



FACA Policy Statement

Cruelty to Animals

The Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) advocates the humane treatment and the advancement of animal welfare in Florida. Historically, cruelty investigation, prevention, and prosecution have been shared jointly by animal control, animal protection, and law enforcement agencies. Cooperation among these groups will best provide for the protection of animals and the successful prosecution of these cases.

Animal control agencies should be empowered to issue citations for cruelty violations and should include cruelty investigations as part of their regular activities. FACA recommends animal control and protection personnel are trained to identify animal cruelty or neglect and receive ongoing cruelty investigations training to ensure the safety of the animals.

The legal standards for the definition and investigation of cruelty are outlined in FL Statutes Chapter 828.073, 828.03, 828.12, 828.13, and 828.27.

FACA encourages animal protection and control agencies to enact ordinances to ensure all animals are protected against unnecessary suffering, receive appropriate care, and are afforded the Five Freedoms of care provided by the Farm Animal Welfare Council:

- **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst**
By ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor.
- **Freedom from Discomfort**
By providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease**
By prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to Express Normal Behavior**
By providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- **Freedom from Fear and Distress**
By ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

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