



## FACA Policy Statement

### Animal Holding Periods

The Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) recognizes that community needs, and resources will vary greatly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, therefore FACA recommends that animal holding periods be strongly considered and defined in local ordinance. In accordance with Florida State Statute 828.05, exceptions to the holding period should be made when an animal is so severely injured, sick, or diseased that euthanasia is the humane choice.

FACA acknowledges that reclaim rates for cats is very low, typically less than 2%, and consideration must be given about whether it is best to make these animals available for adoption, return to field/home after spay/neuter and vaccination, or to hold only those cats that are properly identified. Each organization has to make decisions they believe to be in the best interest of the animals and the community they serve.

FACA acknowledges there are many factors that play a role in establishing any holding period requirement including the size of the facility, staffing resources, disease issues, capacity for care, length of stay, etc. FACA contends that a minimum three full day holding period for dogs is appropriate with consideration to hold identified cats and dogs longer if possible. Consideration should be given to allow shelter staff to develop programs to minimize shelter overcrowding and maximize live release rates.

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