



PEOPLE FOCUSED

Animal Control provides humane animal care and control services for the citizens and animals of Leon County through education, prevention and enforcement. The division enforces state and local ordinances concerning stray animals, rabies control, animal cruelty, and dangerous animals.

Through its partnerships in the community, Leon County contracts with St. Francis Wildlife Association for wildlife rescue and nuisance control services. The County also partners with the City of Tallahassee by providing funding in support of the Animal Control Shelter, which is operated by the City.

The Animal Control Director, Richard Ziegler, has served the County since 2001 and leads a dedicated group of professionals who provide safety and well being of both citizens and domestic animals of Leon County. Ziegler is a member, past president, and board member for the Florida Animal Control Association and Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team.



Richard Ziegler

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PERFORMANCE DRIVEN

PROTECTING LEON COUNTY'S ANIMALS & CITIZENS

- This past year, Leon County had several community meetings with residents in order to work together to amend the County ordinance on animal control. The collaboration effort resulted in providing clarification in a number of areas thereby reducing confusion for citizens and pet-owners.
- In order to continuously provide safety and well being of both citizens and domestic animals of the community:
 - » Educated more than 3,000 residents (children and adults) on pet care, animal safety, and bite prevention through student and community organizations.
 - » Reached out to pet owners during the summer months to inform them of the dangers of heat exposure and the precautions that should be taken to avoid pets from having heatstroke.
 - » Responded to 394 reported animal cruelty complaints and investigated 18 dangerous or aggressive animal petitions – a 25% percent decrease from the previous year.
 - » Distributed 185 free spay and neuter vouchers, provided by the Animal Shelter Foundation, which ultimately help reduce the pet over-population and unwanted litters turned into the animal shelter.
- Animal Control staff is committed to decreasing the number of animal bites through regular community educational presentations to students and community organizations.
 - » Handled 600 animal bite exposure cases, within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County, for the state-mandated County Animal Rabies Program.
 - » Increased public awareness regarding potential rabies outbreaks.



Did You Know

Hannah, the County's four-legged representative, was previously honored by the Leon County Humane Society with the distinguished Purple Paw Award for her participation in the County's Animal Bite Prevention 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 exhibiting the Emergency Mobile Animal Shelter unit at Florida's State Agriculture Response Team Training Conference in Kissimmee, Florida. 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 the Division of Volunteer Services and Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) 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.

