

CHAPTER 2013-32

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 674

An act relating to animal shelters and animal control agencies; amending s. 823.15, F.S.; declaring legislative priorities relating to the importation and uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats; requiring that each public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane society or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision prepare and maintain specified records; specifying the information that must be included in the records; providing a maximum fee for copies of such records; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 823.15, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsections (2) and (3) are redesignated as subsections (3) and (4), respectively, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

823.15 Dogs and cats released from animal shelters or animal control agencies; sterilization requirement.—

(1) The Legislature has determined that the importation of dogs and cats into, and the uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats in, this state pose risks to the well-being of dogs and cats, the health of humans and animals, and the agricultural interests in this state. Importation of dogs and cats from outside the United States could result in the transmission of diseases that have been eradicated in the United States to dogs and cats, other animals, and humans living in this state. Uncontrolled breeding ~~The Legislature has determined that uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats in the state results in the birth production of many more puppies and kittens than are needed to provide pet animals to new owners or to replace pet animals that which have died or become lost or to provide pet animals for new owners.~~ This leads to many dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens being unwanted, becoming strays and suffering privation and death, being impounded and destroyed at great expense to the community, and constituting a public nuisance and public health hazard. It is therefore declared to be the public policy of the state that every feasible means be used to reduce the incidence of birth ~~of reducing the production of unneeded and unwanted puppies and kittens be encouraged.~~ Determining which programs result in improved adoption rates and in reduced euthanasia rates for animals in shelters and animal control agencies is crucial to this effort.

(2)(a) Each public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane organization or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision, shall prepare and maintain the following records and make them available for public inspection

and dissemination for the 3 preceding years. The following data will be available on a monthly basis commencing July 31, 2013:

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

- a. Surrendered by owner;
- b. Stray;
- c. Impounded;
- d. Confiscated;
- e. Transferred from within Florida;
- f. Transferred into or imported from out of the state; and
- g. Born in shelter.

Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should be recorded as "other."

2. The disposition of all animals taken in by a public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane society or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision, divided into species. These data must include dispositions by:

- a. Adoption;
- b. Reclamation by owner;
- c. Death in kennel;
- d. Euthanasia at the owner's request;
- e. Transfer to another public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane society or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision;
- f. Euthanasia;
- g. Released in field/Trapped, Neutered, Released (TNR);
- h. Lost in care/missing animals or records; and
- i. Ending inventory/shelter count at end of the last day of the month.

3. A public or private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane society, or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision which routinely euthanizes dogs based on size or breed alone must provide a written statement of such policy.

Dogs euthanized due to breed, temperament, or size must be recorded and included in the calculation of the total euthanasia percentage.

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

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

Approved by the Governor April 24, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 24, 2013.