



# 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 that have been sheltered, and to promote the importance of spaying and neutering pets, in partnership with the Leon County Humane Society, Be the Solution, and the Tallahassee/Leon County Animal Service Center, which is funded in part by Leon County.
- Distributed 300 free spay-neuter vouchers to the unincorporated areas of Leon County, provided by the Animal Shelter Foundation. Additionally, distributed low-cost spay-neuter vouchers provided by Be the Solution.
- Participated in the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' (ASPCA's) program by providing identification tags and collars for adopted and unclaimed animals.
- Participated in ASPCA's Microchip Scanner program.

## 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, and conforming to changes that had been made in Florida Law.
- In order to continuously provide for the safety and well-being of both citizens and domestic animals, Animal Control staff has:
  - » Provided Bite Prevention classes to 1st and 4th grade students throughout the local school district.
  - » Educated residents about responsible pet care, animal safety, bite prevention and related matters by participating in outreach events such as "Peace in the Park," "Touch-a-Truck," "Camp Barkley," and the "Leon County Senior Outreach Lunch and Learn Series."
  - » Educated pet owners about requirements of the Leon County Animal Ordinance and provided loaner doghouses so owners did not give up their pet for the lack of proper care and shelter.
  - » Provided collar identification tags and collars to ensure lost pets were returned home.
  - » Hosted a nationally recognized animal cruelty training program resulting in the participation of over 25 individuals from six states.



*Dog Bite Prevention Class*

- Animal Control staff is committed to humane animal care. During the year, staff:
  - » Fielded over 11,200 phone calls resulting in over 4,100 service requests and over 9,100 Animal Control Officer activities.
  - » Responded to 572 reported animal welfare-related complaints and investigated 14 dangerous or aggressive animal petitions.
  - » Handled over 550 animal bite exposures cases ensuring a high level of public health.
- Leon County invited the community to celebrate responsible pet use throughout local parks by hosting "For the Love of Pets and Parks." Animal service organizations offered education and awareness services and Leon County staff members answered questions about the Miccosukee Greenway, the County's park system, and humane animal care and control services.



### Did You Know

There are ride-along opportunities to learn first-hand how the division enforces animal control laws and provides services.

## Contact Us

(850) 606-5400  
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Animal