

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Companion Animal Public-Private
 3 Partnership Act; providing legislative findings;
 4 providing definitions; prohibiting animal shelters
 5 from euthanizing animals under certain conditions;
 6 authorizing animal shelters to assess certain fees;
 7 providing exceptions; providing an 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. Companion Animal Public-Private Partnership
 12 Act.—

13 (1) The Legislature finds that public-private partnerships
 14 between local government shelters, private shelters, and
 15 nonprofit organizations provide millions of dollars in cost
 16 savings to local governments in other states that have
 17 implemented such partnerships and that such partnerships reduce
 18 the costs associated with holding and euthanizing animals to
 19 taxpayers by transferring such costs from public agencies to
 20 private organizations, generate revenue for local governments
 21 through adoption fees, and reduce the number of animals
 22 euthanized.

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

24 (a) "Animal shelter" means a public or private facility
 25 that:

26 1. Has a physical structure that provides temporary or
27 permanent shelter for stray, abandoned, abused, or owner-
28 surrendered animals.

29 2. Is operated, owned, or maintained by a society for the
30 prevention of cruelty to animals, humane society, pound, animal
31 control officer, government entity, or contractor for a
32 government entity.

33 (b) "Irremediable suffering" means a poor or grave
34 prognosis for being able to live without severe, unremitting
35 physical pain, even with comprehensive, prompt, and necessary
36 veterinary care, as certified in writing by a licensed
37 veterinarian.

38 (c) "Licensed veterinarian" means a person licensed to
39 practice veterinary medicine in this state.

40 (d) "Rescue organization" means an animal rescue
41 organization, animal adoption organization, or organization
42 formed for the prevention of cruelty to animals that is
43 described in s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and
44 exempt from taxation under s. 501(a) of the Internal Revenue
45 Code.

46 (3) An animal shelter may not euthanize an animal if a
47 rescue organization has indicated it will take custody of the
48 animal. In addition to any required spay or neuter deposit, an
49 animal shelter may assess a fee, not to exceed the standard
50 adoption fee, for an animal released to a rescue organization.

51 (4) This section does not apply to:
52 (a) An animal suspected of carrying and exhibiting signs
53 of rabies, as determined by a licensed veterinarian.
54 (b) A dog classified as dangerous pursuant to s. 767.12,
55 Florida Statutes.
56 (c) An animal experiencing irremediable suffering.
57 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.