

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to abandoning restrained dogs during
 3 natural disasters; providing a short title; amending
 4 s. 828.13, F.S.; providing definitions; prohibiting
 5 abandoning a dog that is restrained during a natural
 6 disaster; providing criminal penalties; providing an
 7 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 the municipality or county is under a mandatory or voluntary
 24 evacuation order.

25 (c) ~~(b)~~ "Owner" includes any owner, custodian, or other

26 | person in charge of an animal.

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

30 | (2) 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) 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 a restrained dog that is outside

51 during a natural disaster commits a felony of the third degree,
52 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more
53 than \$10,000, or both.

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