

HERNANDO COUNTY
ADOPT-A-KENNEL
PROGRAM

POLICY NO. ___

PURPOSE:

The Board of County Commissioners recognizes the value of community involvement through improvement activities, such as the Adopt-A-Kennel program. Through the Adopt-A-Kennel program, the County can collaborate with civic-minded individuals and organizations to maintain and improve Hernando County Animal Services animal adoption opportunities.

DEFINITIONS:

- a. Individual: any participant eighteen years of age or older or any participant eighteen (18) years or younger with adult supervision.
- b. Organization: any group that is a current valid corporate entity registered through the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations, which can be verified through SunBiz.
- c. Department: the Hernando County Animal Services Department.
- d. Adopt-A-Kennel Program: community engagement project that may include, but not be limited to, sponsorship of an individual kennel or a group of kennels for the assistance of promoting the adoption of each of the kennel occupants.

POLICY:

It will be the responsibility of the Department to administer and execute this policy in the permitting of individual(s) or organizations to volunteer and adopt an approved kennel or kennels, subject to the following conditions:

Animal Services (Department) Responsibilities:

- a. The Department shall print a recognition plaque/signage to be prominently displayed above the adopted kennel spaces.
- b. The Department Coordinator shall share kennel occupancy information with the sponsor's contact person. The information will be in a format to be shared as a social media posting.
- c. At the end of the year, the Department shall schedule an agenda item before the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners to recognize and give appreciation to the individuals/organizations that have sponsored kennels with the Department.
- d. The Department shall create a Special Revenue Account to escrow all sponsor enrollment fees. The collected fees shall be used to help promote adoption events, enhance community outreach, and improve kennel housing spaces within the facility.

Individual/Organization/Sponsor Responsibilities:

- e. The Individual/Organization/Sponsor shall adopt a kennel or a group of kennels as designated available on an official list provided by the Department and participate in the program for a minimum of 1-year.
- f. The Individual/Organization/Sponsor shall pay to the Department a one-time annual enrollment fee of \$1,200 for the adoption of each dog kennel, or a one-time annual enrollment fee of \$600 for each cat kennel.
- g. The Individual/Organization/Sponsor will have the option to name any adopted kennel occupants, should the occupant not have a “known” name when the animal enters the facility.
- h. The Individual/Organization/Sponsor shall help promote, through social media or any available communication media sources, the individual animal occupants of their adopted kennels once a week in coordination with the social media postings of the Department Coordinator. The goal is to promote adoptions for the occupying animals.
- i. Optional -The Individual/Organization/Sponsor may also assist in the volunteering of time, materials, or other daily assistance with the cleaning, walking, and socializing of any animal occupants of their adopted kennels.

APPROVED FOR LEGAL FORM
AND SUFFICIENCY:

Kyle J. Benda

County Attorney's Office