



FACA Policy Statement

Dangerous Dogs

Dangerous dogs threaten the safety and welfare of people and other domestic animals in communities across Florida. In response to this threat, the Florida legislature adopted Florida Statute, 767.10-16, Dangerous Dogs. The purpose of the state law was to give animal control organizations the ability and authority to implement requirements for maintaining a dog that is classified as dangerous.

A dog should be classified as dangerous after a proper investigation has been conducted by the appropriate authority and it has been determined the dog meets one or more definitions of a dangerous dog as outlined in Florida Statute, 767.10. All procedures for classification as outlined in this statute must be followed to ensure credibility to the investigative and classification process as well as due process to the owner. The breed of the dog should not be a consideration in whether to deem a dog dangerous. When a dog is classified as “dangerous” by the appropriate authority, and if not contested by the owner and/or all pending hearings have been settled and the classification is upheld, the owner must meet certain requirements in order to maintain a dangerous dog in Florida as required by Statutes, Chapter 767.10 – 16. Animal control authorities must ensure that all requirements are met by the animal control authority should set in place certain measures to help ensure continued compliance with requirements associated with the safe and humane keeping of a dangerous dog.

The Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) urges each county to permanently identify dogs that have been classified as “dangerous”, by mandating the implantation of a microchip rather than by means of a tattoo as allowed in the statute.

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 upon final determination of the dangerous dog classification.

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