



FACA Policy Statement

Dangerous or Vicious Animals

1) Dangerous Dogs

Dangerous dogs are an increasingly serious and widespread threat to the safety and welfare of people and other domestic animals.

A dangerous dog should be so classified because of its aggressive behavior and not because of its breed. When a dog is classified as "dangerous" by the appropriate authority, as required by FL Statutes, Chapter 767.10 - 16, certain precautions are required to insure the welfare and safety of the community. This statute details specific actions required of the dog owner. Animal control authorities must ensure that all required actions are followed by the owner in accordance with this law. Appropriate follow-up is required and all cases should be well documented with carefully maintained written reports.

FACA recommends the publication or dissemination to the public of information on dogs designated as dangerous, to include such information as location, description, photograph, etc.

In order to enforce Chapter 767.10-15, FACA urges each county to permanently identify dogs that have been classified as "dangerous", by mandating the implantation of a microchip.

As an added form of identification, FACA recommends that each dog classified as "dangerous" be required to wear a large reflective identification tag using fluorescent coloring. The word "Dangerous" should be boldly imprinted on the tag to be clearly read from a safe distance. The telephone number of the animal control or protection authority should be included on this tag.

In addition, FACA recommends that all dogs declared "dangerous" be surgically sterilized.

2) Other Dangerous Animals

There are other animals that may pose a serious public safety risk, and should be defined and dealt with by local ordinance.

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