



FACA Policy Statement

Leash/Restraint Laws

Unsterilized free-roaming cats and dogs are the primary cause of pet overpopulation. There is no good justification for allowing pets to roam. Free-roaming animals are a potential threat to the health and safety of the public, a danger to domestic animals and wildlife, and a leading source of complaints to government officials.

Free-roaming animals are responsible for causing injury from bites; attacking domestic animals, livestock, and wildlife; destroying property; and contributing to the cause of automobile accidents. Additionally, free-roaming animals are exposed to such hazards as disease from other animals, injury from traffic, injury from other animals, retaliation by irate property owners, etc.

Because these problems are the result of irresponsible people who fail to exercise proper control over their animals, animal control and protection officers should exercise local or state powers to issue citations for violations whenever possible.

The Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) believes that restraint provisions should require that dogs, unsterilized cats, and owned cats be kept under direct control when off the owner's property. FACA supports local regulations designed to foster responsible pet ownership by requiring owners, caregivers, or custodians' to properly dispose of their pet's waste.

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