

# FLORIDA: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Co-hosted by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and  
The Humane Society of the United States

2 | 16 | 22

10:30AM–12:30PM ET



**ANIMAL LEGAL  
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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



# PRIORITY ISSUE:

Puppy Mills, Retail Pet Sales Bans and Preemption





# WHAT IS A PUPPY MILL?

A large-scale commercial breeding facility where dog are overbred to produce puppies for profit.

Dogs are generally kept in barren, unsanitary cages with poor nutrition, dirty water, no opportunity to socialize or exercise, and no access to veterinary care.

This is where the vast majority of “pet store puppies” come from.

# PUPPY MILL TO PET STORE PIPELINE

PUPPY MILL



BROKER

RETAIL PET STORE



CONSUMER



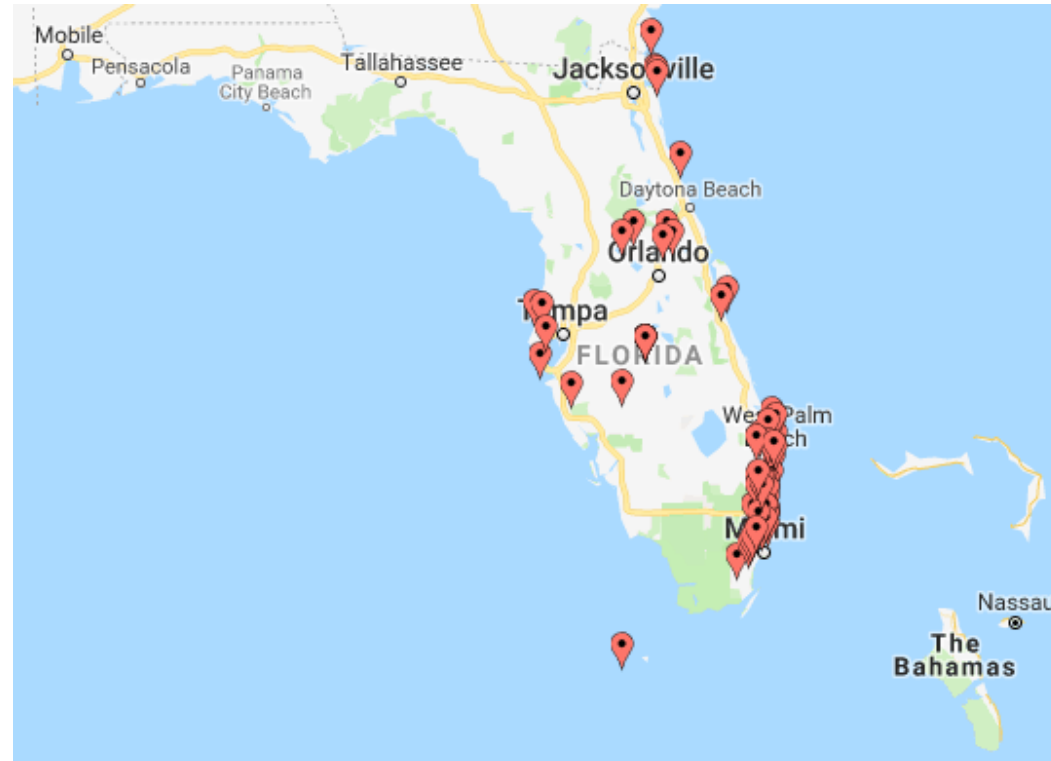
# LOCAL RETAIL PET SALES BANS

## Critical for Protecting Companion Animals

### Examples:

- Manatee County
- Orange County

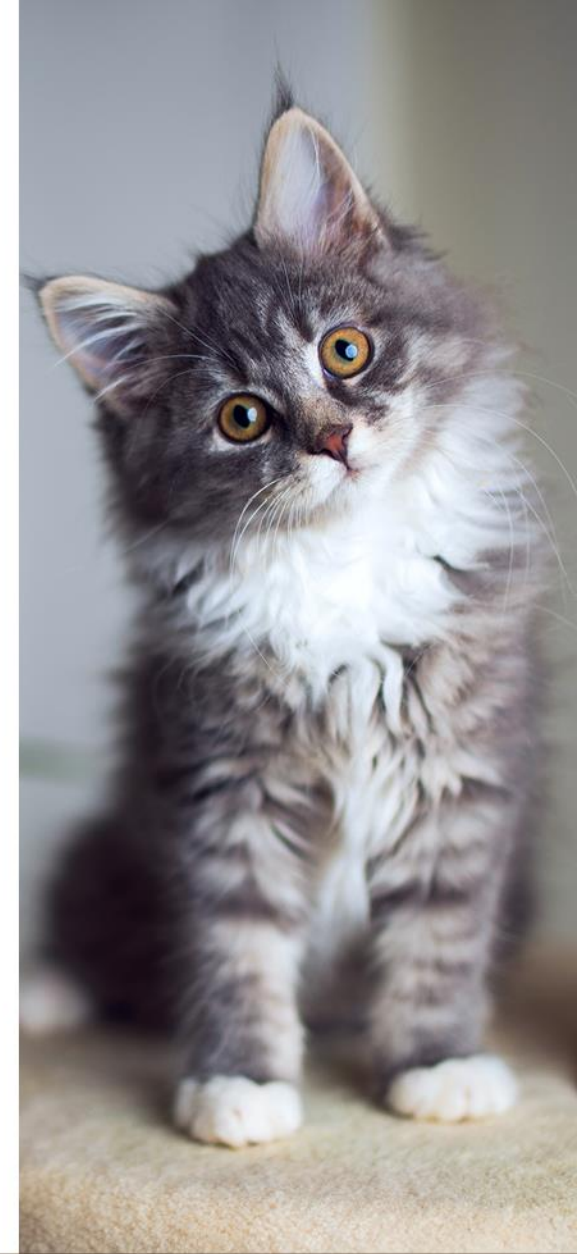
[www.humanesociety.org/pmlocalities](http://www.humanesociety.org/pmlocalities)



# SB 994/HB 849 PREEMPTS LOCAL RETAIL SALES BANS



- Sponsored by Senator Manny Diaz (R-36) and Representative Juan Fernandez-Barquin (R-119)
- Does NOT protect pets – misleading bill title
- Would preempt new local retail sales bans for cats and dogs as well as invalidate retail sales bans passed in Orange and Manatee Counties
- Would prohibit municipalities from enacting a prohibition on pet retail sales



# OTHER PREEMPTION BILLS WE OPPOSE

## **Local Business Protection Act: SB 620 Senator Travis Hutson/HB 569 Representative Lawrence McClure:**

If a municipality passed an ordinance that negatively affected a business and that business suffered a financial loss of 15% or greater, this bill would provide a path for that business to claim damages.

