

October 22, 2021

**Broward County
Board of County Commissioners**

115 S. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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Bertha Henry, County Administrator

Request: Reduce breeder permit fee and increase fine for “Failure to Obtain a Breeder Permit”

Dear Mayor, Commissioners, and County Administrator:

The Broward County Animal Care Advisory Committee thanks the Mayor, the County Commissioners, and the County Administrator for providing the Animal Care and Adoption Division with the support needed to achieve the County’s “No Kill” goal over the past year. **In serving Broward County’s Commissioners, this committee has identified a recommendation that we respectfully submit for your consideration.**

Broward County Administrative Code Chapter 40 – Fees and Other Charges, Part III Animal Care and Adoption Division, n.20, sets a fine for “Failure to Obtain a Breeder Permit”. The fine is \$150 for the first offense and \$300 for the second and subsequent offenses. These are civil penalties for each infraction and are determined by the owner’s name, not the animal’s name.

In contrast, the fee to obtain and keep a breeder permit is \$500 per year. **Thus, the fine for not obtaining a breeder permit (\$150 and \$300 per offense) does not incentivize breeders to obtain a breeder permit (\$500 per year).** Because there is no County record of an unpermitted breeder, it is difficult for the County to enforce breeder responsibilities under Chapter 4 – Dogs and Cats, especially with respect to the treatment of animals and the number of litters per animal per year which is limited to one. This situation leaves dogs and cats vulnerable to inhumane treatment and potentially increases the number of homeless cats and dogs.

Florida Statute 828.27 Subsection (2)(b) advises that the maximum civil penalty for violation of animal laws may not exceed \$500 per offense. **Therefore, the committee respectfully recommends that the annual breeder fee be reduced to \$300 per year and the fines for “Failure to Obtain a Breeder Permit” be increased to \$350 for the first offense and \$500 for the second and subsequent offenses.** If possible, perhaps the fine for the first offense could be applied to a breeder permit. This would put this person on the County’s books as a breeder who could then be monitored.

We believe that increasing the fine for failing to obtain a breeder permit coupled with reducing the breeder permit fee would promote the humane treatment of cats and dogs in Broward County and reduce the number of homeless cats and dogs.

Sincerely,



Grace Johns, Chair
Broward County Animal Care Advisory Committee