

1 animals and to place for adoption. “Animal rescue organization” does not include any entity that breeds
2 animals or that (1) is located on the same premises as an entity that breeds animals: (2) has any
3 personnel in common with an entity that breeds animals: (3) obtains, in exchange for payment or any
4 other form of compensation, dogs or cats from an entity that breeds animals: or (4) facilitates the sale
5 of dogs or cats obtained from a person that breeds animals.

6
7 *Animal Shelter.* means any facility designated by the county for the purpose of housing and caring for
8 animals held under the authority of this article or state law means a facility, whether located in or
9 outside the state of Florida. That is operated by or under contract with a county or other municipal
10 government for the purpose of impounding or caring for seized, stray, homeless, abandoned, unwanted,
11 or surrendered animals.

12
13 *Retail pet store* means a commercial establishment that sells or offers for sale animals on its premises
14 at retail

15
16 *Sell or offer for sale* means to display for sale or to exchange for consideration, adopt out, barter,
17 auction, trade, lease, or otherwise transfer.

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19
20 (B). Section 4-47 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as
21 follows:

22
23 Sec. 4-47.- “Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits offered for Sale; Health Requirements.”

- 24
25 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to offer for sale or sell any dog, cat, puppy or kitten without
26 first obtaining an official certificate of veterinary inspection pursuant to F.S. § 828.29. Dogs,
27 cats, puppies or kittens offered for sale must be at least eight weeks old, free of internal and
28 external parasites, and have proper vaccines and anthelmintics pursuant to F.S. § 828.29, as
29 may be amended from time to time.
30
31 (b) The official certificate of veterinary inspection shall document that all inoculations, tests and
32 treatments required by F.S. § 828.29 have been administered. Appropriate treatment for all
33 positive findings must be documented.
34
35 (c) The veterinarian shall date the official certificate of veterinary inspection upon the actual
36 examination and administration of the inoculations and/or treatments. The sale of all dogs and
37 cats must take place no more than 30 days after the official certificate of veterinary inspection
38 has been issued. If a dog or cat is not sold within 30 days of the issuance of the official
39 certificate of veterinary inspection, then a new examination and inspection certificate must be
40 obtained.
41
42 (d) No person shall display, give away, or offer for sale any live animal on private property
43 without consent of the owner.
44

1 (e) No person shall display, give away, or offer for sale any living animal on public land, rights-
2 of-way, or easements except in areas that have been authorized and permitted by the county
3 for such use.

4
5 (f) The division of animal control, animal rescue organizations and animal shelters ~~city-operated~~
6 ~~animal control agencies and registered nonprofit humane organizations~~ shall be exempt from
7 the provisions of this section. However, animal rescue organizations ~~registered nonprofit~~
8 ~~humane organizations~~ may be required to provide health records upon request.

9
10 (g) Retail Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits Prohibited:

11 (1) It shall be a violation of this Section for a retail pet store, as defined in Section 4-26,
12 to sell or offer for sale a dog, cat, or rabbit.

13
14 (2) Exemptions – This section does not apply to:

15
16 a. A person that sells or offers to sell only those animals that the person bred and
17 raised on their premises.

18
19 b. An Animal Shelter as defined in Section 4-26.

20
21 c. An Animal Rescue Organization as defined in Section 4-26.

22
23 d. An Animal Shelter or Animal Rescue Organization that operates out of or in
24 connection with a pet store.

25
26 e. A veterinary hospital operated by a licensed veterinarian who is providing
27 temporary treatment and care for a stray or unwanted dog, cat, or rabbit.

28
29
30 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a retail pet store from providing
31 space to an animal rescue organization or an animal shelter, as defined in section 4-26,
32 to publicly showcase dogs, cats, or rabbits available for adoption; provided that the host
33 pet store shall not have an ownership interest in any animal offered for adoption, nor
34 shall such store receive a fee for providing such space.

35
36 (4) Penalties:

37
38 a. A retail pet store that sells or offers for sale a dog, cat, or rabbit in violation
39 of subsection 1 shall be fined by a sum of \$500. Each sale or offer for sale in
40 violation of subsection 1 shall constitute a separate offense.

41
42 b. A retail pet store that provides space in violation of subsection (3) of this
43 section shall be fined by a sum of \$500. Each provision of space in violation of
44 subsection (3) shall constitute a separate offense.

45
46

1 **Section 2. Conflicts.**

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3 All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby
4 repealed to the extent of such conflict, except to the extent of any conflicts with the Tallahassee-Leon
5 County 2030 Comprehensive Plan as amended, which provisions shall prevail over any parts of this
6 ordinance which are inconsistent, either in whole or in part, with the said Comprehensive Plan.
7

8 **Section 3. Severability.**

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10 If any word, phrase, clause, section, or portion of this ordinance is declared by any court of
11 competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and
12 portions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.
13

14 **Section 4. Applicability.**

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16 This ordinance shall apply to and be effective in the unincorporated area of Leon County.
17

18 **Section 5. Effective Date.**

19
20 This ordinance shall take effect April 1, 2025.

21 DONE, ADOPTED AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County,
22 Florida, this 28th day of January, 2025.
23

24 LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

25
26
27 By: _____
28 Brian Welch, Chair
29 Board of County Commissioners
30

31 ATTESTED BY:
32 Gwendolyn Marshall Knight, Clerk of
33 Court & Comptroller, Leon County, Florida
34

35
36 By: _____
37

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39 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
40 Chasity H. O’Steen, County Attorney
41 Leon County Attorney’s Office
42

43
44 By: _____