of dogs and  
402 cats from outside the United States could result in the  
403 transmission of diseases that have been eradicated in the United  
404 States to dogs and cats, other animals, and humans living in  
405 this state. Uncontrolled breeding results in the birth of many  
406 more puppies and kittens than are needed to provide pet animals

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407 to new owners or to replace pet animals that have died or become  
408 lost. This leads to many dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens being  
409 unwanted, becoming strays and suffering privation and death,  
410 being impounded and destroyed at great expense to the community,  
411 and constituting a public nuisance and public health hazard. It  
412 is therefore declared to be the public policy of the state that  
413 every feasible means be used to reduce the incidence of birth of  
414 unneeded and unwanted puppies and kittens. Determining which  
415 programs result in improved adoption rates and in reduced  
416 euthanasia rates for animals in shelters and animal control  
417 agencies is crucial to this effort.

418 (2) (a) Each public or private animal shelter, animal  
419 rescue, humane organization, or animal control agency operated  
420 by a humane organization or by a county, municipality, or other  
421 incorporated political subdivision, shall prepare and maintain  
422 the ~~following~~ records required by this paragraph and make them  
423 available for public inspection and dissemination for the 3  
424 preceding years. The following data must ~~will~~ be available and  
425 reported to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
426 on a monthly basis ~~commencing July 31, 2013~~:

427 1. The total number of dogs and cats taken in by the animal  
428 shelter, animal rescue, humane organization, or animal control  
429 agency, divided into species, in the following categories:

- 430 a. Surrendered by owner;  
431 b. Stray;  
432 c. Impounded;  
433 d. Confiscated;  
434 e. Transferred from within this state ~~Florida~~;  
435 f. Transferred into or imported from out of this ~~the~~ state;

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436 and

437 g. Born in shelter.

438

439 Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should be  
440 recorded as "other."441 2. The disposition of all animals taken in by a public or  
442 private animal shelter, animal rescue, humane organization, or  
443 animal control agency operated by a humane society or by a  
444 county, municipality, or other incorporated political  
445 subdivision, divided into species. These data must include  
446 dispositions by:

447 a. Adoption;

448 b. Reclamation by owner;

449 c. Death in kennel;

450 d. Euthanasia at the owner's request;

451 e. Transfer to another public or private animal shelter,  
452 animal rescue, humane organization, or animal control agency  
453 operated by a humane society or by a county, municipality, or  
454 other incorporated political subdivision;

455 f. Euthanasia;

456 g. Released in field/Trapped, Neutered, Released (TNR);

457 h. Lost in care/missing animals or records; and

458 i. Ending inventory/shelter count at end of the last day of  
459 the month.460 3. A public or private animal shelter, animal rescue,  
461 humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a  
462 humane society, or by a county, municipality, or other  
463 incorporated political subdivision, which routinely euthanizes  
464 dogs based on size or breed alone must provide a written



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465 statement of such policy. Dogs euthanized due to breed,  
466 temperament, or size must be recorded and included in the  
467 calculation of the total euthanasia percentage.

468 4. Certificates of veterinary inspections for all dogs and  
469 cats imported into this state.

470 (b) Records of a public animal shelter, animal rescue,  
471 humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a  
472 humane society must be made available to the public pursuant to  
473 ~~provisions in~~ chapter 119.

474 (c) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
475 shall make the data it receives pursuant to this subsection  
476 available to the public on a monthly basis and in a searchable  
477 format on its website.

