



## FACA Policy Statement

### Adoptions

The Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) strongly believes that every animal control and protection agency should maintain an effective adoption program in an effort to responsibly place adoptable animals into caring homes.

The goal of an effective adoption program is to place animals in an appropriate home and to educate pet owners at the time of adoption. Animal control and protection agencies and shelters should have the right to refuse animal adoptions based on predetermined criteria. Animals are best served by an open adoption process. Conversations, without judgement, with potential adopters go a long way towards understanding the potential adoptive home.

Animal control and protection agencies are encouraged to offer adoption specials and promotions regularly to include reduced or fee waived adoptions to generate interest within the community.

Animal control and protection agencies are encouraged to participate in offsite events to increase exposure for pets to potential adopters who may not visit an animal organization. Offsite venues make adoptable pets available to a wider range of people looking to acquire a new pet. In addition to offering offsite adoptions, community outreach should be part of the effort to save more lives. Messaging should be focused on saving lives without compromising public safety.

Florida state law requires that “provision shall be made for the sterilization of all dogs and cats sold or released for adoption from any public or private animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a humane society or by a county, city, or other incorporated political subdivision” (FL Statutes, Chapter 823.15).

State Law requires that a shelter have a sterilization program for all animals adopted from the facility. FACA supports sterilizing animals prior to relinquishing custody to the new owner. In the event that an animal isn't sterilized prior to relinquishment, animal control and protection agencies should enter into an enforceable written agreement and require a sufficient, refundable deposit, pursuant 823.15 (b).

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