\*Ask: contact your house member and respectfully let them know this bill would be bad for animals, especially puppies!  
(more on this later)





# ANIMAL ABUSE BILL



Photo: Judy Long and Luli

## SB 420 Sen Jason Pizzo & HB 425 Rep Michael Grieco (champions), SUPPORT

- Makes bringing a minor to an animal fight a felony
- Increases sentencing guidelines for criminal convicted of animal fighting (still 3rd degree felony but provides for stiffer penalty)
- Makes the sexual abuse of an animal a felony! Currently it's only a misdemeanor in FL. This criminal act is obviously animal cruelty but is also the number one predictor for the sexual abuse of children.



# CARE FOR RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT DOGS



Photo: K9 Fang from 'K9s United' website

**SB 226 Senator Bobby Powell HB 25 Rep Sam Killebrew (Killebrew is champion), SUPPORT**

- Provide yearly fund to assist with care of retired law enforcement dogs
- Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs program is created to establish a stable funding source for the veterinary care of retired K9 officers
- Not to exceed \$1500 per year to cover veterinary expenses
- The department will contract with a non-profit to administer and manage the program



**Cosmetic Animal Testing**  
**SB 1718 Sen Lauren Book /**  
**HB 1270 Rep. Kristen**  
**Arrington: prohibits sale of**  
**cosmetics tested on animals,**  
**SUPPORT**

**Veterinary Telemedicine SB**  
**448 – Sen. Jason Brodeur /**  
**HB 723 Rep James**  
**Buchanan: Veterinary**  
**telehealth, SUPPORT**



# **S.B. 614/H.B. 721**

Breed neutral policies  
in public housing

Sponsored by Senator Ileana  
Garcia (R-37) and Representative  
James Buchanan (R-74)

Extends Florida's ban on  
breed specific policies to  
Public Housing Authorities.



# AUTHORIZATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON DANGEROUS DOGS



- **Best Friends leading this bill**
- Currently local municipalities cannot enact policies based on breed of dog and because HUD defines Public Housing Authorities as quasi-government entities, PHA's that adopt breed specific regulations are already operating outside of legislative intent
- Studies consistently show breed has no bearing on a dog's behavior or propensity to bite
- There is a growing awareness that BSL does not improve community safety and penalizes responsible dog owners and their family companions
- The [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) doesn't support BSL because they know a dog's breed has nothing to do with its propensity to bite or be aggressive. Focus should be on responsible pet ownership and spay/ neuter.

# **S.B. 198/H.B. 349**

## **Seagrass**

### **Mitigation Banks**

Sponsored by Senator Rodriguez  
and Representative Sirois

Would authorize the Florida  
Board of Trustees to create  
seagrass mitigation banks,  
making coastal development  
easier and putting manatees  
even further at risk.



# S.B. 172

## Courtroom Animal Advocate Program

Sponsored by Senator Jason Pizzo (D-38)

Would create a courtroom animal advocate program to allow volunteer attorneys to represent the interests of animals in criminal cases or civil proceedings to ensure that the interests of the animals are being considered.



# HB 6003

## Legal Rights of the Natural Environment

Sponsored by Representative Anna Eskamani

Prohibits preemption against 'rights of nature' ordinances and again empowers local governments to grant certain legal rights related to the natural environment.



