

By Senator Fasano

11-00516-11

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to police dogs; requiring law  
3           enforcement agencies to provide specified veterinary  
4           services, including cremation services, for police  
5           dogs that have retired from the agency's service;  
6           defining terms; providing an effective date.

7  
8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. Retired police dogs; veterinary services.-

11           (1) Each law enforcement agency shall provide all police  
12 dogs retired from the agency's service with veterinary care for  
13 the remainder of the dog's life. This requirement is effective  
14 upon the transfer of ownership of the dog from the law  
15 enforcement agency to the former handler or adopter of the dog.

16           (2) As used in this section, the term:

17           (a) "Law enforcement agency" means a state agency or  
18 political subdivision having primary responsibility for the  
19 prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of the  
20 penal, traffic, game, regulatory, or highway laws of this state  
21 if its agents and officers are empowered by law to conduct  
22 criminal investigations and make arrests.

23           (b) "Police dog" means any dog that is owned, or the  
24 service of which is employed, by a law enforcement agency for  
25 the principal purpose of aiding in:

26           1. The detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws,  
27 or apprehension of offenders; or

28           2. The detection of missing persons, including, but not  
29 limited to, persons who are lost; who are trapped under debris

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30 as the result of a natural, manmade, or technological disaster;  
31 or who are drowning victims.

32 (c) "Veterinary care" means annual wellness examinations,  
33 vaccines, internal and external parasite prevention, testing and  
34 treatment for illnesses and diseases, medication, emergency care  
35 and surgeries, and euthanasia, if each such service is provided  
36 by a licensed veterinarian or a specialist referred by a  
37 licensed veterinarian. The term also includes cremation  
38 services.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.