478 (3) In furtherance of this policy, provision shall be made  
479 for the sterilization of all dogs and cats ~~sold or~~ released for  
480 adoption from any public or private animal shelter, animal  
481 rescue, humane organization, or animal control agency operated  
482 by a humane society or by a county, municipality ~~city~~, or other  
483 incorporated political subdivision, by either:

484 (a) Providing sterilization by a licensed veterinarian  
485 before relinquishing custody of the animal; or

486 (b) Entering into a written agreement with the adopter or  
487 purchaser guaranteeing that sterilization will be performed  
488 within 30 days or before ~~prior to~~ sexual maturity. The shelter  
489 or animal control agency shall require a sufficient deposit from  
490 the adopter or purchaser, which deposit shall be refundable upon  
491 presentation to the shelter or animal control agency of written  
492 evidence by the veterinarian performing the sterilization that  
493 the animal has been sterilized. ~~The deposit or donation may be~~

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494 ~~based upon recommended guidelines established by the Florida~~  
495 ~~Federation of Humane Societies.~~ Failure by either party to  
496 comply with ~~the provisions of~~ this paragraph constitutes ~~shall~~  
497 ~~be~~ a noncriminal violation as defined in s. 775.08(3),  
498 punishable by a fine, forfeiture, or other civil penalty, and,  
499 in addition thereto, the deposit or donation shall be forfeited  
500 to the shelter or animal control agency. Any legal fees or court  
501 costs used for the enforcement of this paragraph are the  
502 responsibility of the adopter. Upon the request of a licensed  
503 veterinarian, and for a valid reason, the shelter or animal  
504 control agency shall extend the time limit within which the  
505 animal must be sterilized.

506 (4) All costs of sterilization pursuant to this section  
507 shall be paid by the prospective adopter unless otherwise  
508 provided for by ordinance of the local governing body, with  
509 respect to animal control agencies or shelters operated or  
510 subsidized by a unit of local government, or provided for by the  
511 humane society governing body, with respect to an animal control  
512 agency or shelter operated solely by the humane society and not  
513 subsidized by public funds.

514 (5) Employees, agents, or contractors of a public or  
515 private animal shelter, animal rescue, ~~a~~ humane organization, or  
516 ~~an~~ animal control agency operated by a humane organization or by  
517 a county, municipality, or other incorporated political  
518 subdivision may implant dogs and cats with radio frequency  
519 identification microchips as part of their work with such public  
520 or private animal shelter, animal rescue, humane organization,  
521 or animal control agency.

522 (6) Notwithstanding s. 474.2165, employees, agents, or

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523 contractors of a public or private animal shelter, animal  
524 rescue, a humane organization, or ~~an~~ animal control agency  
525 operated by a humane organization or by a county, municipality,  
526 or other incorporated political subdivision may contact the  
527 owner of record listed on a radio frequency identification  
528 microchip to verify pet ownership.

529 (7) Any public or private animal shelter, animal rescue,  
530 humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a  
531 humane society or any county, municipality, or other  
532 incorporated political subdivision shall disclose any bite  
533 history that exists for a dog before releasing the animal for  
534 adoption.

535 (8) A public or private animal shelter, animal rescue,  
536 humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a  
537 humane society or any county, municipality, or other  
538 incorporated political subdivision may not intentionally breed  
539 dogs or cats for sale to the public or, in exchange for payment  
540 or any other compensation, obtain a dog or cat from a person who  
541 breeds dogs or cats, resells dogs or cats from a breeder, or  
542 sells dogs or cats at auction. This subsection does not apply to  
543 or affect the ability of a person who offers for sale, directly  
544 to the public, dogs or cats that the person has bred or trained  
545 on his or her own property.

546 Section 14. Subsection (9) of section 474.203, Florida  
547 Statutes, is amended to read:

548 474.203 Exemptions.—This chapter does not apply to:

549 (9) An employee, an agent, or a contractor of a public or  
550 private animal shelter, animal rescue, humane organization, or  
551 animal control agency operated by a humane organization or by a

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552 county, a municipality, or another incorporated political  
553 subdivision whose work is confined solely to the implantation of  
554 a radio frequency identification device microchip for dogs and  
555 cats in accordance with s. 823.15.

556

557 For the purposes of chapters 465 and 893, persons exempt  
558 pursuant to subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (4)  
559 are deemed to be duly licensed practitioners authorized by the  
560 laws of this state to prescribe drugs or medicinal supplies.

561 Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.