

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Gaetz

591-01944-25

2025150c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to abandoning restrained animals
3 during natural disasters; providing a short title;
4 amending s. 828.13, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting
5 the abandonment of an animal that is restrained
6 outside during a natural disaster; providing criminal
7 penalties; providing an effective date.
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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11 Section 1. This act may be cited as "Trooper's Law."

12 Section 2. Section 828.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to
13 read:

14 828.13 Confinement of animals without sufficient food,
15 water, or exercise; abandonment of animals.-

16 (1) As used in this section:

17 (a) "Abandon" means to forsake an animal entirely or to
18 neglect or refuse to provide or perform the legal obligations
19 for care and support of an animal by its owner.

20 (b) "Natural disaster" means a situation in which a
21 hurricane, tropical storm, or tornado warning has been issued
22 for a municipality or a county by the National Weather Service,
23 or in which a municipality or county is under a mandatory or
24 voluntary evacuation order.

25 (c) "Owner" includes any owner, custodian, or other person
26 in charge of an animal.

27 (d) "Restraint" means a chain, rope, tether, leash, cable,
28 or other device that attaches an animal to a stationary object
29 or trolley system.

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30 (2) A person who ~~Whoever~~:

31 (a) Impounds or confines any animal in any place and fails
32 to supply the animal during such confinement with a sufficient
33 quantity of good and wholesome food and water,

34 (b) Keeps any animals in any enclosure without wholesome
35 exercise and change of air, or

36 (c) Abandons to die any animal that is maimed, sick,
37 infirm, or diseased,

38
39 commits is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree,
40 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more
41 than \$5,000, or ~~by both imprisonment and a fine.~~

42 (3) A ~~Any~~ person who is the owner or possessor, or has
43 charge or custody, of any animal who abandons such animal to
44 suffer injury or malnutrition or abandons any animal in a
45 street, road, or public place without providing for the care,
46 sustenance, protection, and shelter of such animal commits is
47 ~~guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
48 provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or
49 ~~by both imprisonment and a fine.~~

50 (4) A person who abandons an animal by using a restraint on
51 the animal and leaving that animal restrained outside during a
52 natural disaster commits a felony of the third degree,
53 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more
54 than \$10,000, or both.

55 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.