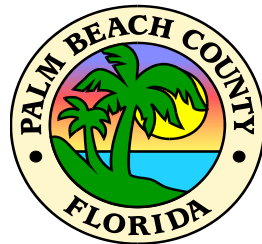


The Animal Control Perspective

Brought to you by:



**Florida Animal
Control Association**



**Palm Beach County
Public Safety Department
Animal Care and Control Division**

The mission of the Florida Animal Control Association is:

- To improve the **methods and standards** of the animal control and protection profession throughout Florida,
- To inform the public of the true nature and importance of the work performed by animal control and protection organizations,
- To cooperate with the other public agencies dealing in animal control and protection,
- To **promote** local and state animal related regulations and **laws**,
- To provide assistance to local animal control and protection organizations,
- To assist state agencies and local animal control and protection organizations in disaster planning and post-disaster operations, and
- To promote justice and equity in the enforcement of animal control and protection laws.

- **FACA Certification Courses**
 - Animal Control Officer (FSS 828.27)
 - Chemical Immobilization (FSS 828.27)
 - Euthanasia Technician (FSS 828.058)
- **Continuing Education Conferences**
- **Legislative Issues**
- **State Committees/Panels**
 - Rabies, SART, FAF, FFWCC

- 67 Counties in Florida, plus Tribal Lands
- Most have an Animal Control function
- Many cities have their own, most do not
- Some contract with Humane Society/SPCA
- Significant differences
 - in services provided
 - in available resources
 - in political approach

PBC Animal Care and Control

- Largest Animal Control Agency in the State
 - Based on:
 - Annual budget
 - Full Time Employees
 - Scope of services provided
 - NOT Based on:
 - Shelter Intake

Discussion Points

- Rabies Vaccination Certificates
 - Specifically the requirement to submit to the animal control authority (FSS 828.30)
 - Why is compliance important?
- Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI)
 - Specifically why good animal description/documentation is important (FSS 828.29)
 - Not all clients have honorable intentions
- Reportable Disease vs. General Neglect/Other Issues
 - Specifically how a “reportable” disease concern can complicate an animal neglect case/cruelty investigation
 - Limited resources exist to manage either, but together can be an extreme challenge

FSS 828.30 - Rabies vaccinations of dogs, cats, and ferrets.

- “Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed veterinarian shall provide the animal’s owner and the animal control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate...”

Why do some Vet's not comply?

- Not all jurisdictions require compliance, as not all jurisdictions track this information.
- Some vet's feel they should be compensated for doing the extra work.
- Some vet's feel they are betraying their clients, by "turning them in" to the government.

Why is compliance important?

- Larger Counties have many animal bites reported.
- PBC alone routinely has 2200 – 2400 animal bites annually.
- PBC is funded for 1 position (desk job) to coordinate quarantine for all of them.
- This job is dramatically more efficient when the owner, the animal and the vaccine status is already on file.

Why is compliance important?

- When vaccine info not on file, ACO must be dispatched... often over and over again.
- Owner then given time to request their vet to fax records to us... most times should have been done months earlier.
- Enforcement comes with delicate balance of cooperation.

Why is compliance important?

- License Tag program generates much needed revenue.
 - PBC sells 123,000 tags annually.
 - This generates \$2.1 million in revenue.

(over 25% of our operating budget)

FSS 828.29 – Dogs and cats offered for sale; health requirements; consumer guarantee.

- A.K.A. “Pet Lemon Law”
- Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI’s)

- DOACS has lead role on oversight, but has limited resources.
- FSS requires vets and pet dealers to retain OCVI's for 1 year
- FSS gives the authority to inspect these records to the USDA, DOACS, any LEO, or any agent appointed under FSS 828.03 (ACO's)
- FSS gives the State Attorney authority to enjoin violators from being a "Pet Dealer"

Common violations uncovered

- Pet stores offering puppies for sale without a current OCVI.
- Pet stores requiring customers to sign away their rights afforded under the Statute.
- Pet stores requiring customers to use their own veterinarian and refusing to reimburse otherwise.
- Vet's signing off on "out of state" vaccines as if they were done in their own office.
- Vet's leaving blanks on the certificates

How is enforcement handled?

- For Pet Dealers... PBC put entire Statute in County Ordinance to enable the issuance of civil citations and ultimate permit denial, rather than as Criminal Violations. Then added stricter regulations.
- For Veterinarians... violations forwarded to DOACS, reviewed then forwarded off to DPBR

Major Case Profile

- “Bulldog Exchange” & “Bulldog Express”
 - 2007 Imported 400+ puppies from Hungary
 - 2008 Imported 600+ puppies from Hungary and Alabama
 - Web-based sales, elaborate scheme, misrepresented puppies
 - Used 2 residential locations in PBC
 - Way more puppy trafficking than we ever expected

Why did we get involved?

