

By Senator Young

18-01647B-17

20171270__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to compensatory damages for injury or
3 death of a pet; providing a definition; specifying
4 liability for compensatory damages for the injury or
5 death of a pet; providing applicability; providing an
6 effective date.

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

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10 Section 1. Liability for compensatory damages for injury or
11 death of pet.—

12 (1) As used in this section, the term “pet” means a
13 domesticated dog or cat normally maintained in or near the
14 household of its owner.

15 (2) In any action for the recovery of damages arising out
16 of the injury or death of a pet, the defendant is liable for:

17 (a) Monetary losses for reasonable and necessary veterinary
18 care of the pet due to the injury or death of the pet.

19 (b) Monetary loss in the fair market value of the pet due
20 to the injury or death of the pet.

21 (c) If the injury or death of the pet was caused by the
22 gross negligence of the defendant, noneconomic damages of up to
23 \$5,000 for the loss of the reasonably expected companionship,
24 love, and affection of the pet.

25 (3) Limits for noneconomic damages under paragraph (2) (c)
26 do not apply to causes of action for intentional infliction of
27 emotional distress or any other civil action other than the
28 direct and sole loss of a pet.

29 (4) This section does not apply to:

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30 (a) Any veterinarian licensed under chapter 474, Florida
31 Statutes.

32 (b) Any nonprofit entity or governmental agency or their
33 employees negligently causing the death of a pet while acting on
34 the behalf of public health or animal welfare.

35 (c) Any killing of a dog that is killing or worrying
36 livestock as defined in s. 588.13, Florida Statutes.

37 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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