



FACA Policy Statement

Injured / Sick Domestic Animals

Given the increasing human and animal population densities in our state, injuries to animals will continue to be a problem. Animal control and protection agencies may be asked to rescue injured animals.

The Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) believes that rescuing injured animal legitimately fall within the range of animal control and protection activities, but these may be undertaken in cooperation with any other local organizations capable of providing similar services.

All reasonable efforts should be made to contact the owner of any injured domestic animal to determine a course of action and financial liability. The disposition of domestic animals should be left to the discretion of the officer or supervisor involved with the rescue, only if an unsuccessful but concerted effort to locate the owner, the owner's agent, or a veterinarian has occurred as outlined by FL Statutes, Chapter 828.05. If the officer is only able to locate a veterinarian, the animal may only be euthanized at the recommendation of that veterinarian.

An animal should not be allowed to suffer and when delays seem inevitable, the animal should be provided with immediate veterinary evaluation and treatment to include pain management and stabilization unless the attending veterinarian recommends euthanasia in accordance with FL Statute, 828.05. FACA believes that individual animal control and protection agencies should anticipate the needs associated with injured, sick, and stray animal care and include the cost of such in their budgets. FACA also believes that animal shelters have a legal obligation to render veterinary care as needed and appropriate to prevent suffering. Animal shelters and personnel may be subject to the provisions of the animal cruelty statute, 828.12 and the confinement statute, 828.13 for failing to provide appropriate care.

Domestic animals that are not imminently near death should be examined and treated by a licensed veterinarian and reasonable efforts to rehabilitate and rehome the animal should be made. Shelters are encouraged to work collaboratively, solicit grants, and donations to help ensure resources are available to provide necessary veterinary care.

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