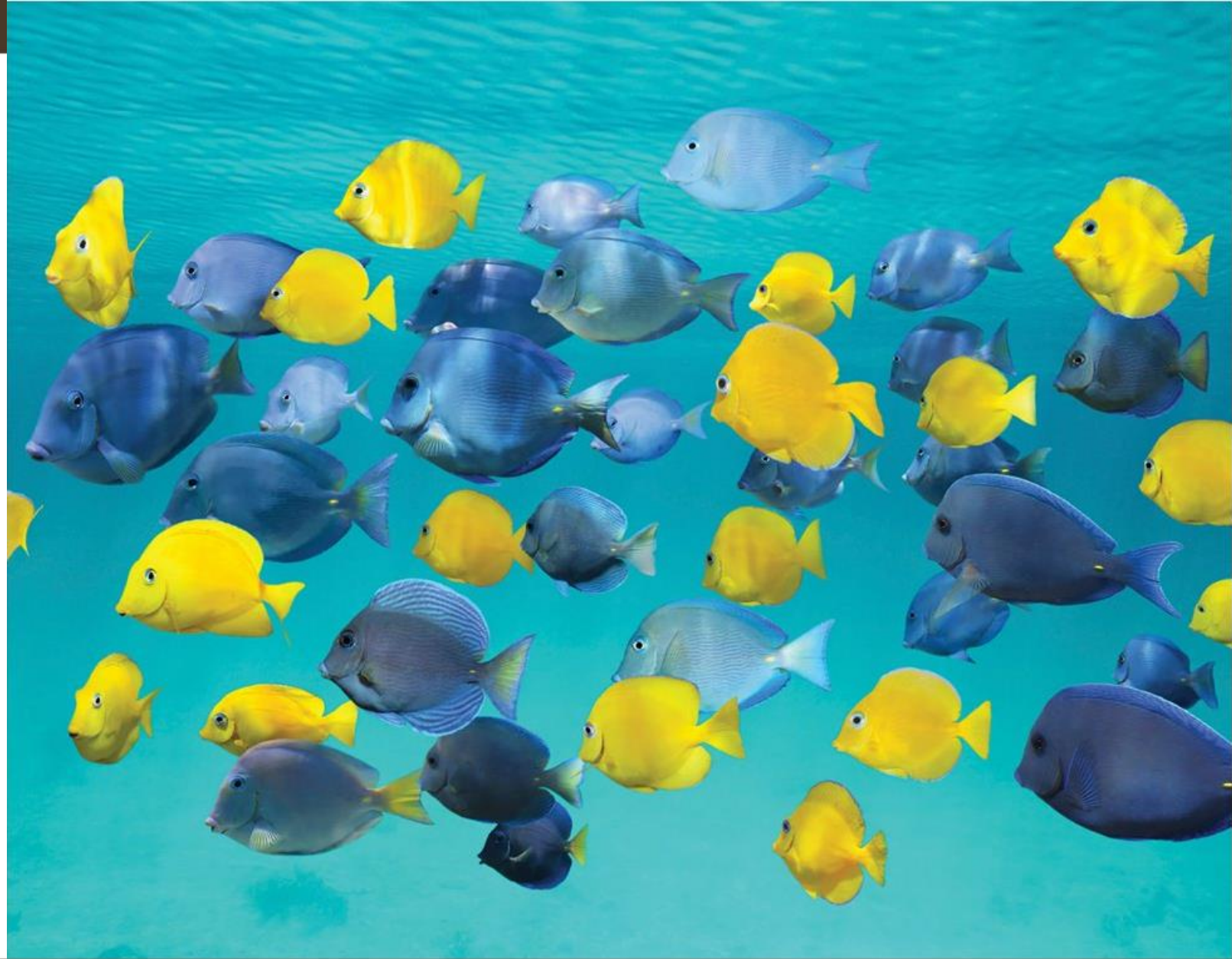


# S.B. 238/H.B. 711

## Threatened and Endangered Species

Sponsored by Senator Shervin Jones  
(D-35) and Representative Ben  
Diamond (D-68)

Would require Florida officials to  
continue to protect threatened  
and endangered species even if  
the federal government removes  
a species from its lists.



# SALE OF DOGS & CATS

## LEMON LAW



**SB 1750 Sen Tom Wright and HB 1061 Rep Linda Chaney (champions), SUPPORT**

- **Pet Lemon Law**
- **Background:** Consumers who purchase puppies and kittens from pet stores frequently report sick and dying puppies, deceptive sales tactics, misrepresented purchase agreements, and unfair financing
- Removes the option for pet stores to include a waiver of the consumer's right to return the pet for congenital or hereditary disorders
- Contract requires that both the consumer and the pet store sign copies of a written notice informing the consumer of their rights under this lemon law
- Pet store must disclose medical history to buyer
- This bill would give consumers the right to seek reimbursement for veterinary costs above the purchase cost of the animal
- If financing utilized, 3 day waiting period required

# H.B. 253

## Statewide Retail Pet Sales Bans

Sponsored by Representative Sam  
Killebrew (R-41)

Would prohibit pet stores  
from selling dogs and cats.  
A statewide solution that is  
similar to many of the local  
retail sales ordinances.



# FWC

- Heads up FWC is updating their rules on trapping in the months ahead and we will need your help!
- Stay tuned!
- We prevailed on great rule changes for nonnative reptiles just last year - advocacy does work!!!
- Next meetings: March 2 & 3 in Tampa; May 4 & 5 TBD; & July 13 & 14 TBD
- [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com)





# ANIMAL LAW SECTION

[flabaranimals.org](http://flabaranimals.org)

- Animal Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Urge you to join and get active
- You don't have to be a lawyer!\*
- The general purpose and objectives of the ALS are to promote the study and understanding of laws, regulations, and court decisions involving animals
- ALS can & does support/oppose legislation



