



# OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICES: ANIMAL CONTROL

ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

## Mission Statement

To improve animal and human well-being through education, prevention, and enforcement programs and humane animal care and control services for the citizens and animals of Leon County.

## Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

### Quality of Life

- Focused on efforts to increase the community's live release rate of animals who have been sheltered, Leon County has partnered with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the Leon County Humane Society, Be The Solution, and the Tallahassee/Leon Community Animal Service Center, which is funded in part by Leon County.
- Distributed 427 free spay and neuter vouchers provided by the Animal Shelter Foundation and the ASPCA Partnership member, "Be The Solution."
- Participated in ASPCA's "ID ME" program by providing identification tags and collars for adopted and unclaimed animals.
- Participated in ASPCA's Microchip Scanner Program.

## Contact Us

(850) 606-5400  
[www.leoncountyfl.gov/animal](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/animal)

## PROTECTING LEON COUNTY'S ANIMALS & CITIZENS

- Leon County continues to work with residents to improve local animal control laws. Amendments implemented include allowing mediation between neighbors for dangerous dog cases prior to the issue escalating, discontinuing the counting of scratches as bites, and conforming to changes that had been made in Florida Law. Residents and County government continue to collaborate on tethering dog and feral cat issues.
- In order to continuously provide safety and well-being of both citizens and domestic animals, Animal Control staff has:
  - » Educated over 4,500 residents (children and adults) on pet care, animal safety, and bite prevention through presentations to student and community organizations (a 50% increase from last year).
  - » Educated pet owners about requirements of the Leon County Animal Ordinance, provided loaner doghouses so owners did not give up their pet for the lack of proper shelter, and informed owners of precautions that should be taken to prevent pets from overheating and suffering from heat stroke.
  - » Participated in the ASPCA Partnership Mega Match-A-Thon to help get 160 pets adopted into their loving "forever" homes.
  - » Increased public awareness regarding potential rabies outbreaks.
- Animal Control staff is committed to decreasing the number of animal bites. During the year, staff:
  - » Handled over 8,979 service requests resulting from 11,484 phone calls.
  - » Responded to 432 reported animal cruelty complaints and investigated 15 dangerous or aggressive animal petitions.
  - » Handled 560 animal bite exposure cases for the state-mandated County Animal Rabies Program.
- In times of emergencies, Leon County is committed to ensuring the safety of both human and animal well-being. This commitment was demonstrated this year by participating in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program, which tested the capabilities and use of emergency animal shelter equipment. The demonstration served as an example to the State of Florida on the best practices for the care of animals during emergency events. Animal Control also partners with Leon County's Division of Volunteer Services and Community Organizations Active in Disaster to bring together community agencies to address hurricane preparedness and resources.
- Animal Control continues to establish its presence in the community by participating in events where residents can gather information on pet care, animal safety, and bite prevention.

