

HB 871

2013

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

14  
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
17 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 823.15, Florida  
18 Statutes, is amended, present subsections (2) and (3) are  
19 redesignated as subsections (3) and (4), respectively, and a new  
20 subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

21 823.15 Dogs and cats released from animal shelters or  
22 animal control agencies; sterilization requirement.—

23 (1) The Legislature has determined that the importation of  
24 dogs and cats into, and the uncontrolled breeding of dogs and  
25 cats in, this state pose risks to the well-being of dogs and  
26 cats, the health of humans and animals, and the agricultural  
27 interests in this state. Importation of dogs and cats from  
28 outside the United States could result in the transmission of

29 diseases that have been eradicated in the United States to dogs  
 30 and cats, other animals, and humans living in this state.  
 31 Uncontrolled breeding ~~The Legislature has determined that~~  
 32 ~~uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats in the state results in~~  
 33 the birth production of many more puppies and kittens than are  
 34 needed to provide pet animals to new owners or to replace pet  
 35 animals that ~~which~~ have died or become lost ~~or to provide pet~~  
 36 ~~animals for new owners.~~ This leads to many dogs, cats, puppies,  
 37 and kittens being unwanted, becoming strays and suffering  
 38 privation and death, being impounded and destroyed at great  
 39 expense to the community, and constituting a public nuisance and  
 40 public health hazard. It is therefore declared to be the public  
 41 policy of the state that every feasible means be used to reduce  
 42 the incidence of birth ~~of reducing the production~~ of unneeded  
 43 and unwanted puppies and kittens ~~be encouraged.~~ Determining  
 44 which programs result in improved adoption rates and in reduced  
 45 euthanasia rates for animals in shelters and animal control  
 46 agencies is crucial to this effort.

47 (2) (a) Each public or private animal shelter, humane  
 48 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane  
 49 organization that accepts taxpayer dollars, or by a county,  
 50 municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision, shall  
 51 prepare and maintain the following records and make them  
 52 available for public inspection and dissemination for the 3  
 53 preceding years:

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

- 57 | a. Surrendered by owner;
- 58 | b. Stray;
- 59 | c. Impounded;
- 60 | d. Confiscated; and
- 61 | e. Imported into the state.

62 |

63 | Feral cats shall be recorded as a separate category from other

64 | cats. Species other than domestic cats and domestic dogs should

65 | be recorded as "other."

66 | 2. The disposition of all animals taken in by a public or

67 | private animal shelter, humane organization, or animal control

68 | agency operated by a humane society that accepts taxpayer

69 | dollars, or by a county, municipality, or other incorporated

70 | political subdivision, divided into species. These data must

71 | include dispositions by:

- 72 | a. Adoption;
- 73 | b. Reclamation by owner;
- 74 | c. Death in kennel;
- 75 | d. Destruction at the owner's request;
- 76 | e. Transfer to another public or private animal shelter,
- 77 | humane organization, or animal control agency operated by a
- 78 | humane society that accepts taxpayer dollars or by a county,
- 79 | municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision; and
- 80 | f. Euthanasia.

81 | 3. A public or private animal shelter, humane

82 | organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane

83 | society that accepts taxpayer dollars, or by a county,

84 | municipality, or other incorporated political subdivision which

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85 routinely euthanizes dogs based on size or breed alone must  
86 provide a written statement of such policy. Dogs euthanized due  
87 to breed, temperament, or size must be recorded and included in  
88 the calculation of the total euthanasia percentage.

89 (b) Records of a public animal shelter, humane  
90 organization, or animal control agency operated by a humane  
91 society that accepts taxpayer dollars must be made available to  
92 the public for a cost that does not exceed \$1 per one-sided  
93 copy.

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