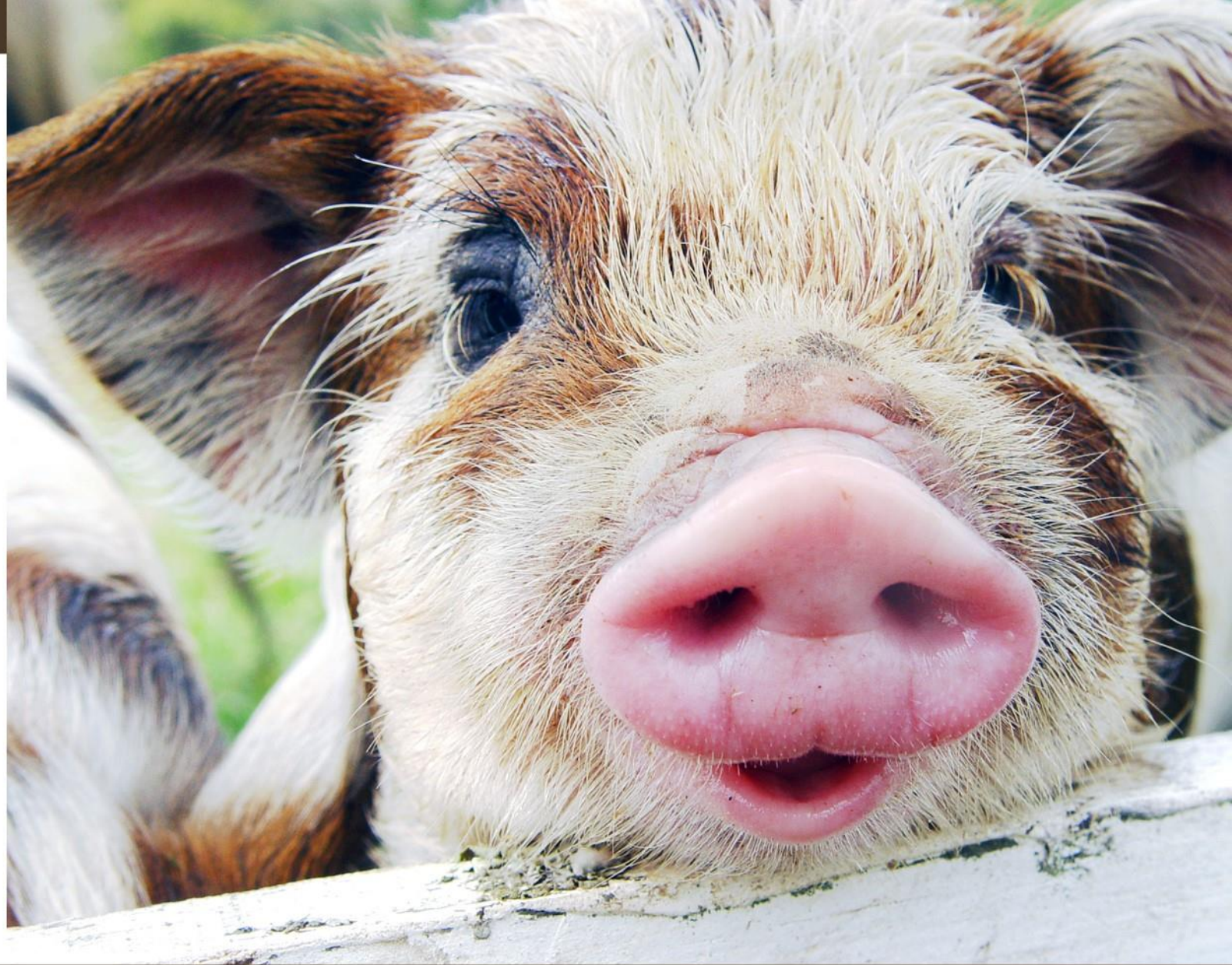
# HOW TO LOOK UP AND CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

[www.myfloridahouse.gov/](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/)

[www.flsenate.gov/](http://www.flsenate.gov/)



# Q&A



# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

## Follow up questions:

- [florida@hsus.org](mailto:florida@hsus.org)
- [aprygoski@aldf.org](mailto:aprygoski@aldf.org)
- [kmacfall@humanesociety.org](mailto:kmacfall@humanesociety.org)