- Consumer complaints
- Media tenacity
- Loopholes in our own Ordinance

What did we find?

- Concerns that reached far beyond our jurisdiction and beyond our authority
- Extensive apparent violations with OCVI's
- SAO, DOACS, DPBR

Importation Concerns

- CDC/Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
 - Puppies were shipped to a “Customs Broker” and given “Confinement Orders”.
 - No way to prove if “Confinement Orders” were being passed to importer, but definitely were not being adhered to.
 - Final purchaser was not made aware of them.

Importation Concerns

- USDA
 - 2008 Farm Bill added to the Animal Welfare Act
 - Prohibits importation of puppies for the purpose of re-sale
 - Formal rule language still under review
 - Puppies can still be legally imported today for the purposes of resale

Fraud Concerns

- Local Sheriff's office & FBI
 - Fast food comparison
- Office of the Attorney General, Economic Crimes Unit
 - “Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act”
 - Selling puppies with known illnesses
 - Failure to disclose geographic origin of animals

Financial Concerns

- Internal Revenue Service
 - Federal Income Tax
- Florida Department of Revenue
 - State Sales Tax

Current resolution

- Shut him down locally through a Civil court agreement stemming from a separate issue
 - He will not own animals in PBC
 - He will not sell animals from PBC

Local resources for livestock vary

- Response for “At Large”
- Response for neglect

PBC Shelter Resources

- PBC Animal Control
 - 14 acres, including 6 stall barn and multiple paddocks
 - 5 Veterinarians on staff
 - Equine/Livestock Veterinarian specialists on contract
 - 14 Veterinary Assistants
 - 20 Animal Care Specialists

PBC Enforcement

- Local Ordinances
- FSS 828.073
 - Animals found in distress
 - When agent may take charge
 - Hearing

PBC Neglect

- Property tax breaks for agriculture
- Soremouth (*Contagious Ecthyma*) vs. *FMD*



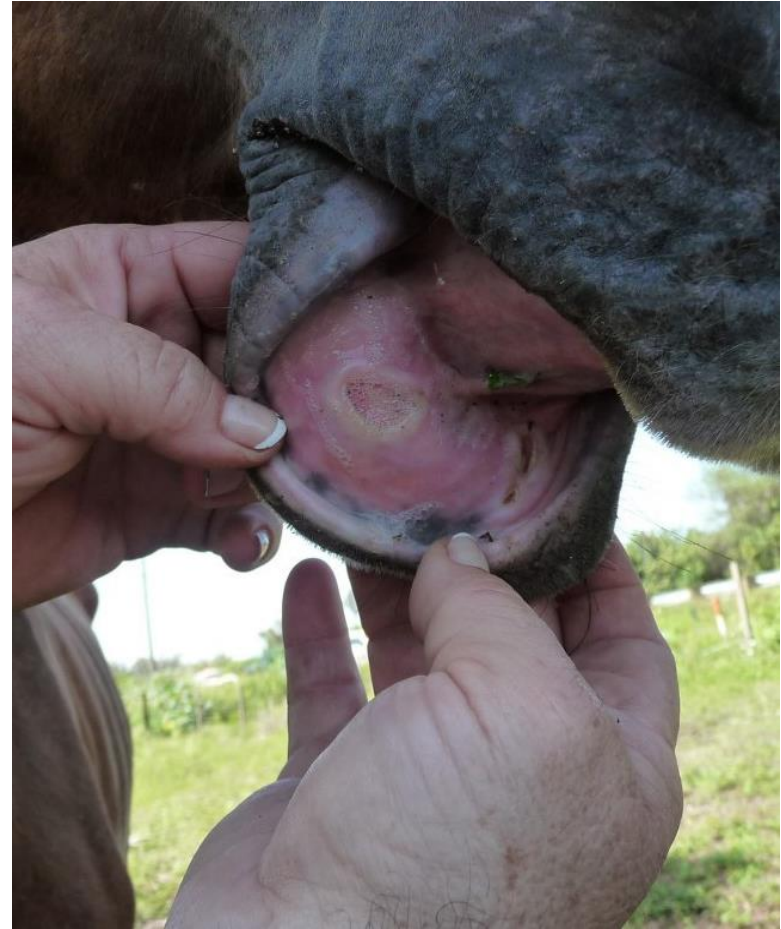
Abandoned property located 1 hour from our facility



Grave concerns for this specific animal



Vesicular Stomatitis?



Who's going to provide care or treatment in absence of Owner?





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